Every Deal has a Tax Dimension.

# *Where Business Meets Tax*



SMU® Dedman Law

## Graduate Tax Program

## *about the* BUSINESS TAX LL.M.

**SMU Dedman Law's Graduate Taxation Program** is a comprehensive, advanced degree for attorneys who intend to specialize in tax practice. For attorneys advising businesses, it builds the technical mastery that clients pay for: entity choice and structuring, transactions, compliance, and disputes with taxing authorities.

Our curriculum goes beyond J.D.-level courses with survey-level instruction and practice-oriented courses that focus on tax and fiscal policy issues.

### Business tax areas of focus

- Taxation of corporations, partnerships, and LLCs
- Mergers, acquisitions, reorganizations, and other business transactions
- State and local and multistate tax issues for businesses
- International tax for companies operating across borders
- Tax controversy: audits, appeals, and litigation
- Executive compensation, benefits, and tax planning for business owners
- Family office and high net worth estate planning

### Built for Return on Investment

- **Earn While You Learn.** Practicing attorneys can keep their jobs, clients, and income while completing their degree on the part-time track.
- **Cox Coordinator.** Of the 24 credit hours, four credits can be taken at SMU's Cox School of Business, making it a focused investment in a specialty.
- **Skills You Bill Immediately.** Practice-oriented coursework can be applied to current client and employer matters while you are still enrolled.
- **A Specialty Clients Need.** Business tax issues touch nearly every transaction, financing, and dispute, making tax expertise an, in-demand practice area.
- **A Network That Compounds.** Classmates, faculty, and alumni practice at Dallas firms, accounting firms, and companies that hire and refer tax work.

### CAPSTONE: Private Equity Tax Transactions*

Students apply their business tax training to a private equity deal from start to finish, working the problem the way a deal team does.

- **The Deal Life Cycle:** fund formation, acquisition structuring, portfolio company operations, add-on acquisitions, and exit.
- **Core Tax Issues:** partnership tax, M&A, carried interest, rollover equity, and management incentive equity.
- **Practice-ready Work Product:** structure memos, step plans, and deal-document tax provisions, reviewed as a supervising partner would.
- **Taught by Practitioners:** drawing on Dallas's private equity, law firm, and accounting communities.
- **The ROI:** graduates leave with experience on the kind of transaction that drives tax work at Dallas firms, accounting practices, and funds.

** Course pending approval for 2027–28.*

## *about the* DEGREE AND CAREERS

**Located in the business and legal hub of Dallas, Texas,** SMU Dedman Law connects students to externships, the Corporate Counsel Externship Program, the Tax Law Society, the Corporate Law Association, and the Energy and Real Estate Law Associations.

### What the degree requirements?

- Students must hold a J.D. degree from an ABA accredited law school.
  - » *Those with a law degree from a foreign country and a strong background in tax may also be considered for admission.*
- Residence in the School of Law for no fewer than two terms if a full-time student and no fewer than three terms if a part-time student.
- Completion of 24 term-hours in courses, seminars, or research and writing with at least 18 credit hours in the taxation area.
  - » *Students may take four of the required 24 credit hours in other graduate programs, including Cox School of Business, so they can pair tax law with finance, accounting, and strategy.*
- Students must maintain an average of C or 2.00.
- Full-time students must complete their requirements within 36 months of their enrollment date. Part-time students have 60 months to complete requirements.
- *For a full list of degree requirements and exceptions, visit* **smu.edu/law/degree-requirements**.

### What can you do with a Business Tax LL.M.?

- Tax practice at law firms advising corporations, partnerships, and private businesses
- Tax roles at accounting and professional services firms
- In-house tax counsel and corporate tax department leadership
- Transactional practice in M&A, private equity, real estate, and energy
- Tax controversy and dispute resolution before the IRS, state agencies, and courts
- Government service, policy, and tax administration

### CAPSTONE: Family Office and High Net Worth Estate Planning*

Students apply their tax training to family office and high net worth planning from start to finish.

- **The Planning Life Cycle:** planning for a wealth creation or liquidity event, entity and trust structuring, lifetime gifting, business succession, and transfers at death.
- **Core Tax Issues:** federal estate, gift, and generation-skipping taxes; marital deduction planning; grantor trusts; irrevocable life insurance trusts; charitable planning and common estate planning tools.
- **Practice-ready Work Product:** planning memos, trust and transfer drafting, and wealth transfer projections, reviewed as a supervising partner would.
- **Taught by Practitioners:** drawing on Dallas's private wealth, trust and estate, family office, and accounting communities.

** Course pending approval for 2027–28.*

# *contact* SMU DEDMAN LAW



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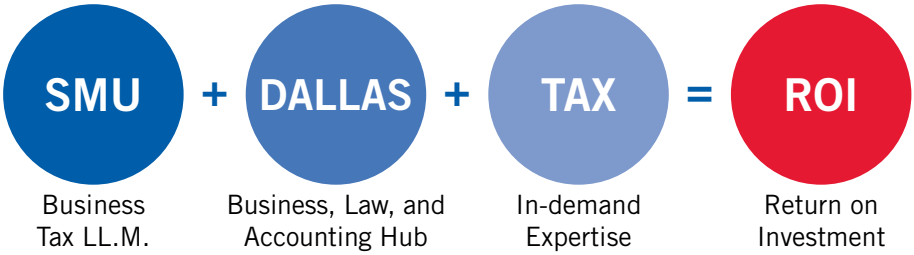
## *Why Dallas for business tax?*

Dallas is one of the nation's major centers of business, law, and accounting. Classroom learning, externships, and professional relationships all happen in the same market where graduates build their careers.

- **Business:** a deep base of corporate headquarters, private companies, and energy, real estate, finance, and technology enterprises.
- **Law:** a large, sophisticated legal market with national and Texas firms and active in-house legal departments.
- **Accounting:** major accounting and professional services firms with large regional tax practices.

SMU Dedman Law is ranked 25th in the nation for corporate/business law by U.S. News & World Report.

## *The Business Tax Equation*




For more information about SMU Dedman Law and the Graduate program, scan the QR code or visit **smu.edu/law/llm-taxation**.