Legal Studies, MLS

Law school is not just for lawyers. In just one year master legal principles and navigate the legal landscape in careers that intersect with the law. Full- and part-time options with flexible with fall and spring starts are available for students in both campus and digital immersion formats.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MLS Legal Studies

For people who want to understand legal principles and apply them to their fields of interest without actually becoming a lawyer, the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law offers the MLS degree program. The Master of Legal Studies is a 30 credit hour graduate program for those interested in learning about the law or whose work intersects with the law. The Master of Legal Studies program is flexible and is offered in the fall and spring, full-time and part-time as well as on-ground and online https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/online.

Students can focus their program on popular areas of study (https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/programs) or pursue the Master of Legal Studies concurrently with several graduate business degrees from the W. P. Carey School of Business, a Master of Sustainable Solutions from the School of Sustainability, or a Master of Mass Communication from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. The Master of Legal Studies program is also offered with a concentration in patent practice.

To learn more, applicants should attend one of many offered webinars: https://law.asu.edu/content/asu-college-law-informational-webinar.

MLS Focus Areas:

On-ground

- Business Law
- Conflict Resolution https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/programs/conflict-resolution
- Criminal Law
- Entrepreneurship Law and Strategy https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/programs/entrepreneurship-law-strategy
- Health Law https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/programs/health-law
- HR and Employment Law (also offered online)
• Indian Law https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/programs/indian-law
• International Law https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/programs/international
• Law and Sustainability https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/programs/sustainability
• Patent Practice https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/programs/patent
• Rule of Law and Governance
  https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/programs/international/rule-law-governance
• Science and Technology Law https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/programs/law-technology
• Sports Law and Business (offered as the MSLB degree)
  https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls-sports-law-business

Online only

• Criminal Law https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/criminal-law-mls
• HR and Employment Law https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/hr-concentration-mls
• Intellectual Property Law
  https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/intellectual-property-mls
• Sports Law and Business https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/sports-business-mls
• Sustainability Law https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/sustainability-mls

Note: Pursuant to American Bar Association standards, no law credits completed prior to admission to a JD program, including credits earned in the Master of Legal Studies program, may be transferred to a future Juris Doctor program under any circumstances.

At a Glance

• College/School: Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
• Location: Downtown Phoenix campus or online

Concurrent Degrees

This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:

Accountancy, MACC
Information Management, MS
Management, MS
Master of Mass Communication, MMC
Real Estate Development, MRED
Sustainability Solutions, MSUS

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Degree Requirements

The program consists of 30 credit hours of approved study. The degree program can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis. Students are required to take:

LAW 581 U.S. Law and Legal Analysis (3)

Students are required to choose one of the following basic foundational courses:

LAW 515 Contracts* or LAW 530 Fundamentals of Contract Law (4/3)
LAW 516 Criminal Law (3)*
LAW 517 Torts (2/4)*
LAW 518 Civil Procedure (3/5)*
LAW 522 Constitutional Law I (3)*
LAW 523 Property (2/4)*
LAW 602 Civil Procedure II (3/4)
LAW 604 Criminal Procedure (3)
LAW 625 Constitutional Law II (3/4)
LAW 654 Business Organizations (3/4)
LAW 664 Intellectual Property (2/4)

*Students may enroll in a maximum of two courses marked with an asterisk.

The remainder of the credits are electives. Elective course selection will be flexible, to accommodate the diversity of intellectual and professional interests the program is intended to serve.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited four-year college or university in the United States or attained a comparable degree from a foreign institution.
All applicants must submit:

1. completed MLS application form and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. resume, not exceeding three typed pages
4. personal statement (typed, double-spaced), not exceeding 1,250 words
5. two letters of recommendation
6. writing sample
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency. Applicants should see the College of Law website for acceptable TOEFL scores and additional information for foreign educated applicants.

Applicants with degrees from foreign institutions must submit transcripts to World Education Services (https://www.wes.org).

Admission to the program is competitive. Selection will be based on a variety of factors, including academic background and potential, diversity of experience and background, career experience and ambitions, space and resource limitations in the law school and other factors.

Graduate school entrance exams (e.g. LSAT, GRE, GMAT) are not required.

Potential applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.

Attend Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Contact Information

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law | BCLS 420
mlsasu@asu.edu | 480-965-1474

Admission Deadlines