Legal Studies, MLS

If you want to understand legal principles and apply them to your field of interest without actually becoming a lawyer, this flexible 30-credit graduate program is for you.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MLS Legal Studies

The MLS degree is offered for students who want to understand legal principles and apply them to their fields of interest without becoming a lawyer.

This degree program is for those interested in learning about the law or whose work intersects with the law. The program is flexible; it is offered in the fall, spring and summer, full-time and part-time, on-campus and online: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls.

Students may focus their program on popular areas of study (https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs) and can also pursue a concurrent program with the degrees listed below. The Master of Legal Studies program is also offered with concentrations in patent practice, and sports law and business.

To learn more, applicants should attend one of many offered information sessions: https://law.asu.edu/admissions/visit.

Focus areas offered in-person include:

- business law: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/business-law
- conflict resolution: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/conflict-resolution
- criminal law: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/criminal-law
- entrepreneurship law and strategy: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/entrepreneurship-law-strategy
- health law: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/public-health-law-policy
- human resources and employment law (also offered online): https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/hr-concentration-mls
- Indian law: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/indian-law
- international law: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/international
- international rule of law and security: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/irls
- law and sustainability: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/sustainability
- patent practice: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/patent
- science and technology law: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/science-and-technology
• sports law and business (offered as the MSLB degree):
  https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/sports-law-business

Focus areas offered only online include:

• conflict resolution: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/conflict-resolution
• construction law: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/construction-law
• corporate and health care compliance:
  https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/corporateandhealthcarecompliance
• criminal law: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/criminal-law-mls
• human resources 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

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 Program Options

This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:

Accountancy, MACC
Information Systems Management, MS
Management, MS
Master of Mass Communication, MMC
Real Estate Development, MRED
Sustainability Solutions, MSUS
Taxation, MTax
W. P. Carey MBA - Full-Time Program

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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 (3)*
- LAW 523 Property (2/4)*
- LAW 602 Civil Procedure II (3/4)
- LAW 604 Criminal Procedure (3)
- LAW 625 Survey of Individual Rights in Constitutional Law (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 is 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 from all institutions attended
3. proof of English proficiency
4. resume that does not exceed three typed pages

Additional Application Information

Applicants who have received their bachelor’s or master’s degree in the U.S. can apply through the MLS application process, which streamlines the application process and may allow for an offer of conditional admission to the MLS program while the applicant continues to submit any additional requested documentation.

If a decision cannot be made from the FastApp, the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Admissions team may request additional information from the applicant, including any or all of the following:

- writing sample
- explanations to affirmative answers to any conduct questions
- two letters of recommendation

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

MLS applicants with foreign education credentials must have all transcripts evaluated by the Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc. (ACEI). ACEI independently evaluates all academic documents issued in countries other than the United States. Students should contact ACEI through that organization's website to obtain an application for an evaluation. Applicants must request a course-by-course evaluation and order an official copy be sent directly to:

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Arizona State University
Beus Center for Law and Society
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Mail Code: 9520
111 E Taylor St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Admission to the program is competitive. Selection is 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.

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
mlasu@asu.edu | 480-965-1474
Admission Deadlines