montereylaw.edu

ADMISSIONS CATALOG 2027



YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR LAW SCHOOL YOUR FUTURE

President's Welcome

College Overview

Dean's Message

Programs

Clinics

Student Support

Connection and Community

Curriculum

Schedule and Tuition

Grants and Funding

How to Apply

FAQ

Monterey College of Law's mission is to provide a high quality legal education in a community law school setting, with graduates who are dedicated to professional excellence, integrity, and community service.



Welcome to Monterey College of Law!

Your transformation into a highly skilled legal professional begins today. You belong in this collaborative community, where we are dedicated to academic and professional excellence. Here, you will learn from practicing and retired lawyers and judges who will share their real-world experiences with you. You will develop critical skills—from rigorous legal analysis and persuasive writing to strategic problem-solving and ethical advocacy. Your education extends far beyond the classroom into public service through our impactful legal clinics and local internships. These hands-on experiences will connect you with experienced mentors who can help guide your professional growth.

As you challenge yourself and stretch mentally beyond what you previously thought possible, rest assured that our faculty and staff are behind you every step of the way. Lean on your mentors, collaborate with your peers, and serve with purpose. Your community and future clients need you.

We are so glad you chose to join us!



Lisa Sperow

President and CEO

OUR LAW SCHOOLS

4 CAMPUSES + HYBRID

MONTEREY COLLEGE OF LAW | SEASIDE

Since 1972, MCL has trained lawyers who go on to serve the very communities that shaped them – the Monterey Peninsula, Santa Cruz, and San Benito County. Home to the Mandell Gisnet Center, our campus blends coastal charm with a rigorous, practice-ready legal education taught by working attorneys and judges.

KERN COUNTY COLLEGE OF LAW | BAKERSFIELD

KCCL is deeply woven into Bakersfield's legal fabric, with faculty and alumni active in the local bench and bar. It's a law school built for people who want to practice, and stay, in the community that trained them.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COLLEGE OF LAW

Located on California's Central Coast, SLOCL is rooted in the San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara county legal community. Small classes and local faculty give students the chance to learn from practicing lawyers shaping the region's legal landscape.

HYBRID ONLINE OPTION

Students choose Hybrid Online for a range of reasons: distance, caregiving, work schedules, or simply flexibility. Whatever the reason, Hybrid delivers the same live, synchronous classes and rigorous curriculum as our in-person programs, with the same connection to a real cohort. An annual in-person symposium keeps that community spirit alive, wherever you're logging in from.

EMPIRE COLLEGE OF LAW | SANTA ROSA

Carrying forward a 50-year legal education tradition in Sonoma County, ECL welcomed its first class as an MCL branch in 2023. Students learn from practicing local attorneys steeped in the wine country legal community, building careers rooted in real regional impact.

> *One of the major advantages of our campuses is that it makes law school accessible to people all over the state. You have students in San Luis Obispo, Bakersfield, Monterey, Santa Rosa, and they're all coming together, learning in a collaborative environment, and helping each other achieve their dream of becoming an attorney.*

Christopher White
Professor | Assistant Attorney General
Special Prosecutions Unit | Office of the Utah Attorney General

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN XYR

Choosing to pursue a legal education is the beginning of an extraordinary intellectual journey. A journey that will challenge you, broaden your perspective, and change the way you think and understand the world. At our law school, we believe that journey is strengthened by the people who take it alongside you. Ours is a community grounded in collaboration, where students are encouraged to learn from one another, support one another, and celebrate each other's successes. Law school is rigorous, but it does not have to be a solitary pursuit. Here, you will find classmates, faculty, and staff who are invested in your growth and committed to helping you succeed.

We also believe that every student who joins our community should have the opportunity to thrive. That commitment is reflected in the way we have designed our JD program. Academic success and bar preparation are not treated as something separate from your legal education or something you encounter only as graduation approaches. We have intentionally embedded academic and bar support throughout the curriculum, giving you the tools, guidance, and opportunities to build confidence and strengthen the skills you will need from your first year through the bar exam and beyond. Your time in law school will ask much of you. It will introduce you to new ideas, challenge assumptions, and push you to develop new ways of thinking, analyzing, and advocating. Along the way, you will discover not only what it means to think like a lawyer, but also the kind of lawyer and the kind of leader you want to become.

We invite you to undertake that journey with us, in a community where you will be challenged, supported, and given every opportunity to thrive.



Elizabeth Xyr

Vice President and Dean

Photo: San Luis Obispo/Pismo Beach

PROGRAM OPTIONS

PROGRAM	DURATION	UNITS	WHO IT'S FOR
J.D.	4 years (*3.5 year option*)	90 units	People seeking a high quality legal education with flexible options
M.L.S.	2 years	36 units	Professionals who want legal fluency, not licensure
J.D./M.L.S Concurrent	4-5 years combined	90 units	J.D. students seeking a dual credential
LL.M.	Varies by plan of study	Varies by plan of study	J.D. holders and international law graduates

DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE (J.D.)

The J.D. program at Monterey College of Law is built for working professionals seeking a legal education while balancing work, family, and personal commitments. Evening classes, on-site or online, let students attend law school after their regular workday. The program is designed to be completed in 4 years, with a 3.5-year graduation path available for students who academically qualify. Students complete a 90-unit program that includes doctrinal, elective, and experiential courses, with a minimum of 4 clinical units, giving them valuable opportunities to enhance their resumes while gaining practical legal experience during law school.

Monterey College of Law is *accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California* to offer the Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) degree. The J.D. is a traditional U.S. graduate law degree program designed for individuals who wish to be licensed as a California attorney.

MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES (M.L.S.)

MCL's Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) is a 36-unit, two-year graduate program for individuals who want an advanced understanding of the law and the American legal system, but do not wish to become lawyers. It's designed for professionals whose careers involve interaction with lawyers and the legal system, including fields like law enforcement, public administration, financial services, human resources, healthcare management, government regulation, non-profit management, court administration, and social services.

M.L.S. students attend courses within the regular law school curriculum and are held to the same standards for attendance, participation, and grading as J.D. and LL.M. students. Graduates complete the program having demonstrated mastery of three student learning outcomes, prepared for professional, non-lawyer careers that benefit from legal reasoning and knowledge of the legal system.

J.D. / M.L.S. CONCURRENT

Monterey College of Law offers students the opportunity to concurrently enroll in the J.D. and Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) degree programs. Students who matriculate into the J.D. program may request to enroll in the dual J.D./M.L.S. degree after completing their second-year courses. Completion requires successfully meeting the program requirements of both degrees, so students should carefully review each program's requirements before electing to enroll concurrently.

Most M.L.S. coursework is completed alongside the J.D. program, with the M.L.S. degree additionally requiring a major writing project. Upon successful completion of the combined 90-unit program, students are granted both the J.D. and M.L.S. degrees. Students also have flexibility to adjust course: they may complete the M.L.S. and discontinue their legal studies without continuing into the J.D., or choose not to complete the M.L.S. writing requirement and still be eligible to complete the J.D.

MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M.)

Advanced law degrees provide formal legal education beyond the J.D. The LL.M. has been part of American legal education for over 100 years. Monterey College of Law is the first California Accredited Law School (CALS) authorized to grant the degree.

The philosophy of the LL.M. program is to give students a broad platform to design their own course of study within parameters set by MCL's law faculty. For international students, the program emphasizes exposure to U.S. law, comparison of legal systems, and advanced legal theory and policy, and may qualify graduates to sit for the California Bar Exam. For U.S. students, it's an opportunity to pursue advanced study in areas of specific interest. Within this framework, LL.M. students have considerable latitude in planning their course of study, and graduates complete the program having demonstrated mastery of three learning outcomes.

> *My professors were also practitioners in the law, whether it was attorneys or judges or commissioners. That really helped me build my base of connections for the legal world that I'm entering into, and will continue to add to that network.*

Clara Steitz
Alum, Class of 2024 | Public Defender's Office

CLINICS + EXPERIENCE



Clinic List

Eight community legal clinics across our four campuses, open to students from all of them.

- Small Claims
- Unlawful Detainer
- Restraining Order
- Clean Slate
- Record Clearance
- Tenants' Rights
- Family Law, Empire
- Elder Law, Empire
- Conflict Resolution
- Low Income Taxpayer Clinic *(coming soon)*

Participating in our clinics has given me a meaningful opportunity to apply my legal skills in service of the community. Community members turn to us for guidance, and we help them understand their options, provide them with resources, and when necessary, complete court documents. The work has been especially rewarding in knowing we are helping a community navigate the legal system when they are struggling to navigate it alone.

Allyson Cruz
3L and Moot Court Finalist, Monterey College of Law Seaside Campus

The Unlawful Detainer clinic was an excellent opportunity to gain hands-on experience serving the community, and the clinics gave me an outlet to put the skills I've learned in law school into practice. After each clinic I've felt more confident and empowered which has been really encouraging leading up to graduation, the bar, and eventual practice. The community members I have had the opportunity to work with have been very grateful for the practical help we are able to provide.

Cory Huennekens
4L and President of the San Luis Obispo College of Law Student Bar Association

People Served

Evictions, small claims, restraining orders, record clearance, elder law. Most would not have had legal assistance.

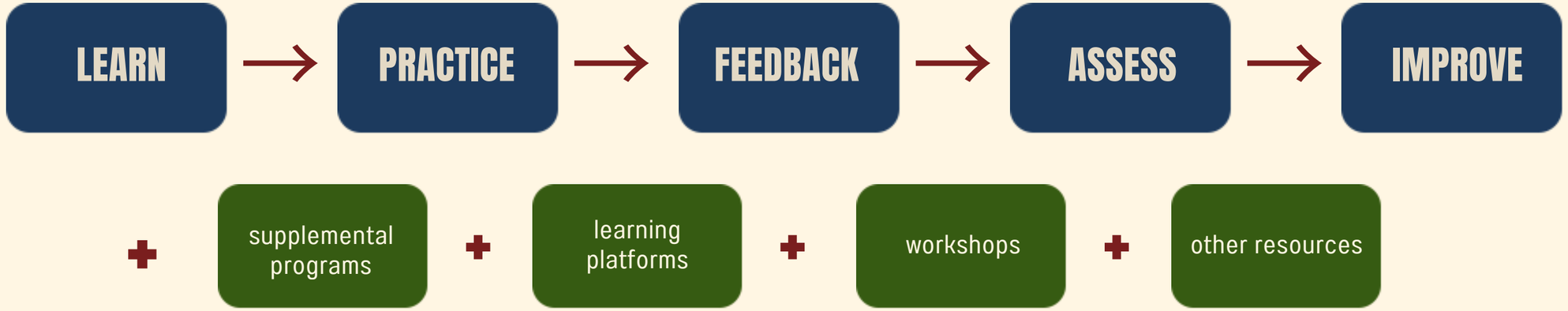
- 501 people helped in 2025 | 5,700+ since 2019
- 1 in 4 served in Spanish
- 1 in 3 arrive with a housing problem
- 2 hrs/week, 13 service weeks a semester
- 26 hrs of live client contact per clinic
- 400+ hrs delivered across all clinics in 2025
- 45 hrs of student work per unit of credit
- 11 supervising attorneys, 79 students this fall



ACADEMIC GROWTH

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Academic support is built into the JD experience and included in your *tuition and student fees*. From your first year through graduation, you'll have structured opportunities to develop your skills, put them into practice, receive meaningful feedback, assess your progress, and identify where you want to improve.



SUPPORT AT KEY MOMENTS

Some moments in law school bring new challenges, from preparing for your first class to approaching your first final exams and transitioning into advanced coursework. Academic support programming provides additional guidance and skill development at these important points in your JD experience.

PROGRAMS AND OFFERINGS MAY INCLUDE:

Fundamentals of Law for Incoming Students • 1L Orientation • 1L Exam Preparation Workshop • 1L Spring Tutorial • Legal Analysis Programming • Upper-Division Skills Panel

Specific programs may evolve as we assess student needs and identify new opportunities to support student learning and development.

STUDENT SUPPORT

ACADEMIC GROWTH

CAPSTONES - MEASURING YOUR PROGRESS

Your 1L and 2L years each include a required capstone course designed to bring together the knowledge and skills you have developed during that stage of the JD program. Capstones provide a structured opportunity to apply what you have learned, demonstrate your competencies, and assess your readiness for the next stage of your legal education.



CAPSTONE COURSES

Capstone courses are part of the JD program's academic progression requirements. You must successfully complete the 1L capstone before progressing to the 2L year, and successfully complete the 2L capstone before progressing to the 3L year.

These progression points provide meaningful checkpoints in your JD experience. Each capstone allows you to demonstrate what you have learned, recognize your strengths, identify areas for continued development, and move forward with a clearer understanding of the skills and competencies you will continue to build during the next stage of the program.

STUDENT SUPPORT

BAR PREPARATION

BAR PREPARATION

JD students have access to a comprehensive approach to bar preparation–including personalized guidance from the law school's bar preparation team, an internal bar preparation track, and a comprehensive commercial bar review program–all included in tuition and student fees.

> *One of the benefits of this law school is that they offer bar prep included in your tuition. I didn't have to stress about where I was going to find the money or how I was going to take the time to prepare for the bar. The school not only sets you up to succeed in law school, they also give you those extra resources to prepare for the bar.*
>
> ***Ana Ovando***
> ***Alum, Class of 2022 | Attorney***

A TEAM TO GUIDE YOU

Your bar preparation team can help you think through study schedules, practice strategies, performance data, time management, memorization techniques, and how to make effective use of the resources available to you. The goal is to help you become an active, self-directed learner who can evaluate your performance, respond to feedback, and make informed decisions about your preparation.

BAR PREP RESOURCES

By engaging with your bar preparation resources early, you can learn to analyze your performance, identify your strengths and areas for improvement, and make informed decisions about where to focus your time and effort

LEGAL SYNTHESIS

A required course that bridges law school learning and independent bar preparation, using practice, simulations, and individualized feedback to strengthen how you apply legal knowledge and evaluate your own performance.

EARLY BAR PREPARATION

An intensive seven-week program, encouraged for all JD students, with a dedicated curriculum, live online sessions, practice assignments, and individualized feedback to build foundational knowledge before the post-grad study period begins.

BAR FOUNDATIONS

Bar Foundations is the law school's internal post-graduation bar preparation program, complementing commercial bar review with additional practice, individualized feedback, guidance, and connection throughout bar study.

COMMERCIAL BAR REVIEW

Our BARBRI partnership gives you a structured study program, instructional resources, extensive practice, and performance data tailored to the exam you're preparing to take.

CONNECTION + COMMUNITY



Meet Dennis.

I was born and raised in Germany, growing up bilingual in German and English. As a first-generation college student with no lawyers in my family tree, law wasn't exactly the 'expected' path for me. I earned my undergraduate degree in Business Management and Marketing, and spent years managing local restaurants, building the kind of hands-on, people-first skills that still shape how I work today.

Law school wasn't part of the plan until I heard an ad for Monterey College of Law on the radio. Something about it stuck with me, and once I looked into it, I felt an immediate connection to the school and the community it had built. That sense of belonging is what drew me in, and it's the same feeling I now work to create for every student and faculty member who walks through MCL's doors. I didn't just want to attend the school. I wanted to be part of the family.

Dennis Meffert

Alumnus, Assistant Dean for Faculty and Student Support

Student Bar Associations

The Student Bar Association (SBA) helps students build community through academic, social, and networking events, turning classmates into a support system.

Every student is automatically a member at their home campus. No sign-up needed.



First Generation Student

Many of our students are the first in their families to pursue a law degree, some the first to attend college at all. That's not the exception here, it's part of who we are. Our evening program, small classes, and close faculty relationships exist so that background is not a barrier to belonging, and our academic support is built in from day one to help you meet the moment. Whatever path brought you here, you'll find a community that was built with your story in mind.

Meet Lillian.

I was already working full-time as a paralegal when I decided to go to law school, and attending an evening law school meant I didn't have to choose between the two. Going to classes after a full day of work wasn't easy, but it meant I could apply what I was learning in real time, and my professors, all practicing attorneys themselves, made sure what I was learning actually connected to the job I'd be walking into. That combination, real-world context in the classroom and real-world experience on the job, is what I credit for passing the bar on my first attempt and stepping into practice ready to be effective from day one.

LILLIAN N. DUTCHER, ESQ.

Attorney | Sonoma Law Group LLP



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Professional Associations

Getting involved in professional organizations helps build your network before you even graduate, connecting you with practicing attorneys, judges, and peers who can offer mentorship, guidance, and real career opportunities. It also reflects what makes MCL different: the local legal professionals you meet here aren't just your teachers, they're your future colleagues.

Many legal organizations offer free or low-cost memberships for law students.

In the Community

Community isn't something our students study from a distance. Through internships, externships, and clinics with local courts, firms, and public agencies, students build real relationships within the legal community long before graduation.

Many, like our alumni who now serve on local bar boards and mentor the next class of students, stay rooted in that same community well after they've graduated.

Beyond the Classroom

MCL students build relationships with professors who may become mentors and colleagues long after graduation.

Their network doesn't stop at their own classmates. As part of a larger system of four campuses across the state, and a hybrid online option, students connect with peers, faculty, and alumni far beyond their own cohort, giving graduates a professional network that spans the majority of California, with support and connections wherever their legal career takes them.



Meet Charles.

My experience at SLOCL couldn't have been any better. I wanted to go to a law school that offered an intimate experience, a true one-on-one relationship with faculty and staff, and SLOCL delivered. SLOCL also helped me transition into my current job by connecting me to an internship, and through that internship, transition within the same firm from intern to practicing attorney. Now I advocate in front of state and federal courts, fulfilling my passion of advocating on behalf of people that need help.

CHARLES B. CUMMINS, ESQ.

Alumnus, Associate | Loker Law, APC

JURIS DOCTORATE COURSE PLAN*

YEAR 1 — 0L

SPRING START
JANUARY - APRIL 2027

Spring Start lets 0L students ease in with foundational, online coursework before diving into the full 1L course load in Fall Semester.

Fundamentals of Law *(online)* – 2
Negotiations *(online)* – 2

SUMMER START
MAY - JULY 2027

Summer Start gives 0L students a head start on core legal skills like mediation and constitutional reasoning before Fall Semester begins.

Con Law for Everyday Use *(online)* – 2
Core Mediation Training *(online)* – 2

YEAR 1 — 1L

FALL / SPRING
AUGUST 2027 - APRIL 2028

*Orientation *(Mandatory/Online)*
Contracts – 6
Torts – 6
Criminal Law & Procedure – 6
Skills *(Fall only)* – 1
Legal Writing & Practice 1A *(Spring only)* – 2

SUMMER
MAY 2028 - JULY 2028

Legal Writing & Practice 1B – 2
Professional Responsibility – 2
1L Capstone – 1

26 - 34 UNITS

YEAR 2 — 2L

FALL / SPRING

Evidence – 6
Civil Procedure – 6
Real Property – 6
Legal Writing & Practice 2A & 2B (Fall & Spring) – 2

SUMMER

Legal Writing & Practice 3A – 1
2L Capstone – 1
Elective – 2
Clinic / Internship / Externship – 1

25 UNITS

YEAR 3 — 3L

FALL / SPRING

Constitutional Law – 6
Business Law – 6
Community Property – 3
Legal Writing & Practice 3B (Fall only)– 1
Clinic / Internship / Externship / Elective– 2

SUMMER

Moot Court – 2
Elective – 2

22 UNITS

YEAR 4 — 4L

FALL / SPRING

Wills & Trusts – 3
Remedies – 3
Early Bar Prep (Required Course) – 3

9 UNITS

2027 DATES

SPRING '27
Classes begin Jan. 5, 2027

SUMMER '27
Classes begin May 18, 2027

FALL '27
Classes begin Aug. 2027

90 TOTAL UNITS

This is a suggested course plan. Course plans may be adjusted by individual student progress.

Mandatory 4-day online orientation session runs 8/2 - 8/5, Monday - Thursday, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Fall Semester begins 8/16/2027.
Hybrid Online students must attend the mandatory in-person educational symposium once each academic year during their enrollment.

SCHEDULE + UNITS + TUITION

SPRING

0L - SPRING
JANUARY 2027 START
Early Admission

Academic Year 2027-2028
Classes: Jan-April 2027
Units Completed: 4
Total 0L Spring Tuition and Student Fees: $4,450

SUMMER

0L - SUMMER
MAY 2027 START
Early Admission

Academic Year 2027-2028
Classes: May-July 2027
Units Completed: 4
Total 0L Summer Tuition and Student Fees: $4,450

FALL

1L - FIRST YEAR
AUGUST 2027 START

Academic Year 2027-2028
Classes: Aug 2027-July 2028
Units Completed: 26
Total 1L Tuition and Student Fees: $26,450

NEW TO LAW SCHOOL TERMINOLOGY?

What is a 0L?
'0L' (*zero L*) refers to the period before your first year of law school officially begins. Through optional early admission, you may begin as a 0L in the spring or summer before your 1L fall, taking coursework that builds a foundation for the full 1L curriculum while earning units that count toward your JD degree requirements.

TUITION AND FEES

For students starting in 2027

Monterey College of Law (MCL) strives to keep tuition and fees affordable while maintaining a commitment to delivering high-quality academic programs and robust student support services. As MCL is an independent, nonprofit educational institution, student tuition and fees support the faculty, staff, services, and other expenses for its programs. This page provides information about the tuition and fees that will apply to your education.

MCL knows that investing in a legal education is a major commitment, and law students want to be able to understand the full cost of their law degree. MCL sets tuition and fee rates considering anticipated future costs of delivering the law school's educational programs and related services. These costs change over time in response to economic, accreditation, legal, contractual, regulatory, and other factors, and MCL strives to provide notice of changes as soon as possible. Once tuition and fee rates for a specific academic year are published, students can rely upon those rates when planning. The law school cannot guarantee tuition or fee costs for future years of study so when planning, students should budget for annual increases in these costs during the term of their anticipated enrollment. It is anticipated but not promised that these annual increases will be within the range of 0% to 8% per year.

Tuition and fee rates, as revised from time to time, are published on the *Schedule of Tuition and Fees.* Tuition rates, not fees, for students first attending prior to September 6, 2026, were set at initial enrollment and thus will not increase as long as the student remains continuously enrolled and in good standing at MCL under the student's prior program. For additional information on student financial obligations, see the *Financial Policy* page of this website.

Annual tuition and fees are due in full at the time of registration. For students who need additional flexibility in paying their tuition and fees, MCL works with an external private student loan lender and also offers a tuition installment program (TIP). Students can contact the Manager of Student Finance at kvondermehden@montereylaw.edu for more information about these programs and other financial questions.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

$1000 TUITION GRANTS

Confirmed applicants who provide a written recommendation verifying employment by a member of the local county bar association where the applicant resides. Monterey County, Santa Cruz County, San Luis Obispo County, San Luis Obispo County Women Lawyers Association, Northern Santa Barbara County, North Santa Barbara County Women Lawyers Association, Sonoma County, Napa County, and Kern County participate.

Confirmed applicants who provide a written recommendation verifying a family member's employment by a local county bar association member where the applicant resides. Monterey County, Santa Cruz County, San Luis Obispo County, San Luis Obispo County Women Lawyers Association, Northern Santa Barbara County, North Santa Barbara County Women Lawyers Association, Sonoma County, Napa County, and Kern County participate.

$500 TUITION GRANTS

Confirmed applicants who provide a written recommendation from a local county bar association member where the applicant resides. Monterey County, Santa Cruz County, San Luis Obispo County, San Luis Obispo County Women Lawyers Association, Northern Santa Barbara County, North Santa Barbara County Women Lawyers Association, Sonoma County, Napa County, and Kern County participate.

Grant Funding is available for the Juris Doctorate (J.D.), Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.), or Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree programs.

Applicants are eligible for one of the grants, not both. Grants are available for a one-time award at enrollment only.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, financial need and/or service to the community. Please note the eligibility requirements for each scholarship. Students may apply for multiple scholarships as long as they meet the criteria for each one and only apply for those offered in the current semester. Scholarships are awarded during the Fall and Spring Semesters. Students will be notified via their school email and populi accounts once the application window is open.

Visit *Montereylaw.edu* for scholarship availability by campus.

STUDENT LOANS

Sallie Mae® Law Student Loans are available to students based on their personal credit or that of a co-signer. Sallie Mae® also provides a Bar Study Loan for Law Students, which can be found here: Sallie Mae® Bar Study Loan. Monterey College of Law does not currently participate in Federal Student Aid (commonly referred to as Title IV) educational financing programs. This means that MCL students do not qualify for new federal educational loans or deferment of existing federal loans at this time.

TUITION PROGRAM AND PAYMENTS

TUITION INSTALLMENT PROGRAM

For students in need of additional flexibility in paying their tuition and fees, MCL provides a tuition installment program ("TIP"). Under an approved *TIP*, students pay the annual amount due in monthly installments. Students wishing to use the TIP program must request approval of a plan from the Manager of Student Finance and the Business Manager during the Fall semester registration period. Only students with approved plans will be permitted to use a TIP.

EMPLOYER REIMBURSEMENT AND OTHER THIRD PARTY TUITION PAYMENTS

When students obtain funding from a third party (not including student loans), students pay a non-refundable deferred payment service fee per semester to Monterey College of Law. When payment from a third party is received, MCL will adjust the outstanding invoice and notify the student of the amount reimbursed and of any remaining amount due. The student remains responsible for any portion of tuition and fees not paid by the third-party source.

HOW TO APPLY

STEP 1:

Visit ***www.montereylaw.edu***.

- Select Admissions & Aid, ***Inquiry and Applications***.
- Are you a new student? Complete the ***New Admission application***.
- Are you transferring from another law school? Complete the ***Transfer Admission application***.
- Are you enrolled in a J.D. degree program and want to take a class at one of our campuses or the hybrid online? Complete the ***Visitor Admissions application***.

If applying to the Hybrid Online option, select Hybrid and the campus closest to you for student resources.

STEP 2:

Complete the application. You can save your application and come back to it. Upload the required personal statement and resume/CV to the application. The $75.00 fee is required when the application is submitted. If the personal statement and resume are complete before starting the application, it should take about 15 minutes to finish.

Personal Statement: We want to know about you. The 500-word statement may include why you want to attend law school, your current plan with a law degree, any challenges you've overcome that might demonstrate that you don't give up when things become difficult, and anything else you'd like us to know about you.

Official Transcripts: Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended are required (see delivery methods below). We do not use the Credential Assembly Service by LSAC. Note: If you want to explain any grade discrepancies in your academic experience, do so in your personal statement.

- **Transcripts:** Send digital transcripts to *admissions@montereylaw.edu*. Please send hard copies of transcripts to Admissions, Monterey College of Law, 100 Col. Durham Street, Seaside, CA 93955.

Resume or CV: This should include professional history, education, and other information relevant to your employment background.

LSAT: We recognize that readiness for law school can be demonstrated in different ways. Rather than relying on a single measure, the Admissions Committee considers an applicant's academic background, professional experience, and other indicators of preparedness for law school success.

Many applicants are not required to take the LSAT. Factors that may demonstrate preparedness include:

- An undergraduate degree with a solid overall GPA
- An undergraduate degree combined with several years of relevant professional experience
- A graduate or professional degree
- An LSAT or GRE score that indicates preparedness for law school
- Completion of at least 60 semester or 90 quarter college units with a solid overall GPA*

See Full Disclaimer at montereylaw.edu/lsat

Name of Recommender (optional): Your application will have a Recommender section to complete with their name and email address. Your Recommender will receive an email with a evaluation form and upload URL for their Letter.

Letters of Recommendation (optional): These may be submitted separately from the application and sent to *admissions@montereylaw.edu*.

STEP 3:

Submit the application and pay the processing fee.

PLEASE NOTE: Once we receive the application, application fee, personal statement, resume, and official transcripts, an admissions file is complete and ready for review by our admissions committee.

FAQ

Which organizations accredit MCL?

Since July 1981, Monterey College of Law has been continuously accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California.

Monterey College of Law is also accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 1080 Marina Village Parkway, Suite 500, Alameda, CA 94501. Tel: 510.748.9001. The effective date of Initial Accreditation was May 10, 2025. We are working toward Title IV approval.

Are tuition payment plans available?

Students needing financial support for tuition can apply for a Sallie Mae® loan. We do not participate in federal direct student loan programs. Additionally, we offer a Tuition Installment Plan (TIP) for students to make monthly payments. A combination of a Sallie Mae® loan and TIP is also an option. A financial plan for tuition funding should be started before the application process.

What's included in tuition and student fees?

- Bar prep program
- Academic support workshops
- Pre-bar prep courses
- Mentorship programs
- Academic advisor
- Accounts for supplemental study resources
- Lexis/Nexis account
- Exam Software
- Student Bar Association
- Tele Health

When are application deadlines?

Admit Term	Application Deadline	Classes Start
Fall	June 15	Mid-July
Spring	November 20	Early January
Summer	April 15	Mid-May

When are your classes?

We are a part-time evening law school with evening classes Monday through Thursday, starting at 6:30 PM. Most students complete the JD degree program in 3 1/2 to 4 years, starting with the required courses in the fall semester.

Do you require the LSAT to apply?

Not with your application and many applicants are not required to take the LSAT. We recognize that readiness for law school can be demonstrated in different ways. Rather than relying on a single measure, the Admissions Committee considers an applicant's academic background, professional experience, and other indicators of preparedness for law school success.

Factors that may demonstrate preparedness include:

- An undergraduate degree with a solid overall GPA
- An undergraduate degree combined with several years of relevant professional experience
- A graduate or professional degree
- An LSAT or GRE score that indicates preparedness for law school
- Completion of at least 60 semester or 90 quarter college units with a solid overall GPA*

LSAT and GRE Scores
If you have already taken the LSAT or GRE, you may submit your scores as part of your application, and the Admissions Committee will consider them as part of its overall review.

As part of its review, the Admissions Committee may require an applicant to submit an LSAT score when additional information is needed to evaluate preparedness for law school. If a score is required, the applicant will be notified as part of the admissions process.

**Completion of at least 60 semester or 90 quarter units that satisfy the State Bar of California Committee of Bar Examiners' pre-legal education requirements. Applicants whose prior education requires further evaluation may be required to obtain an official determination from the State Bar of California."*

montereylaw.edu

BECOME THE ATTORNEY YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

