



Master of Legal Studies

Course Catalog and Graduation
Requirements

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Your Community.
Your Law School.
Your Future.

Vision & Mission

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

The MLS degree program can be valuable to individuals in fields such as law enforcement, public administration, financial services, human resources, healthcare management, government regulation, non-profit management, court administration, and social services.

Master of Legal Studies

MCL's Master of Legal Studies curriculum was designed to prepare students for professional non-lawyer careers. Students will graduate with an advanced knowledge of the law and the American legal system. After completing the two-year program, graduates will demonstrate mastery of three student learning outcomes.



2 Year Graduate Program



On-Site and Online Cohorts

MLS students attend law courses that are part of the regular law school curriculum and are held to the same standards for attendance, participation, and grading as students in the JD and LL.M. programs.

Students in the MLS program must complete 36 units of graduate legal studies. A minimum of 18 units must be completed in residence. Students are allowed flexibility in selecting courses in order to provide the opportunity to focus on specific areas of legal interest.

Students must complete 29 units of required courses and 7 units of electives. Required Courses include Contracts (6 units), Torts (6 units), Criminal Law (3 units), Constitutional Law (6 units), Legal Research (2 units), Legal Writing I (2 units), Core Mediation training (2 units), and MLS Thesis (2 units).

Policies and requirements may be found on the school's website and in the Student Handbook.

Required Courses

Contracts I & II

Two sequential, 3-unit, one-semester classes.
Six total units.

This class covers enforceable agreements including requirements for the formation of a contract; problems of interpretation, consideration and its equivalent; damages for breach; the statute of frauds; illegality, and rights and liabilities of third parties arising from the contract itself or from assignment of contractual rights or delegation of duties.

Torts I & II

Two sequential, 3-unit, one-semester classes.
Six total units.

The historical development and nature of noncontractual civil law, which allocates the economic burden of various injuries. A study of the principles of liability for harm.

Criminal Law

One-semester 3-unit class.

Topics include substantive criminal law and elements of criminal responsibility; law of crimes against persons; property; and habitation; the theory of criminal responsibility, parties and defenses to crimes.

Constitutional Law I & II

Two sequential, 3-unit, one-semester classes.
Six total units.

A study of the United States Constitution with an emphasis on the theory and practice of judicial interpretation and review. Topics include the separation of federal powers, the relation of the federal government to the states and specific government powers (tax, treaty, war, and commercial). The course also covers limitations placed on the exercise of governmental power, emphasizing the Bill of Rights, due process and equal protection clauses.

Required Courses

Legal Writing I

Two sequential, 1-unit, one-semester classes. Two total units.

Students learn to read cases and statutes, extract rules and elements, synthesize rules and elements, analyze legal problems in IRAC format, and write **objective** legal analysis in a cogent style using proper prescriptive grammar and punctuation.

Legal Research

2-unit, one semester class

A class to familiarize students with the basic foundations of legal research. Assignments include researching problems in the law library and researching and writing office memoranda, opinion letters and other documents. A survey of CALR tools, including online resources for legal and public records research is included.

Core Mediation Training

2-unit, one-semester class

This intensive 10-week, 32-hour Mediation Certification Training will teach you how to help others work through their conflicts. This training meets the requirements of the California Dispute Resolution Programs Act for mediators. The communication and problem-solving skills taught in this course are applicable in a wide range of situations including work, personal and community life. The course has been adapted to a virtual format.

MLS Thesis

2-unit, one semester class

A Capstone Thesis is an original paper similar to a law review article, which is 5,000 to 7,000 words in length, not counting the bibliography. It constitutes the students' final product, demonstrating their legal knowledge and their research, analysis, issue-spotting, and writing skills. This course requires in-depth research and a significant amount of work on the part of the student. Thesis topics must be approved by the professor. Writing the Capstone Thesis is the crowning achievement of the MLS program.

Other Requirements



7 Elective units



Pass at least 60% of units each term



At least 18 units in residence



GPA of 65.00+



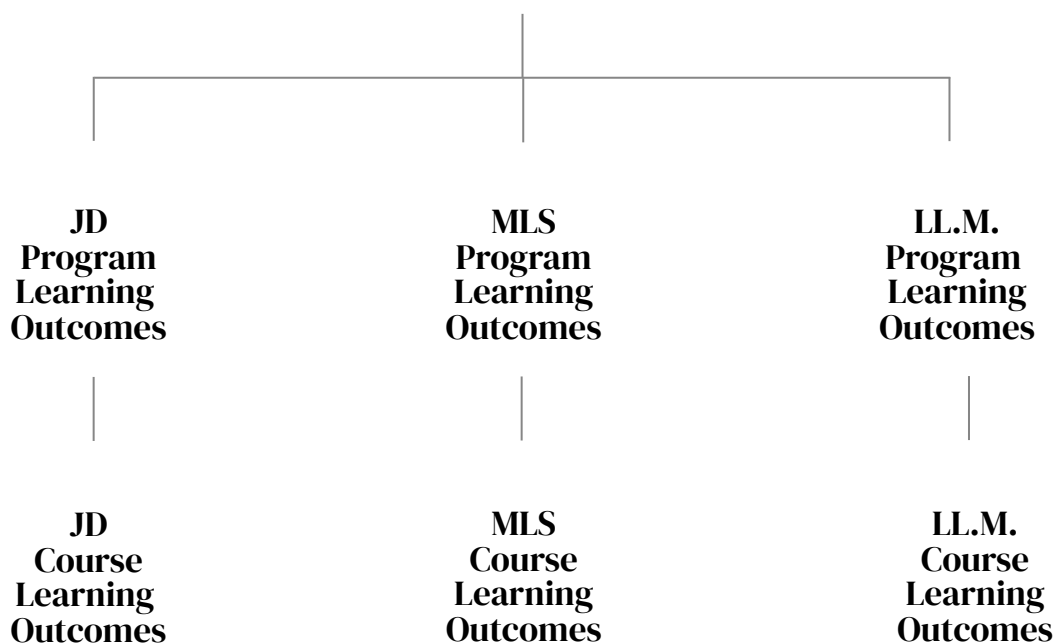
Institutional to Program to Course Learning Outcomes

At Monterey College of Law, our institutional learning outcomes serve as the foundation for all academic programs, providing a cohesive framework that guides the development of program-specific learning outcomes. These institutional outcomes reflect our core mission to cultivate knowledge, skills, and ethical values that prepare students for meaningful contributions to the legal profession and society.

The program learning outcomes, whether for the Juris Doctor (JD), Master of Legal Studies (MLS), or Master of Laws (LL.M.) programs, are directly aligned with these overarching goals, translating them into specific competencies tailored to each program.

At the course level, Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) are designed to reflect and support the PLOs of the respective programs. CLOs are aligned with PLOs through detailed curriculum mapping, ensuring that each course contributes to the development of skills and competencies outlined in the program-level outcomes. The alignment between ILOs, PLOs, and CLOs ensures a coherent and integrated learning experience across all programs. This systematic approach allows MCL to assess and enhance student achievement at every level, fostering continuous improvement and maintaining alignment with accreditation standards.

Institutional Learning Outcomes



At Monterey College of Law, our institutional learning outcomes are designed to cultivate the knowledge, skills, and professional values necessary for success in the legal field. These outcomes reflect our commitment to academic excellence, ethical responsibility, and the pursuit of justice, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to meet the diverse challenges of legal practice and leadership in an evolving global society. Through rigorous coursework, experiential learning opportunities, and a focus on critical thinking and effective communication, we aim to produce competent, ethical, and reflective practitioners equipped to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the legal profession.

INSTITUTIONAL Learning Outcomes

1 Legal Knowledge

Graduates will acquire a comprehensive understanding of fundamental legal principles and theories relevant to their specific legal degree program.

2 Legal Application

Graduates will develop critical reading, thinking, and communication skills important in all work related to the law, including the ability to competently apply principles of law to fact situations to inform resolution and counseling strategies, and the ability to communicate those strategies persuasively and professionally in both written and oral form.

3 Ethics, Values, and Professionalism

Graduates will demonstrate good judgment consistent with the legal profession's ethics, values, and duties to clients, the legal system, and society.

4 Service to Justice and the Rule of Law

Graduates will attain skills for furthering the goal of impartial justice and protecting the rule of law. Through experience with diverse individuals, cultures, ideas, and perspectives, they will be encouraged to enhance justice through service to their communities and the public.

5 Reflection and Self-Fulfillment

Graduates will be able to reflect on their values, learning, and performance as these relate to their responsibilities as professionals to continuously learn, evolve, and achieve self-fulfillment.

MLS PROGRAM Learning Outcomes

The Master of Legal Studies (MLS) program is designed to provide professionals with a comprehensive understanding of legal principles and their application in a variety of industries and contexts. Our program learning outcomes focus on equipping students with the ability to analyze legal issues, interpret regulations, and apply legal reasoning to real-world challenges, all without requiring a Juris Doctor degree.

Through a curriculum tailored to enhance critical thinking, effective communication, and ethical decision-making, the MLS program prepares graduates to navigate complex legal environments with confidence and competence. Whether advancing in their current careers or exploring new opportunities, MLS graduates are empowered to make informed decisions, mitigate risks, and contribute to their organizations in meaningful ways.

MLS Program Learning Outcomes

Legal Knowledge

Demonstrate basic legal knowledge in the areas applicable to various business and management positions.

Application of the Law

Apply the law as a tool for effective and ethical decision-making.

Research and Analysis

Demonstrate the ability to perform legal research and analysis necessary for work in a variety of legal and professional settings.

Professionalism

Effectively interact with attorneys regarding applying legal solutions to business and management.

Communication

Communicate information in a clear, concise, well-organized, and professional manner that is appropriate to the audience and the circumstances.

MLS PROGRAM Learning Outcome Assessment

	PLO 1: Legal Knowledge	PLO 2: Application of the Law	PLO 3: Research & Analysis	PLO 4: Professionalism	PLO 5: Communication
	Demonstrate basic legal knowledge in the areas applicable to various business and management positions	Apply the law as a tool for effective and ethical decision-making	Demonstrate the ability to perform legal research and analysis necessary for work in a variety of legal and professional settings	Effectively interact with attorneys regarding applying legal solutions to business and management	Communicate information in a clear, concise, well-organized, and professional manner that is appropriate to the audience and the circumstances

Beginning Level Competency	Contracts	65+ course grade to demonstrate competency	65% MBE Quiz Average to demonstrate competency			(Nongraded assessment feedback)
	Torts	65+ course grade to demonstrate competency	65% MBE Quiz Average to demonstrate competency			(Nongraded assessment feedback)
	Criminal Law	65+ course grade to demonstrate competency	65% MBE Quiz Average to demonstrate competency			(Nongraded assessment feedback)
Intermediate Level Competency	Legal Writing		P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency
	Core Mediation				P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency
	Legal Research		P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency
Advanced Level Competency	Constitutional Law	65+ course grade to demonstrate competency	65% MBE Quiz Average to demonstrate competency			(Nongraded assessment feedback)
	MLS Thesis	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency