Legal Studies, MLS

Whether you are looking for a job in today's competitive market or you want to better understand how law can help you in your career, this 30 credit hour degree program can help you learn about the law and navigate the legal landscape without becoming a lawyer.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MLS Legal Studies
The MLS program is flexible; it is offered in the fall, spring and summer, full-time and part-time, in-person and online. Students may focus their program on popular areas of study listed below. To learn more or schedule a visit, students should refer to the ASU Law website. https://law.asu.edu/visit

Emphasis areas offered in-person include:

- business law: https://law.asu.edu/emphasis-areas/business-law
- conflict resolution: https://law.asu.edu/emphasis-areas/conflict-resolution
- criminal law: https://law.asu.edu/emphasis-areas/criminal-law
- entrepreneurship law and strategy: https://law.asu.edu/emphasis-areas/entrepreneurship-law-strategy
- federal Indian law and tribal self-governance: https://law.asu.edu/emphasis-areas/indian-gaming-governance
- health law: https://law.asu.edu/emphasis-areas/public-health-law-policy
- Indian gaming: https://law.asu.edu/emphasis-areas/indian-gaming-governance
- Indian law: https://law.asu.edu/indian-legal-program
- intellectual property law: https://law.asu.edu/programs/intellectual-property
- international law: https://law.asu.edu/emphasis-areas/international
- international rule of law and security: https://law.asu.edu/programs/irls
- law and sustainability: https://law.asu.edu/programs/sustainability
- science and technology law: https://law.asu.edu/emphasis-areas/law-technology

Emphasis areas offered online include:
conflict resolution: https://law.asu.edu/emphasis-areas/conflict-resolution
construction law: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/construction-law
contract management: https://law.asu.edu/degree-programs/mls/mls-online/contract-management

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

Students can choose to create their own concurrent degree combination to match their interests by working with their academic advisor during or after their first semester of study. Some concurrent combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum; students should speak with their academic advisor for more details.

This degree is also offered as a concurrent program with the following:

Information Systems Management, MS
Compare Programs
Management, MS
Compare Programs
Master of Mass Communication, MMC
Compare Programs
Real Estate Development, MRED
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 no more than two of the 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 FastApp 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 application questions pertaining to conduct
- 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. 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 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.

Career Opportunities

The Master of Legal Studies degree is designed for those looking to obtain working knowledge of the law but do not intend on becoming practicing lawyers. Graduates have achieved training in complicated legal topics and lawyering skills that prove invaluable to law firms, court systems, government agencies and corporations. There are many career paths for graduates, including:

- accreditation director
- fraud investigator
- operations director
- risk analyst
- senior administrator (e.g., inside a law firm)
- senior business analyst
- senior contract negotiator
- Senior compliance director

Professional Licensure

ASU programs that may lead to professional licensure or certification are intended to prepare students for potential licensure or certification in Arizona. Completion of an ASU program may not meet educational requirements for licensure or certification in another state. For more information, students should visit the ASU professional licensure webpage. https://admission.asu.edu/academics/licensure

Contact Information

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