

LAW - MASTER OF STUDIES IN LAW (MSL)

Colorado Law's Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degree is a one-year, 28-credit, no-LSAT-required program that enables students who hold at least an undergraduate degree to obtain legal training short of a full Juris Doctor (JD). Increasingly, emerging job markets have openings that require some legal knowledge and employers are assigning a number of legal tasks traditionally performed by lawyers to non-lawyers. Colorado Law's MSL will prepare students to obtain and excel in those positions.

Ethics and Compliance Curriculum

The ethics and compliance track trains students to become compliance and ethics officers at large corporations, as well as at nonprofit entities, such as colleges, universities, and hospitals. These organizations are subject to an increasing number of legal requirements and need trained professionals to lead effective in-house programs to ensure compliance with statutes and regulations.

This track prepares students to develop, improve, and manage ethics and compliance programs and help organizations obey the law, reduce the risk of fraud, other law-breaking, and misconduct, and mitigate their firms' legal liability and reputation risk. Students have the opportunity to focus on specific fields of law, such as privacy/cybersecurity, healthcare and financial services.

Requirements

Colorado Law's Master of Studies in ethics and compliance is designed to prepare prospective ethics and compliance officers in privacy/cybersecurity, health care and financial services.

All MSL students will take courses designed specifically for MSL students—one that introduces them to the American legal system, and one that introduces them to legal research, writing and analysis. In addition to those introductory courses, MSL students will take required and elective courses, alongside JD students, relevant to their specialty track.

Satisfactory completion of the following requirements leads to the degree Master of Studies in Law (MSL):

A. Completion of 28 credits of course work, approved in advance by the faculty director of the MSL program, with a numerical average of 2.0 or better. MSL students may undertake these credits in a full-time schedule over one year or undertake a part-time schedule over a longer period of time.

B. As part of the 28 credits, completion of Introduction to US Law for MSL Students.

C. Demonstration of domain expertise within a specialty track by completing the requirements for the student's chosen specialty, as determined by the faculty director of the track consistent with Part 4 of this Article and subject to approval by the dean. Each MSL candidate shall choose one, and only one, specialty track.

D. Satisfaction of any conditions imposed at the time of admission.

Any MSL student whose cumulative grade average is below 2.0 at the end of any semester shall be expelled.

Course Requirements

The Ethics and Compliance track for the MSL degree requires 28 credits total, including, in addition to the general MSL requirements:

- (1) Communications for Compliance Professionals;
- (2) Compliance;
- (3) Ethical Organizations and Professionals;
- (4) either Accounting for Lawyers or Special Topics in Compliance: Investigations, unless waived by the track's faculty director due to prior coursework in accounting;
- (5) electives from a list approved by the faculty director.

Learning Outcomes

Colorado Law's mission is to be an outstanding public law school that provides students with a state-of-the-art legal education and prepares them to serve wisely and with professionalism; advances the development of knowledge through scholarship, testing of new ideas, and challenges to the status quo; and serves as a vehicle and catalyst for meaningful public service, all of which deliver high value to our students and have positive impacts—both locally and globally—on the legal profession and society.

As this mission statement makes clear, we believe that excellence in legal education requires a commitment to a plurality of purposes. To achieve some of those purposes, Colorado Law has identified the following learning outcomes for its students:

- Knowledge and understanding of legal theory and doctrine.
- Related substantive knowledge, including societal context.
- Legal analysis.
- Legal research skills.
- Oral and written communication.
- Professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system.
- Other professional skills.