

The Online Master of Legal Studies from Washington University School of Law

A Top-20 Law School in 2023¹



About the Washington University School of Law

Founded in 1867, Washington University School of Law is the oldest operating law school west of the Mississippi River. As one of the top-20 law schools in the United States — ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* in 2022 — the School of Law has been American Bar Association-approved since 1923 and has long been led by a team of internationally recognized faculty who are experts in their fields.

Why Choose a Master of Legal Studies?

Our ABA-acquiesced online Master of Legal Studies (MLS) program is designed for non-lawyers who are looking to build their knowledge of law to better perform their law-related tasks at work — and to advance their careers. **Our online MLS program can be completed entirely online in as few as 12 months.** The curriculum provides a foundation in U.S. legal concepts and procedures and includes 21 credits of electives, allowing you to structure your education to meet your specific goals.

As a student in the MLS program, you also have the opportunity to earn one of our **five certificate offerings: Conflict Resolution, Business Law, Litigation, Regulatory Compliance, and Employment Law.** These certificates allow

you to specialize in a particular area of law and increase your credibility. To earn a certificate, you will complete at least 9 electives credits from predefined courses that will count 24 total credits required for the MLS program.

A few of our electives include:

Employment Law: Introduces students to U.S. employment law including hiring and firing practices, employee wages, hours and benefits requirements, and various governmental processes and procedures.

Corporate Compliance: Explores corporate misconduct, primarily through case studies. In these studies, you will seek to determine what went wrong at the company level and whether the relevant laws were effectively designed to prevent the misconduct.

Health Law: Offers an introduction to the U.S. health care system — including private, state and federal regulation; the provider-patient relationship; and ethical issues such as cloning, genetics and organ transplantation.

If you are interested, we also offer an online Master of Laws in Taxation, Master of Laws in U.S. Law, and a Master of Legal Studies in Taxation.

¹2023 Best Law Schools. US News & World Report. Ranked in 2022.

What Can You Do With an MLS?

Almost all industries work with legal procedure in some capacity — from risk management to government regulation — so it is important for many professionals to develop their legal knowledge.

You don't have to earn a three-year J.D. to better understand the U.S. legal system. With an MLS degree, you will graduate equipped with the knowledge of legal concepts and procedures needed to advance your career, including:

▷ **Building and Negotiating Contracts**

Through courses like Contracts and Negotiation, you will learn to understand legal terminology and develop the skills to safeguard yourself and your company on the job. This is ideal for a variety of professionals looking to negotiate client partnerships, build and revise contracts for transactions or start their own business.

▷ **Advocating for Clients and Patient**

Through courses like Trial Advocacy and Health Law, you will gain the legal background to better understand laws and citizen rights so that you can more effectively petition for clients and patients. These are important skills for professionals in health care, social work, nonprofit and advocacy work.

▷ **Researching and Consulting**

Learning how to adeptly navigate the law, advise clients on legal matters, and use research databases like LexisNexis and Westlaw prepares you with skills that are transferrable across a wide variety of industries — including politics and government, dispute resolution and mediation, and business and finance.



“I couldn’t do this degree without the online component. I have an extensive travel schedule, and the program allows me to attend classes regardless of where I am. Tuning in to my class from a hotel room is not an unusual experience.”

— Keri Eisenbeis, Master of Legal Studies (MLS)

Explore the Online Learning Experience

Designed to match the rigor of our on-campus programs, this program is led by the same faculty who teach on campus — allowing you to earn your degree from a top-20 law school without relocating or putting your commitments on hold. Our live, face-to-face video technology fosters an intimacy that encourages close collaboration between you and your peers and faculty, just like in a physical classroom.

The learning experience includes:



Live, online classes: Held on our videoconferencing platform, classes enable you to interact directly with your professors, ask questions and collaborate with peers in real time. Class sizes are limited to maintain a small student-to-faculty ratio.



Optional in-person learning: You can enhance your online learning experience by attending an optional weekend-long immersion on the Washington University campus in St. Louis, Missouri. During the immersion, you will complete a 1-credit elective course, tour legal landmarks and network with your classmates and faculty.



Course work that complements your class sessions: Course work assigned outside of class prepares you for your weekly live class sessions, where you are challenged to apply what you have learned. Materials are available at any time, from any device.



Interactive learning: Faculty conduct class using the Socratic method. This teaching method helps you reach your own conclusions about the course material through discussion and debate — and encourages you to actively engage in class.



LexisNexis and Westlaw access: Throughout the program, you are given access to law databases that allow you to supplement your studies by analyzing real legal cases and research.

The School of Law also offers an optional externship. We partner with you to match you with a law firm near your community, where you will apply the skills gained in the classroom to real-world cases in the tax field.

Ongoing Support

Throughout your time in the program, you will receive dedicated support from our Student Services staff, who are specially trained to assist you with interactive technologies, class enrollment and any questions you may have. You will have access to our Career Services team — before and after graduation — who offer a professional development course, one-on-one advising and information sessions to help you move your career forward.