

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN LAW

Contacts

Director: Leslie Oster (<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/faculty/profiles/LeslieAOster>)

Director, Program Development: Shilpa Gokhale
(shilpa.gokhale@law.northwestern.edu)

Program Office: mssl@northwestern.edu

Program Overview

The MSL curriculum centers on the intersection of law, business, and technology, with specific focus areas in business law and entrepreneurship, intellectual property and patent design, and regulatory analysis and strategy. Courses are designed specifically for MSL students, and students have the flexibility to design course plans that fit their particular interests and professional goals.

Enrollment Options

The MSL degree is offered in three formats:

Degree	Duration
Residential - Full-time	9 Months
Residential - Part-time	2-4 years
Online - Part-time	2-4 years

Program of Study

The MSL curriculum includes a set of required, foundational classes and a rich collection of electives. Electives fall into three subject areas: intellectual property and patent design; business law and entrepreneurship; and regulatory analysis and strategy. Many students select classes across the three areas of study, while some focus on one particular area.

Students must complete at least 28 credits for the MSL degree. Required courses provide students with a foundational understanding of the legal system, the basic structure of business, and the regulatory process. These courses impart a theoretical framework on which students can build with the elective part of the curriculum.

Degree Requirements:

Course	Title
Required Core Courses:	
BUSCOM 901-0	Business Formation & Structure
BUSCOM 992-0	Business Torts
BUSCOM 902-0	Contract Law & Design
LAWSTUDY 912-0	Ethics
or LAWSTUDY 910-0	Ethics and Law in STEM-Related Fields
INTPROP 901-0	Intellectual Property Fundamentals
REGLAW 901-0	Legal & Regulatory Process
LAWSTUDY 950-0	Research in Law, Business & Technology
Writing Requirement:	
<i>Choose 1 course:</i>	
BUSCOM 982-0	Public Persuasion
LAWSTUDY 940-0	Communication & Legal Reasoning-MSL
LAWSTUDY 956-0	Persuasive Communication

Elective Courses: choose from courses designated for the MSL program

Total Required Credits: 28

Elective Course Categories

IP and Patent Design (INTPROP)

In these courses, students learn about patenting inventions, managing a patent portfolio, assessing patent eligibility, preparing and prosecuting patent, serving as an expert witness on patent/IP subjects, and addressing global intellectual property issues.

Business Law and Entrepreneurship (BUSCOM and LAWSTUDY)

In these courses, students learn about the legal aspects of business formations and transactions and are exposed to subjects including mergers and acquisitions, employment law, business strategy, venture capital, and antitrust. Courses also focus on business and entrepreneurship skills, including negotiations, communications, decision-making, leadership, and quantitative skills. Various aspects of the commercialization process – the issues and opportunities involved in bringing an idea from conception to market – are also addressed.

Regulatory Analysis and Strategy (REGLAW)

Classes in this area examine the process and structure of regulation, both in the U.S. and globally. Students learn to think strategically about regulatory processes and compliance and how to navigate the regulatory environment. Classes focus on a variety of specific regulatory topics: data security, food, environment, health, privacy, telecommunications, and universities.

MSL Residential Format

The MSL residential format includes both full-time and part-time options. The full-time program can be completed in 9 months at Northwestern Law's downtown Chicago campus. The part-time program is designed for STEM professionals in the Chicagoland area and can be completed in two to four years, also at the Law School's downtown Chicago campus.

The residential options operate on the semester system, with each semester divided into two seven-week sessions and two one-week sessions (called Power Weeks). The seven-week sessions include foundational and in-depth classes, while the Power Weeks tend to include more focused, specialized, and workshop-type classes. This unique structure of four, separate seven-week sessions coupled with four Power Weeks allows MSL students to experience a wide variety of classes, topics, formats, and pedagogical techniques.

Classes in the MSL residential program are scheduled Monday through Friday, during both daytime and evening timeslots, with occasional weekend classes.

Full-time students are generally in class an average of 12 to 15 hours per week, divided between day and evening classes. Part-time students are generally in class an average of 3 to 6 hours per week, usually in evening classes that meet 1 or 2 nights per week. Additionally, students should expect a substantial amount of out-of-class work, approximately 4 to 8 hours per course per week.

MSL Online Format

The MSL online program is designed for STEM professionals around the world who wish to advance their careers by deepening their understanding of law and business within the STEM context. The online

MSL is a part-time program, which can be completed in two to four years. Online students may begin in either the Fall or the Spring and will be required to complete a 2-week online orientation before the start of their first term.

Students in the online format receive the same degree as students in the residential format. The requirements and structure of the curriculum are the same, with a rich and varied selection of online electives that cover business law and entrepreneurship, IP and patent design, and regulatory analysis and strategy.

The online program operates on the semester system, with each semester divided into two eight-week sessions. Students can also take classes during the eight-week Summer term. Students can take up to two classes during each term. In addition, students are required to participate in a one-week, on-campus Power Week, which will occur in the late spring.

This unique structure allows students to experience a wide variety of classes, topics, formats, and pedagogical techniques.

Online courses incorporate a combination of synchronous and asynchronous activities, including regular engagement with instructors and peers. Although the format offers some flexibility in terms of scheduling, online courses are academically rigorous and will require approximately 7 hours of work each week, per class.

MSL Courses

The following courses are only open to students in the Master of Science in Law program. Please note while every effort is made to ensure these lists are accurate, change is inevitable. Not all courses are offered each year and may not be offered in both residential and online formats. For specific program information, including a list of required courses, please refer to the Master of Science in Law degree requirements section.

Code	Title
BUSCOM 901-0	Business Formation & Structure
BUSCOM 902-0	Contract Law & Design
BUSCOM 905-0	Business Strategy & Frameworks
BUSCOM 910-0	Federal Income Taxation
BUSCOM 912-0	Assessing AI & Computational Technologies
BUSCOM 915-0	Entrepreneurial Finance and Venture Capital
BUSCOM 917-0	Introduction to Securities Regulation
BUSCOM 925-0	Employment Law
BUSCOM 935-0	Entrepreneurship Lab: Part I
BUSCOM 940-0	Entrepreneurship Lab: Part II
BUSCOM 945-0	Business Combinations
BUSCOM 950-0	Litigation Operations & eDiscovery
BUSCOM 951-0	Business Internship
BUSCOM 952-0	Value-Based Decision-Making: Gaining Competitive Advantage in an Uncertain World
BUSCOM 954-0	Dealing with Debt: Law & Strategy When Businesses Fail
BUSCOM 955-0	The Deal: Working with Contracts and Contract Language
BUSCOM 956-0	Visual Communication
BUSCOM 958-0	Getting to Market: Tackling Legal Issues in Complex Corporate Environments
BUSCOM 960-0	Leadership Communication
BUSCOM 962-0	Advanced Contracts: Practical Aspects
BUSCOM 965-0	Entrepreneurship Law
BUSCOM 970-0	Design Thinking

BUSCOM 975-0	Introduction to Accounting and Financial Statements
BUSCOM 980-0	Cases in New Venture Strategies
BUSCOM 981-0	Introduction to Taxation: Business Income
BUSCOM 982-0	Public Persuasion
BUSCOM 984-0	International Team Project-MSL
BUSCOM 985-0	Integration of Science and Clinical Care
BUSCOM 991-0	EntrepTeam Project
BUSCOM 992-0	Business Torts
BUSCOM 993-0	Transactional Skills: Basic Training
INTPROP 901-0	Intellectual Property Fundamentals
INTPROP 905-0	Patent Law
INTPROP 910-0	Patent Preparation & Prosecution Workshop
INTPROP 912-0	Patent Preparation & Prosecution Workshop II: Advanced Topics
INTPROP 922-0	Patenting Software Inventions
INTPROP 935-0	Introduction to IP Licensing
INTPROP 940-0	IP Strategy & Management
INTPROP 945-0	IP Valuation
INTPROP 950-0	International & Comparative IP
INTPROP 951-0	Intellectual Property Internship
INTPROP 955-0	Intellectual Property Investments and Capital Markets: A Global Perspective
INTPROP 960-0	Monetizing Patents: Fundamentals of Patent Assertion
INTPROP 965-0	Infringement Risk Assessments: Driving Early Resolution of Patent Disputes
INTPROP 970-0	Intellectual Property & Business Strategy
INTPROP 972-0	Patent Life Cycle Management at the Intersection of Regulatory & Patent Law
INTPROP 975-0	Business Foundations of Design and Trademarks
LAWSTUDY 901-0	Negotiation Skills & Strategies
LAWSTUDY 905-0	Quantitative Reasoning in the Law
LAWSTUDY 910-0	Ethics and Law in STEM-Related Fields
LAWSTUDY 912-0	Ethics
LAWSTUDY 920-0	Communicating Scientific Information: Technical Professionals and Expert Witnesses
LAWSTUDY 925-0	Dispute Resolution Processes
LAWSTUDY 930-0	Corporate Criminal Law
LAWSTUDY 940-0	Communication & Legal Reasoning-MSL
LAWSTUDY 945-0	The Privacy Paradox and Other Post-Snowden Games
LAWSTUDY 950-0	Research in Law, Business & Technology
LAWSTUDY 951-0	Legal & Policy Challenges in Emerging Technologies
LAWSTUDY 953-0	Forensic Science
LAWSTUDY 955-0	Judgment & Decision-Making
LAWSTUDY 956-0	Persuasive Communication
LITARB 741-0	Clinic: International Human Rights Law and Practice
REGLAW 901-0	Legal & Regulatory Process
REGLAW 905-0	Regulatory Strategy & Communication
REGLAW 915-0	Technology Standards: Strategic & Antitrust Considerations
REGLAW 920-0	Data Privacy Management
REGLAW 922-0	Data Privacy & Security: Law & Regulation
REGLAW 925-0	Global Business Regulation & Risk Assessment
REGLAW 930-0	Regulation: Environment and Energy
REGLAW 935-0	Regulation: Tech and Telecom
REGLAW 940-0	Regulation of Drugs, Devices & Biologics
REGLAW 942-0	Energy Law & Policy
REGLAW 945-0	Health Data: Classification and Compliance

REGLAW 950-0	Open Data: Implications for Government, Law, and Society
REGLAW 951-0	Regulatory Internship
REGLAW 960-0	Data Security & Breach: Identification, Investigation, Notification, and Defense
REGLAW 965-0	Privacy Law and Regulation
REGLAW 970-0	Health Care Law and Regulation
REGLAW 972-0	Health Care Law & Regulation: State
REGLAW 974-0	Health Care Law & Regulation: Federal
REGLAW 975-0	Food Policy and Regulation
REGLAW 980-0	Regulatory Compliance: Product Approval & Life Cycle Issues
REGLAW 985-0	Regulatory Compliance at Universities
REGLAW 990-0	Legal & Regulatory Issues in Emerging Industries