

The Master of Science in Law degree (MSL) at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law arms STEM professionals with the tools they need to succeed in today's innovation economy. Graduates develop an integrative mindset that uniquely positions them to play an active role in leading industry, developing policy, advancing innovation, and commercializing ideas.

The unique 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.

MSL students greatly benefit from studying at one of the nation's most prestigious law schools. Students have access to a highly successful alumni base, in addition to world-renowned faculty and broader Northwestern University resources.

Northwestern Law is also a long-standing leader in curricular innovation, known for launching several other path-breaking programs, including one of the first entrepreneurship law centers and also the first three-year JD-MBA. MSL students truly enjoy the best of both worlds: an innovative, new law degree awarded by an established, world-class law school.

Curriculum

A total of 28 credits is required for the MSL degree; about a third of these credits are in foundational required courses, such as IP Fundamentals, Legal & Regulatory Process, and Business Formation & Structure. Students select their remaining credits from a wide array of interesting electives – over 50 are offered in any given year.

The MSL can be completed in one academic year (two semesters) of full-time study or up to four academic years of part-time study. Full-time students take both day and evening classes, and have the option for a few weekend classes as well. Part-time students mostly take weekday classes offered in the evenings, along with a few weekend offerings. Part-time students

are able to maintain full- or part-time work schedules while completing the degree.

- Students may mix and match courses from all areas of the curriculum or they may concentrate their studies in one particular area.
- Classes are taught by a combination of Northwestern's renowned residential faculty and an impressive group of industry experts, who bring their practical experiences from law, business, and government to the program.
- Courses are practical, with a focus on real world challenges and context. They involve innovative teaching methodologies, including team-based work, blended & flipped classrooms, interactive web content, guest lectures, company-based case studies, special projects, labs, and other active-learning techniques.
- "Power Weeks" – one-week compressed sessions – are held four times a year, giving students the opportunity to take a diverse array of workshops and intensives that cover trending topics and specialized skills-building. Representative Power Week classes include Negotiation Skills and Strategies, Integration of Science and Clinical Care, and Managing the Patent Life Cycle.

Career Growth

The MSL program develops innovative leaders who possess the ability to think, communicate and interact across disciplines. Students acquire skills necessary to recognize obstacles and risks and to visualize opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship. Graduates are better equipped for a variety of positions.

The MSL program has a dedicated staff member who provides career search guidance to all students. In addition to meeting with students one-on-one to develop a targeted, individualized strategy, the career advisor also leads workshops that help students prepare for job searches, develop strong resumes and cover letters, and refine networking and interviewing skills.

MSL by the Numbers

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME GRADUATES IN 2016



2016 GRADUATES EMPLOYED OR ENROLLED IN OTHER GRADUATE PROGRAMS



2016 GRADUATES BY INDUSTRY



Law	22%	Consulting	11%
Education	16%	Government	11%
Engineering	16%	Startups	5%
Finance	16%		

Special Features of the MSL

- The entire degree can be completed in one academic year.
- Courses are new and specifically designed for the MSL program.
- Classes have a real-world focus and are collaborative and interactive.
- The student body is richly diverse, yet all students share their STEM backgrounds in common.
- Students develop valuable professional networks.
- The program's unique course scheduling, including half-semester and Power Weeks, allows students to customize study based on their own individual educational goals and professional interests.
- The program is an integral part of the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law community, offering students the opportunity to collaborate, network and socialize with JD and LLM students, and also students and faculty from across the University.

Student Involvement Opportunities

MSL students are welcome and enthusiastic members of the Law School community; they energetically participate in the wide variety of professional and social activities that take place in and around the Law School. Students take active part in the Law School's public service program, volunteering hundreds of hours of time to causes and service activities of interest to them. They have also participated in a variety of Law School events, including transactional moot court competitions, the Law School's annual Global Village event, the student-sponsored Public Interest Auction, and the Wigmore Follies, Northwestern Law's very own musical production. Student groups that are of particular interest to MSL students and in which they have taken leadership roles include:

- Donald Pritzker Entrepreneurship Law Center Student Group
- Health Law Society
- High Tech Law Society
- Intellectual Property Law Society

- Journal of Technology and Intellectual Property
- Student Bar Association
- Women's Leadership Coalition

Networking Opportunities

As members of the Northwestern Law community, MSL students have abundant opportunities to network with industry experts, thought leaders, and Northwestern alumni. Two examples are the MSL-DPELC Speaker Series, which brings in a wide range of speakers working at the intersection of law, business, and technology, and the annual Entrepreneurship Law Conference, which provides the opportunity for students to interact with and learn from leaders in the entrepreneurship community. MSL students are also invited to numerous events attended by Northwestern Law and MSL alumni.

Students are encouraged to get involved with the Chicagoland STEM community, by attending events like BioTech Day, Chicago Ideas Week, HealthTECH Summit, Techstars Demo Day, and Techweek Chicago. Local incubators, like 1871 (tech), mHUB (manufacturing), and MATTER (biotech) also offer dynamic programming and meet-ups that are open to MSL students and alumni.

Living and Studying in Chicago

An established center of commerce and government, with a thriving entrepreneurship ecosystem, Chicago provides an ideal setting for MSL study. The city is home to many of the world's leading pharmaceutical and technology companies, many of the nation's largest corporations and law firms, and many successful startup companies, including Groupon, Braintree, Grubhub, and SpotHero. The nationally-recognized 1871 tech hub and MATTER, a space for biotech and healthtech startups, are a dynamic component of the local scene, as are top-ranked accelerator programs including Techstars Chicago (for tech companies) and Impact Engine (for social impact companies).

The Law School is located on the shores of Lake Michigan in Streeterville, one of the city's most beautiful and exciting neighborhoods. The campus is adjacent

to Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, the Feinberg School of Medicine, and Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Within walking distance are two beautiful beaches and the famed Magnificent Mile, a stretch of Michigan Avenue that boasts a wide variety of cultural landmarks, restaurants, and shopping. Northwestern Law is just a mile from the Loop, one of the most architecturally interesting business districts in the world and home to the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Stock Exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade, Millennium and Grant Parks, City Hall, and many other exciting attractions.

Admissions

MSL applicants must submit an online application, which includes a statement of interest, a resume or CV, a letter of recommendation, and official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended. International students must submit a TOEFL or IELTS score or request a waiver from the Admissions Committee. No other standardized test score is required, although applicants may submit a score if they so choose.

A limited number of merit-based scholarships for full-time residential students are available, including designated scholarships for PhD and postdoc applicants. Students may also be eligible for loans.

Applications for the residential program are accepted during 3 application periods. Please visit www.law.northwestern.edu/msl to learn more.

Online Degree

Beginning in the fall of 2018, the MSL degree will also be offered as a fully-accredited online graduate program. To learn more about this option, please visit www.law.northwestern.edu/msl.

Contact

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www.law.northwestern.edu/msl