

Master of Science in Law

Northwestern Law School is proud to offer the Master of Science in Law (MSL), a first-of-its-kind degree, specifically designed for engineers, scientists, technologists, medical professionals, and others with STEM backgrounds. As law and regulation become increasingly important in today's technologically-focused world, professionals and entrepreneurs with technical expertise frequently find themselves interacting with a myriad of legal and regulatory structures and a complex intellectual property scheme. Students in the MSL program will study the interface of law, business and technology and thus will be uniquely positioned to play an active role in advancing innovation, commercializing ideas and technology, and leading industry.

Curriculum

The MSL curriculum clusters in three areas: Intellectual Property and Patent Design; Business Law and Entrepreneurship; and Regulatory Analysis and Strategy.

A total of 28 credits is required for the MSL degree; about a third of the credits are in required, foundational courses, and about two-thirds are in specialized elective courses. The foundational courses are focused on introducing students to fundamentals of law, business, and regulation, and to the skills necessary for upper-level curricular work in these areas. The elective courses allow students to develop their knowledge and practical skills by pursuing study in more focused, sophisticated, and applied subjects.

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. Part-time students can choose between day and late afternoon/evening weekday classes. Many part-time students are able to maintain full- or part-time work schedules while completing the MSL degree.

- Following completion of the required, foundational core, students may mix and match courses from all areas of the curriculum or they may concentrate their studies in one particular area.
- MSL 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 MSL classroom.
- Teaching methods in the MSL program are varied and innovative. Subjects are taught "in context," using team-based work, blended & flipped classrooms, interactive web content, guest lectures, company-based case studies, special projects, labs, and other active-learning techniques.
- Four times throughout the academic year, the MSL program has a week of intensive courses that will cover workshops, hot topics, and other material best taught in a more compressed format. Courses offered in this format include Negotiation Skills & Strategies, Patent Trolls: Business Risk and Opportunity, IP Insurance, and many others.

Foundational Required Subjects

- Business Formation and Structure
- Contract Law and Design
- Ethics
- IP Fundamentals
- Legal and Regulatory Process
- Liability, Risk and Insurance
- Writing, Communicating and Presenting

Specialized Electives

IP AND PATENT DESIGN

- Patent Law
- Patent Prosecution
- IP Insurance
- IP Litigation
- IP Strategy & Management
- IP Licensing & Transactions
- IP & Legal Research
- IP Valuation
- International & Comparative IP
- Public and Private Markets in IP

BUSINESS LAW AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Business Combinations & Antitrust
- Business Strategy & Frameworks
- Commercial Finance & Intellectual Property
- Employment Law
- Entrepreneurial Finance & Venture Capital
- Entrepreneurship Lab
- Structuring Business Finance

REGULATORY ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

- Digital Data & Information: Privacy, Security & Opportunity
- Energy & Environment Regulation
- Global Regulation & Compliance
- Medical & Health Regulation
- Regulatory Communication & Strategy
- Standard Setting
- Technology & Telecom Regulation

CROSSOVER COURSES

- Dispute Resolution Processes
- Negotiation Skills & Strategies
- Statistics & Probability
- Expert Witness Workshop

Special Features of the MSL

- Entire degree can be completed in one academic year.
- All-new classes are designed specifically for students with STEM backgrounds.
- Classes have a practical, real-world focus.
- Creative teaching methods and assessments bring material to life.
- Students customize their study based on their own educational goals and professional interests.
- MSL students study alongside other STEM-focused individuals and develop valuable professional networks.
- Great diversity in MSL student body.
- Unique course scheduling, including half-semester and compressed weeks, allows students to choose from a wide array of subject matters, instructors, and teaching formats.
- Productive and frequent interaction with Northwestern Law JD and LLM students and also with Northwestern University STEM departments, faculty, and students.

MSL: Results

The MSL program develops innovative leaders who possess the ability to think, communicate, and interact across the disciplines of law, business, and science/engineering/medicine. 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, including:

- technical specialists
- entrepreneurs
- inventors
- compliance officers
- regulatory engineers
- business developers
- company intrapreneurs
- scientific advisors
- expert witnesses
- government regulators
- technology transfer officers
- patent coordinators
- patent agents
- consultants
- regulatory analysts and specialists
- IP/patent portfolio managers
- business managers
- litigation advisors

Northwestern Innovation

Northwestern is a leader in business-legal training and regulatory analysis. In addition to its world-class research and practice centers – including the Searle Center on Law, Regulation, and Economic Growth; the Center on Negotiation and Mediation; and the Entrepreneurship Law Center – Northwestern Law is known for launching several first-of-their-kind programs, including the three-year JD-MBA, and the two-year Accelerated JD. Northwestern Law's expertise as an innovator in program development and design will help ensure that MSL students have an unparalleled academic experience and its reputation as a leader in legal education will serve MSL graduates throughout their careers.

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. Chicago 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, Bright Tag, and Cleversafe. The innovation community in Chicago boasts numerous resources for entrepreneurs, including shared work spaces such as the nationally-recognized 1871 tech hub and MATTER, the new space for biotech and healthtech startups, and also top-ranked accelerator programs including TechStars Chicago (for tech companies) and Impact Engine (for social impact companies).

The Law School campus is located on the shores of Lake Michigan in Chicago's Streeterville neighborhood, one of the city's most beautiful and exciting neighborhoods. The Law School is adjacent to Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, the Feinberg School of Medicine, and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

The law school building is within walking distance of two beautiful beaches, and is just a few blocks from the famed Magnificent Mile, a stretch of Michigan Avenue that boasts a wide variety of offices, restaurants, and shopping. Northwestern Law is just a mile from "The Loop," Chicago's central business district, which is one of the most architecturally interesting business districts in the world, and is 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. The Law School campus is located on the shores of Lake Michigan in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, one of the city's most interesting neighborhoods. The Law School building is within walking distance of two beautiful beaches, and is just a few blocks from the famed Magnificent Mile, a stretch of Michigan Avenue that boasts a wide variety of offices, restaurants, and shopping. Northwestern Law is just a mile from "The Loop," Chicago's central business district, which is one of the most architecturally interesting business districts in the world, and is 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 Program Director. No other standardized test score is required, although applicants may submit a score if they so choose. A limited number of merit-based scholarships is available; students may also be eligible for loans.

Applications are accepted during 3 application periods: the deadlines are January 15, 2015; April 15, 2015 (final deadline for international students); and June 15, 2015 (domestic students only).