

Master in the Study of Law (M.S.L.)

Concentration:
Alternative Dispute
Resolution (ADR)

Concentration Curriculum

Offerings subject to change. View course descriptions below.

Credit Requirement:

Students must complete 30 credits to earn the M.S.L. degree. To graduate with a concentration in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), students must complete at least 15 credits of ADR-related coursework ("ADR Concentration Courses"). These 15 credits count toward the 30-credit requirement to graduate from the M.S.L. program.

Required M.S.L. Foundational Courses (6 credits)

All M.S.L. students, pursuing a concentration or not, must take the two foundational M.S.L. program courses:

Course	Semester	Modality	Credits
LAW 8550: Legal Research and Writing	Fall & Summer	Online	3
LAW 8525: Intro to US Legal Systems	Spring & Summer	Online	3

ADR Concentration Courses (15 credits)

Core Concentration Courses

Students must take two (02) core courses below:

Course	Semester	Modality	Credits
LAW 7106: Legal Negotiation	Fall	Online	3
LAW 8889 Mediation	Spring	Online	3

Elective Concentration Courses

Students may complete the remaining credits to meet the 15-credit requirement in ADR coursework from among the elective concentration courses below:

Course	Semester	Modality	Credits
LAW 7103: Arbitration*	Fall	In Person	3
LAW 8889: Arbitration Practice*	Fall	In-Person	2
LAW 7602: Family and Divorce Mediation	Fall	In Person	2
LAW 7124: International Dispute Resolution	Fall	In Person	3
LAW 7117: Dispute Resolution in the Digital Age	Fall	In Person	3
LAW 7127: Dispute System Design Workshop	Fall	In Person	3
LAW 7112: Dispute Resolution Processes**	Spring	In-person	2
LAW 8896.11: Dispute Resolution Colloquium**	Spring	In-person	2
LAW 8950: Resolving Community Civil Rights Disputes	Spring	In Person	1
Any 1-credit in-person course in ADR	Spring or Fall	In Person	1
<i>*These courses are offered on a rotating basis every other Fall semester</i>			
<i>** These courses are offered on a rotating basis every other Spring semester</i>			

Other Elective Courses

To meet the 30-credit requirement for the M.S.L. degree, students may complete the remaining credits in any other ADR concentration courses listed above and/or any other online or in-person courses in other fields of law available to M.S.L. students. View available online and in-person courses on the [M.S.L. Academic Information webpage](#). Note that in-person courses may vary year to year. View a catalogue of in-person course [here](#).

****CONTINUE NEXT PAGE TO VIEW COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****

REQUIRED M.S.L. FOUNDATIONAL COURSES

Intro to US Legal System (3 credits) – online

The course provides an introduction to the basic structure of the US legal system, including the Constitution, the separation of powers, and federalism. The course introduces students to foundational principles underlying many substantive areas of law, including among other topics administrative law, contracts, criminal law, property, and torts. The course also describes the adversary system, the state and federal court systems, and the legal profession generally.

Legal Research and Writing (3 credits) – online

The course provides MSL students with a foundation in conducting legal research, reading legal materials, and analyzing those materials. The course will help students learn how to find, read, and use cases, statutes, and secondary materials. Students will also develop an understanding of how to review contracts by learning contract drafting style and conventions, key types of provisions (such as declarations, covenants, and representations and warranties), and important contractual provisions. Finally, students will hone their writing skills by learning how lawyers communicate and how to communicate like lawyers, both informally (through, for example, email correspondence) as well as in more formal persuasive writing.

ADR CONCENTRATION COURSES

Core Concentration Courses:

Legal Negotiation (3 credits) - online

This highly interactive course is designed to familiarize students with theories, skills and ethics involved in legal negotiation. Through simulations and role-play exercises, students will gain first-hand experience in applying negotiation techniques. This course will aim to provide students with tools to prepare for, conduct, and analyze negotiations.

Mediation (3 credits) – online

This three-credit course provides opportunities to develop skills as a mediator, along with basic study of mediation law and policy issues. Students will engage with literature interrogating mediation policy and practice considerations. Students will engage in hands-on mediation training exercises both synchronously and asynchronously. At the conclusion of this course (pending Ohio Supreme Court Approval), students will be eligible to mediate in Ohio courts pursuant to Supreme Court Rule of Superintendence 16.

Elective Concentration Courses

Arbitration (3 credits) – in-person

The course introduces different kinds of arbitration processes and the reasons for using arbitration as an alternative method of dispute resolution. It also helps students understand the contractual nature of arbitration, including arbitrability, enforcement of arbitration clauses and agreements, and laws applicable to arbitration. The course covers arbitration rules and procedure, such as selection of arbitrators, arbitration hearings, arbitral awards and enforcement thereof. Students will also explore issues associated with arbitration agreements between businesses and consumers or employees.

Arbitration Practice (2 credits) – in-person

This two-credit course will examine in depth the practice of domestic commercial, labor and employment arbitration. Topics for study likely will include the essential characteristics of arbitration, the division of authority between arbitrators and courts, the judging of consent to arbitrate, a detailed examination of the arbitration process and arbitration practice with a focus on the skills necessary to be a successful advocate in the arbitral forum, and judicial review of arbitration awards. The course will include a series of six or so practical exercises. The exercises will include a labor arbitration, an employment fact pattern that progresses from the beginning of the employment relationship through a mock arbitration, and a commercial arbitration. Students will also learn how to draft an arbitration agreement.

Family and Divorce Mediation (2 credits) – in-person

The course examines the substantive and procedural aspects of the legal underpinnings of Divorce and Family Mediation including the Uniform Mediation Act. Students will learn to mediate family and divorce cases and prepare Memorandum of Agreements for family and divorce mediations, as well as apply mediation strategies that are appropriate for the parties and the factual issues in cases they are mediating.

International Dispute Resolution (3 credits) – in-person

This course surveys the dispute settlement mechanisms available for resolving disputes between nation states. It is organized around the classic categories of the field: negotiation, mediation, fact-finding, conciliation, arbitration, and adjudication. Special emphasis is on adjudication. Commercial disputes between private parties, or between a nation state and a private party, are not covered in this course.

Dispute Resolution Processes (2 credits) – in-person: This course surveys the basic processes and variations with an emphasis on the lawyer as an advocate for clients. Skill building is practiced through simulation exercises. The course is especially appropriate for a student who wants to take only a single dispute resolution course.

Dispute Resolution Colloquium (2 credits)– in-person

The course is an introductory course to negotiation, mediation and arbitration, as well as the role of alternative dispute resolution in the justice systems.

Dispute System Design (3 credits) – in-person

This is a course to prepare you to design new forums for particular disputes and also to design, or modify, disputing systems for series of disputes. It will be like a legal clinic in the sense that you will have a client with a particular problem to solve. It will differ from most legal clinics in the

sense that you will not represent the client or perform legal work for the client but instead will serve as a forum or systems designer.

Dispute Resolution in the Digital Age (3 credits) – in-person

This course explores how the internet can assist dispute resolution as an augmentation to, and, in some cases, replacement of traditional face-to-face dispute resolution processes. It will discuss opportunities for integrating the internet into comprehensive dispute resolution system design and how courts, agencies, corporations, organizations, and individuals may use the internet for dispute prevention and resolution. Course participants will consider the extent to which the internet is not only an extension of traditional dispute resolution, but also a frontier ripe with unique qualities and opportunities for reimagining access to remedies, and justice. It will consider ethical and policy issues and what the future may hold. The course also will include simulations, using technology currently available for assisting in-person ADR. It also will include simulated online negotiation, mediation, and arbitration exercises. Furthermore, the class will include deep consideration of ethical tensions in using technology in dispute prevention and resolution. We also will discuss development of best practices and question policy directions.

Resolving Community Civil Rights Disputes

The course focuses on conflicts that divide a community and involve public policy issues such as civil rights, racial justice and economic inequality through simulations and discussion.

Any 1-credit in-person course in ADR: each semester the College introduces a new 1-credit course in different areas of law, including ADR. The MSL academic advisors will notify MSL students of these new courses before registration for courses start each semester.

OTHER ELECTIVE COURSES (online and/or in-person)

View descriptions for in-person course [here](#).

View [descriptions for online courses](#).