

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

Concentration: Legal Environment of Business

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 Legal Environment of Business, students must complete at least 15 credits of coursework related to business law ("Business Law 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

Business Law Concentration Courses (15 credits)

Core Concentration Courses

Students must take three (03) core courses below:

Course	Semester	Modality	Credits
LAW 7200.1: Business Associations	Summer	Online	3
LAW 8889: Contracts	Fall	Online	3
LAW 7228: Regulatory Compliance	Fall	Online	3

Elective Concentration Courses

Students may complete the remaining credits from among the elective concentration courses below to meet the minimum 15-credit requirement in Business Law coursework.

Course	Semester	Modality	Credits
LAW 7210: Business Bankruptcy	Fall	In Person	3

LAW 8100: Employment Law	Fall	In person	4
LAW 8109: Employment Discrimination Law	Spring	Online	3
LAW 8889: Federal Income Taxation <i>(there is also an in-person section of this course in the Fall semester in which MSL students can enroll.)</i>	Summer	Online	3
LAW 8530: Financial Compliance	Spring	Online	3
LAW 8889: HR Compliance	Fall	Online	3
LAW 8889: Introduction to Tech and IP Transactions	Summer	Online	3
LAW 8103: Labor Law	Spring	In Person	4
LAW 7215: Securities	Spring	In person (recordings available)	3

Other Elective Courses

To meet the 30-credit requirement for the M.S.L. degree, students may complete the remaining credits in any other Business Law 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.

BUSINESS LAW CONCENTRATION COURSES

Core Concentration Courses:

Business Associations (3 credits) – online

This course provides an introduction to the laws governing business entities. We will examine the structure and characteristics of modern business organizations, particularly publicly traded and closely held business corporations. Significant emphasis is placed upon the nature of the corporate governance system and the fiduciary obligations of directors and officers.

Contracts (3 credits) – online

This course focuses on when promises are given legal weight, how contracts are formed, when they are and are not enforced, what their terms mean, and what remedies are available when they are breached. In addition, students discuss contract negotiation and drafting, legal planning issues, and international and comparative aspects of contract law. The course emphasizes both the influence of contract law on transactions and how courts deal with contracts in legal disputes.

Regulatory Compliance (3 credits) – online

This course will analyze the legal, ethical and policy foundations of regulatory compliance: the effort to translate statutory requirements into compliant corporate and individual behavior.

Elective Concentration Courses:

Business Bankruptcy (3 credits) – in-person

The course will focus on the business bankruptcy process, principally Chapter 11 reorganizations. Topics to be addressed include the basics of federal bankruptcy law, including the automatic stay, avoidance of fraudulent and preferential transfers, treatment of executory contracts, operation of a company during bankruptcy, sale of assets in Chapter 11 and formulation and confirmation of a plan of reorganization.

Employment Law (4 credits) – in-person

This course focuses on federal and state regulation of the employment relationship, including constitutional, statutory, and common-law restrictions on employer activities. Subjects covered include negligent hiring and retention, invasion of privacy, wrongful discharge, and unemployment insurance, among other topics.

Employment Discrimination Law (3 credits) - online

This course addresses developments in civil rights law in the context of the workplace. We will look at the growing body of law designed to protect against discrimination based on race, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability and sexual orientation. The main focus of the course will be on Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

Federal Income Taxation (3 credits, online; or 4 credits, in-person)

The course provides an introduction to the basic principles of the federal income tax. The principal subject areas include: (1) characteristics of income; (2) allowable deductions and exemptions; (3) timing issues; (4) income splitting; (5) preferential tax provisions including capital gains; and (6) brief examination of other methods of taxation including consumption tax and flat tax proposals.

Financial Compliance (3 credits) – online

This course helps students understand the laws, regulations, and policies covering financial services compliance, including money laundering, data protection, SEC filings, and whistleblowing. Students will explore the fundamental elements and risks that impact financial services compliance. The course provides a review of the work and ethical obligations of a financial services compliance officer, including compliance officers' liability, expectations, risks and effectiveness. The course then provides a substantive review of relevant financial services regulations, including, challenges on compliance officers and provides a way forward to convert these challenges into opportunities.

HR Compliance (3 credits) – online: description forthcoming

Introduction to Tech and IP Transactions (3 credits) – online

This course provides an introduction to the basic theories of intellectual property rights (IPRs): trademark, trade secrets, patent, copyright). The course also covers: confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements; software licensing; professional service agreements; software as a service; IP contract drafting and negotiation; and third party risk management.

Labor Law (4 credits) – in-person

This course will explore federal regulation of labor-management relations in private sector, focusing upon employee organizational and representational rights; selection of bargaining representative; collective bargaining process; contract administration and enforcement; and the union's duty of fair representation.

Securities (3 credits) – in-person and recorded

The course covers the regulation of distributions of securities by issuers and their affiliates under the Federal Securities Act of 1933 and the regulation of the securities trading markets by the Securities & Exchange Act of 1934.

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

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

View [descriptions for online courses](#).