To learn more about the MSL program, visit go.osu.edu/msl or email Dean Laura Fernández-Álvarez at Fernandez-Alvarez.1@osu.edu
The Master in the Study of Law (MSL) is a flexible degree program for established professionals who want to learn more about the law, strengthen their professional skills, and advance their career. The program is specifically designed to help professionals from a variety of sectors to expand their knowledge of legal principles and the U.S. legal system. However, this degree is not intended for professionals who plan to take a bar exam or practice law.

Q&A WITH AN MSL STUDENT

What is your profession and why did you choose to pursue an MSL at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law?

I'm a brand strategist, and I'm particularly interested in the legal aspects of brands. At the time, I was leading a brand transition at Ohio State, and my work crossed into licensing, trademark management and brand protection. I wanted to learn more about intellectual property law and the impact it had on my work, so I explored the university's offerings and found Moritz's MSL program.

What classes have been most beneficial to your career?

Even the classes that weren't directly related to intellectual property have been valuable. Classes such as contract law and dispute resolution, they teach professional skills that can benefit anyone. There were plenty of class offerings, which made scheduling work, class and other responsibilities possible. And, campus is central to everything, so access was easy.

How has the program helped you to advance your skillset and career?

Lawyers think in a completely different way. The program gave me a new perspective on my day-to-day work. I loved the program. It was worth the time commitment, even for a busy professional and mom.

Admissions Requirements

In order to be considered for admission to the Master in the Study of Law program, applicants must:

- Have received at least an undergraduate degree by the time of matriculation into the MSL program.
- Demonstrate their ability to succeed in the MSL program through substantial relevant work experience, successful academic performance, or standardized test scores.
- Applicants may apply simultaneously to the MSL program and another graduate program at the University and, if approved, obtain a dual-degree Masters.

The deadline for admissions, for both domestic and international students, is April 15 for the autumn semester and October 1 for the spring semester.

Applicants for admission to the MSL program must complete the appropriate admission form, submit a transcript from each college or university the applicant attended (other than Ohio State), and submit two letters of recommendation. Additionally, applicants must also submit a current resume and a two-page personal statement addressing how the applicant will benefit from the MSL program.

Official standardized test scores are optional. We accept results from the following exams:

- Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)
- Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or an equivalent test

International applicants must also take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the IELTS. In special cases, admission requirements may be waived.

Academic Requirements

MSL students must satisfactorily complete 30 semester hours in the program. A full-time student can typically complete the program in one academic year; part-time students are generally expected to complete the requirements within four academic years.

The college’s faculty includes six former U.S. Supreme Court clerks, and dozens more have equally remarkable careers as attorneys and educators. To provide students with a solid foundation in legal principles and doctrine, Moritz includes three traditional first-year courses in its MSL curriculum. Beyond that, students can work with the assistant dean for international and graduate affairs to design their own curriculums, or complete a concentration in one of the following areas:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Corporate Law
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Employment and Labor Law
- Intellectual Property and Technology Law
- International and Comparative Law