



# Master of Legal Studies

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Course Catalog and Graduation  
Requirements

[www.MontereyLaw.edu](http://www.MontereyLaw.edu)





Your Community.  
Your Law School.  
Your Future.

## Vision & Mission

Monterey College of Law's mission is to provide a quality legal education in a community law school setting with graduates who are dedicated to professional excellence, integrity, and community service.

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The MLS degree program can be valuable to individuals in fields such as law enforcement, public administration, financial services, human resources, healthcare management, government regulation, non-profit management, court administration, and social services.

## Master of Legal Studies

MCL's Master of Legal Studies curriculum was designed to prepare students for professional non-lawyer careers. Students will graduate with an advanced knowledge of the law and the American legal system. After completing the two-year program, graduates will demonstrate mastery of three student learning outcomes.



2 Year Graduate Program



On-Site and Online Cohorts

MLS students attend law courses that are part of the regular law school curriculum and are held to the same standards for attendance, participation, and grading as students in the JD and LL.M. programs.



Students in the MLS program must complete 36 units of graduate legal studies. A minimum of 18 units must be completed in residence. Students are allowed flexibility in selecting courses in order to provide the opportunity to focus on specific areas of legal interest.

Students must complete 29 units of required courses and 7 units of electives. Required Courses include Contracts (6 units), Torts (6 units), Criminal Law (3 units), Constitutional Law (6 units), Legal Research (2 units), Legal Writing I (2 units), Core Mediation training (2 units), and MLS Thesis (2 units).

Policies and requirements may be found on the school's website and in the Student Handbook.

## Required Courses

### Contracts

6 - u n i t , t w o  
s e m e s t e r c l a s s

This class covers enforceable agreements including requirements for the formation of acontract; problems of interpretation, consideration and its equivalent; damages for breach; the statute of frauds; illegality, and rights and liabilities of third parties arising from the contract itself or from assignment of contractual rights or delegation of duties.

### Torts

6 - u n i t , t w o  
s e m e s t e r c l a s s

The historical development and nature of noncontractual civil law, which allocates the economic burden of various injuries. A study of the principles of liability for harm.

### Criminal Law

3 - u n i t , t w o  
s e m e s t e r c l a s s

Topics include substantive criminal law and elements of criminal responsibility; law of crimes against persons; property; and habitation; the theory of criminal responsibility, parties and defenses to crimes.

### Constitutional Law

6 - u n i t , t w o  
s e m e s t e r c l a s s

A study of the United States Constitution with an emphasis on the theory and practice of judicial interpretation and review. Topics include the separation of federal powers, the relation of the federal government to the states and specific government powers (tax, treaty, war, and commercial). The course also covers limitations placed on the exercise of governmental power, emphasizing the Bill of Rights, due process and equal protection clauses.

## Required Courses

### Legal Writing I

2 - unit, two  
semester class

An introductory course designed to improve analytical and written communication skills. Students work on simple legal problems and how to identify and analyze legal issues and express their legal reasoning. Assignments include exercises in case briefing, exam writing, and drafting legal memoranda. This course meets five times in the fall and five times in the spring.

### Legal Research

2 - unit, one  
semester class

A class to familiarize students with the basic foundations of legal research. Assignments include researching problems in the law library and researching and writing office memoranda, opinion letters and other documents. A survey of CALR tools, including online resources for legal and public records research is included.

### Core Mediation Training

2 - unit, one  
semester class

This intensive 10-week, 32-hour Mediation Certification Training will teach you how to help others work through their conflicts. This training meets the requirements of the California Dispute Resolution Programs Act for mediators. The communication and problem-solving skills taught in this course are applicable in a wide range of situations including work, personal and community life. The course has been adapted to a virtual format.

### MLS Thesis

2 - unit, one  
semester class

A Capstone Thesis is an original paper similar to a law review article 5,000 to 7,000 words in length not counting bibliography. It constitutes the students' final product, demonstrating their legal knowledge and their research, analysis, issue-spotting, and writing skills. This course requires in-depth research and a significant amount of work on the part of the student. Thesis topics must be approved by the professor. Writing the Capstone Thesis is the crowning achievement of the MLS program.

## Other Requirements



7 Elective units



Pass at least 60% of units  
each term



At least 18 units in residence



GPA of 65.00+







# Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

## Learning Outcomes are Institution Wide Competencies

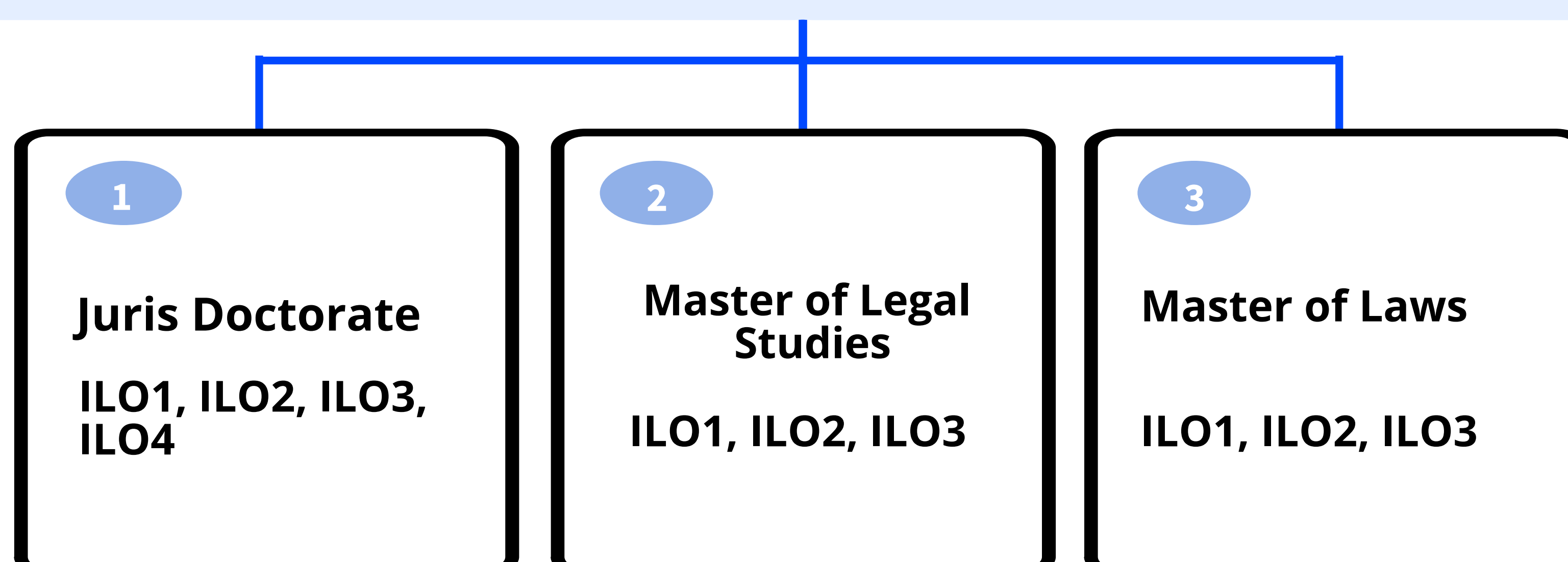
ILO1 Doctrinal Knowledge: Students will master knowledge and understanding of pertinent principles and theories of the law, their relationships, and their limitations.

ILO2 Professional Analytics (critical thinking): Students will analyze the legal rules and principles applicable to a problem and formulate legal theories. Students will apply problem solving skills to diagnose a legal problem, generate alternative solutions, and develop a plan of action.

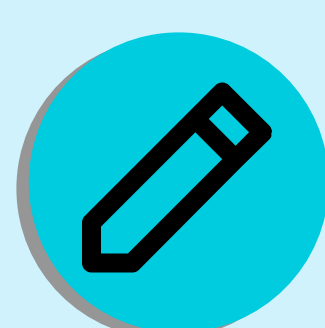
ILO3 Communication Skills (oral and written): Students will communicate effectively, whether advocating, advising a client, eliciting information, or effectuating a legal transaction.

ILO4 Professional Responsibility: Students will have knowledge and understanding of established standards related to a lawyer's professional conduct including the ability to recognize and solve ethical issues and multicultural issues arising in practical situations.

The Juris Doctorate, Master of Laws, and Master of Legal Studies degree programs incorporate the institutional learning outcomes appropriate for the program(PLOs).

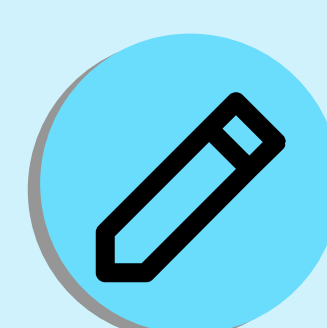


## Outcome Assessment



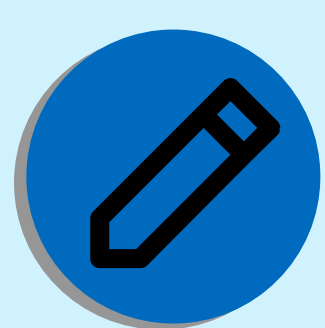
### **ILO1**

Course grades earned through formative and summative assessment.



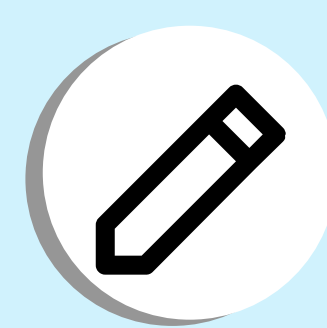
### **ILO2**

Benchmark MCQ formative assessments.



### **ILO3**

Course grades earned through formative and summative assessment.



### **ILO4**

Course grades earned through formative and summative assessment.