

# The Master of Science in Law: Where STEM, Law, and Business Converge

## Program Overview

The Master of Science in Law degree (MSL) at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law arms STEM professionals with the tools they need to succeed in today's complex business environment. It is the first master's degree of its kind to integrate the study of law, business, and regulation as these areas relate to STEM industries. The integrative mindset and skillset that MSL graduates develop empower them to better analyze and solve multi-faceted problems. MSL graduates are well-positioned to play an active role in leading industry, developing policy, advancing innovation, and commercializing ideas.

The unique MSL curriculum centers on the intersection of law, business, and technology, with specific focus areas in business and entrepreneurship, intellectual property and patent design, regulatory analysis and strategy, and skills development.

MSL students benefit greatly from studying at one of the nation's most prestigious law schools. Students have access to a highly successful alumni base, in addition to world-renowned faculty and broader Northwestern University resources. Northwestern Law is also a long-standing leader in curricular innovation. MSL students truly enjoy the best of both worlds: an innovative, new law degree awarded by an established, world-class law school.

## Curriculum

A total of 28 credits is required for the MSL degree; about a third of these credits are completed in required courses. Students select their remaining credits from a wide array of electives, all of which are created especially for the MSL program.

- MSL students customize the curriculum to fit their individual needs; most mix and match courses from all areas of

the curriculum, while some choose to concentrate their studies in one particular area.

- 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 program.
- Courses are practical, with a focus on real world challenges and context. They utilize innovative teaching methodologies, including team-based work, blended & flipped classrooms, interactive web content, guest lectures, company-based case studies, special projects, labs, and other active-learning techniques.
- Power Weeks, one-week sessions of compressed classes, are held four times per year in the residential formats and once per year in the online format. These shorter format classes give students the opportunity to take a diverse array of classes and workshops that cover trending topics and specialized skills-building.

## Law School Community

MSL students – both residential and online students – are enthusiastic members of the Law School community; they participate in a wide variety of professional and social activities. There are numerous speakers and presentations at the Law School each week; many of these are livestreamed or recorded to facilitate participation by part-time students. MSL students are an integral part of the Northwestern Law community; they collaborate, network, and socialize with JD and LLM students, and participate side-by-side with them in various school activities.

MSL students are encouraged to take active part in the Law School's public service program, by contributing their time to service activities of interest to them.

## MSL by the Numbers

### DEMOGRAPHICS

*Based on the classes of 2015-2018*

Average Age:  
Full-Time

28

Average Age:  
Part-Time

37



50%  
Women



50%  
Men

32%

International  
Students



US States Represented



Countries Represented

### EDUCATIONAL/PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS

*Based on the classes of 2015-2018*

89

Undergraduate STEM  
Majors Represented

52%

Students with  
Advanced Degrees

72%

Students with Prior  
Work Experience

### ALUMNI

252

Total Number of  
MSL Alumni Through  
the Class of 2018

96%

Employment Rate  
of MSL Graduates  
2015-2018

# MSL Formats

Degree Format	Duration	Location	Start Date
Residential Full-Time	9 months	Chicago campus	August
Residential Part-Time	2–4 years	Chicago campus	August
Online Part-Time	2–4 years	Online + 1 week residential requirement on Chicago campus	August and January

## Career Development

MSL graduates possess a unique combination of interdisciplinary knowledge and skills that equips them well for a variety of professional roles in business and policy settings. With the ability to think, communicate, and interact across disciplines, MSL graduates more readily recognize obstacles, risks, and opportunities, and are thus extremely valuable in the workplace.

MSL students are encouraged to pursue active job searches that explicitly draw on the substance of the MSL program; they are aided by dedicated MSL staff, who meet one-on-one with each student to provide career development and job search guidance. The MSL sponsors a wide array of programming to guide students' professional development, including a variety of speaker events and panels exploring career options and industries. In addition, MSL students have access to Northwestern University's Career Advancement resources, including the main job listings platform and on-campus job fairs.

## Networking

As members of the Northwestern Law community, MSL students have abundant opportunities to interact with industry leaders, professional organizations, and Northwestern alumni. There are a variety of speakers each week, and many panels scheduled throughout the year. In addition, the MSL sponsors activities specifically designed to help develop networking skills. For example, twice a year, the MSL organizes an "Industry Associates Night," which showcases

professionals involved in different industry sectors relevant to the MSL program. The program also plans field trips to companies whose work is related to the MSL curriculum. In a weekly newsletter, the MSL shares information about relevant events taking place in the Chicagoland area, and we encourage our students to use these events as opportunities to expand their networks. In addition, the MSL program works to create ties with relevant professional organizations, and encourages students to get involved with these organizations and also with their local entrepreneurship communities. We also guide students in their use of social media platforms to get connected professionally. Finally, as members of the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law community, students and graduates are invited to law alumni events held in a variety of geographic locations, and MSL students have a built-in network of Northwestern contacts throughout the U.S. and the world.

## Studying in Chicago

An established center of commerce and government with a thriving entrepreneurship ecosystem, Chicago provides an ideal setting for MSL residential study. The city 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, Grubhub, and SpotHero. The nationally-recognized 1871 tech hub and MATTER, a space for biotech and healthtech startups, are a dynamic

component of the local scene, as are top-ranked accelerator programs including Techstars Chicago (for tech companies) and Impact Engine (for social impact companies).

The Law School is located on the shores of Lake Michigan in Streeterville, one of the city's most beautiful and exciting neighborhoods. The campus is adjacent to Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, the Feinberg School of Medicine, and Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Within walking distance are two beautiful beaches and the famed Magnificent Mile, a stretch of Michigan Avenue that boasts a wide variety of cultural landmarks, restaurants, and shopping. Northwestern Law is just a mile from the Loop, one of the most architecturally interesting business districts in the world and 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 Admissions Committee. No other standardized test score is required, although applicants may submit a score if they so choose.

A limited number of merit-based scholarships for full-time residential students are available, including designated scholarships for PhD and postdoc applicants. Students may also be eligible for loans.

Applications for the residential program are accepted during three application periods. Please visit [www.law.northwestern.edu/msl](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/msl) to learn more.

## Contact

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[www.law.northwestern.edu/msl](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/msl)