



College of LAW

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HISTORY AND AFFILIATION WITH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Michigan State University College of Law represents the functional academic integration and collaboration between a private law school and a Big Ten university.

Founded in 1891, the MSU College of Law remains one of the oldest continuously operating independent law schools in the United States. The law school affiliated with MSU in 1995 to extend its academic excellence and offer more interdisciplinary programs to its students and to provide Michigan State University with a law school fully accredited by the American Bar Association. The law school has been a member of the Association of American Law Schools since 1946. In 1997, the law school moved from Detroit to its state-of-the-art law building in the heart of MSU's East Lansing campus.

Through the affiliation, the programs and identities of the two institutions are aligned, and the MSU College of Law faculty and students are able to participate fully in MSU academic life. The name change and full academic participation were approved by the law school's Board of Trustees on April 14, 2004 and by the MSU Board of Trustees on April 16, 2004. The law school now fully participates in the same manner as MSU's constituent colleges, although it remains financially independent and receives no state or MSU funding.

Mission

The mission of the Michigan State University College of Law is to provide a rigorous educational program which prepares a diverse community of students to be national and international leaders in private legal practice, business and industry, government service, and legal education. The Law College defines its mission drawing on a century of service, its contemporary association with a major research institution, Michigan State University, and a common

commitment by these institutions to broad educational access, scholarly excellence, and service to society.

The Law College teaches core legal skills, supplemented with academic concentrations, programmatic initiatives, and scholarly research and exchanges. The educational program of the College teaches and reinforces the ethical core of good lawyering, the values of professionalism and service, the art of client representation and trial advocacy, and the understanding of legal principles, private rights, and public policy.

The Law College strives to continuously strengthen academic quality in all program and activities of the College. The College is committed to fostering flexible opportunities for professional growth, innovation, research, and scholarship by the faculty. The Faculty is committed to excellence in instruction, to making significant contributions to legal research, and to engaging in public service and community outreach. The staff is committed to providing necessary service, support, and creativity.

The Law College emphasizes preservation of its century of values and educational heritage, while seeking sound innovation through a flexible and creative program of academic growth, development, and opportunity. The College fosters an environment of trust, collegiality, and inclusion, for faculty, students, and staff. The College and its affiliated communities reach beyond the status quo by developing, adopting, and implementing policies and programs congruent with the College's mission.

Legal Education

The MSU College of Law legal education program leading to the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree is distinctive in several ways. First and foremost, it is designed to offer integrated learning, marrying theory to practice. When students graduate, the Law College wants them to be ready to practice law in real-world settings. This goal is accomplished in the classroom, which provides skill-based learning — especially writing and advocacy skills — along with the theory of law. It also is achieved through an abundance of

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experiential learning opportunities such as internships, externships and clinical experiences.

Another distinction of an MSU College of Law education is the substantive collaboration with other disciplines and programs at MSU. Law school concentrations and certificate programs, which allow students to specialize in an area of law of interest, include opportunities to take graduate-level courses throughout MSU. Benefits from this interdisciplinary approach to legal education result from greater understanding of how law is practiced in society — how it interrelates to a wide range of disciplines.

Integrated learning also is accomplished through dual-degree programs, which allow students to earn both a law degree and another graduate degree in four years. Of particular note is the dual-degree program with the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, which enables students to earn two law degrees — the J.D. and the Canadian LL.B. — in four years. This program provides a deeper understanding of international law and practice in cross-border situations.

Juris Doctor

Of the 88 credit hours needed to graduate with a Juris Doctor (JD) degree, 44 credit hours are required courses, and consist of the following:

	CREDITS
LAW 500M Business Enterprises	4
LAW 500A Civil Procedure I	3
LAW 500B Civil Procedure II	3
LAW 500C Constitutional Law I	2
LAW 500N Constitutional Law II	4
LAW 500D Contracts I	3
LAW 500E Contracts II	3
LAW 500F Criminal Law	3
LAW 500P Evidence	4
LAW 500Q Professional Responsibility	3
LAW 500G Property	4
LAW 500J Research Writing and Advocacy I	2
LAW 500K Research Writing and Advocacy II	2
LAW 500R Torts I	4

In addition to the required courses, students must take a course that satisfies an upper-level writing requirement, which can be completed anytime after the student has successfully completed 29 credit hours and Research, Writing and Advocacy I and II. Students have 44 credit hours of elective courses to gain a more generalized legal education, which may be used to fulfill the requirements for a certificate or concentration program. Complete information about concentrations can be found by visiting www.law.msu.edu. The following concentrations are available:

Corporate Law

- (1) The following course:
 LAW 502 Accounting for Lawyers 2
- (2) One of the following courses:
 LAW 508B Corporate Finance 3
 LAW 508C Corporate Income Tax 3
 LAW 524B Securities Regulation I 3
 The course used to fulfill this requirement can not be used to fulfill the requirement below.
- (3) Nine or more credits from the following:
 LAW 503 Advanced Securities Regulation 2
 LAW 504 Antitrust Law 2
 LAW 506B Bankruptcy Reorganization of Business 2
 LAW 507 Business, Securities and Tax Planning 2
 LAW 508A Corporate Counsel Seminar 2
 LAW 508B Corporate Finance 3
 LAW 508C Corporate Income Tax 3
 LAW 508D Corporate Law and Policy Seminar 2
 LAW 512A European Business Law 3
 LAW 512B International Business Transactions 3
 LAW 512C International Securities Regulation 2
 LAW 513 Franchise Law 2
 LAW 516 Mergers and Acquisitions 3
 LAW 517A Mortgage Banking Law 2
 LAW 517B Law of Financial Institutions 2
 LAW 518 Negotiation and Drafting for the Close Corporation 2 or 3
 LAW 519 Partnership Taxation 2
 LAW 524A Securities Litigation Seminar 2
 LAW 524B Securities Regulation I 3

- LAW 624 Directed Study 2 or 3
- LAW 625A Law Externship 3
- LAW 625B Law Externship 1 to 6

Criminal Law

- (1) The following course:
 LAW 616B Criminal Procedure I 3
- (2) One of the following, either (a) or (b):
 (a) Two of the following courses:
 LAW 617A Criminal Trial Advocacy I – Pretrial 2
 LAW 617B Criminal Trial Advocacy II – Trial 2
 LAW 617C Criminal Trial Advocacy III – Post Conviction Remedies 2
 (b) LAW 623D Trial Practice Institute – Trial I 3
 LAW 623E Trial Practice Institute – Trial II 3
 LAW 623F Trial Practice Institute – Forensic Science 2
 Law 623D, 623E, or 623F apply only to students who have been admitted to the Trial Practice Certificate Program.
- (3) Six or 7 credits from the following groups. Up to 2 credits from Group B may be counted towards the concentration.
Group A
 LAW 541K Juvenile Law 2
 LAW 590A Applied Evidence 2
 LAW 616A Advanced Criminal Procedure 2 or 3
 LAW 616C Criminal Procedure II 2
 LAW 625A Law Externship 3
 LAW 625B Law Externship 1 to 6
Group B
 LAW 548D International Criminal Law 2
 LAW 590B Evidence Seminar 2
 LAW 591A Client Counseling and Interviewing 2
 LAW 592 Law Practice Management 2
 LAW 624 Directed Study 2 or 3

Environmental and Natural Resource Law

- (1) All of the following courses:
 LAW 532 Administrative Law 3
 LAW 548E International Environmental Law 3
 LAW 566A Environmental Law 3
- (2) Five credits from the following:
 LAW 512D International Trade Law 2
 LAW 564 Air Pollution Law and Policy 3
 LAW 565A Animal Law 2
 LAW 565B Wildlife Law 2
 LAW 566B Land Use Planning 3
 LAW 566C Natural Resource Law 2 or 3
 LAW 566D Water Law 2
 LAW 624 Directed Study 2 or 3
 LAW 625A Law Externship 3
 LAW 625B Law Externship 1 to 6
 LAW 630F Indigenous Law and Policy Center 2 or 3

Family Law

- (1) Both of the following courses:
 LAW 541E Family Law I: Marriage and Divorce 3
 LAW 541F Family Law II: Child, Family and the State 3
- (2) Eight or more credits from the following:
 LAW 501A Basic Income Taxation 2
 LAW 501D Decedents' Estates and Trusts 4
 LAW 540A Basic Will Drafting 3
 LAW 541A Child Advocacy 2
 LAW 541B Domestic Violence Seminar 2
 LAW 541C Elder Law 2
 LAW 541D Family Dissolution Seminar 2
 LAW 541J Seminar in Law and Social Work 3
 LAW 541K Juvenile Law 2
 LAW 541M Matrimonial Practice 3
 LAW 549A Comparative Family Law Seminar 2

Health Law

- (1) The following course:
 LAW 558C Health Care Law 3
- (2) Eleven credits from the following groups. Up to 3 credits from Group B may be counted towards the concentration.
Group A
 LAW 532 Administrative Law 3
 LAW 558A Bioethics and the Law 2
 LAW 558B Food and Drug Law 2
 LAW 558D Law and Medicine 2
 LAW 558E Managed Care Seminar 2
 LAW 558F Medical Legal Problems 2
 LAW 558G Public Health Law 2
 LAW 558J Health Care Fraud and Abuse 2
 LAW 558K Health Law Organization and Finance 2
 LAW 624 Directed Study 2 or 3

LAW 625A	Law Externship	3
LAW 625B	Law Externship	1 to 6
LAW 629B	Journal of Medicine and Law	2
Group B		
LAW 504	Antitrust Law	2
LAW 514	Insurance Law	2
LAW 579M	Legislative Drafting	2
LAW 579P	Legislation	2 or 3

Indigenous Law

- All of the following courses:

LAW 635A	Advanced Topics in Indian Law	2
LAW 635B	Federal Law and Indian Tribes	3
LAW 635C	State, Tribal, and Local Taxation	2
- Six credits from the following:

LAW 501D	Decedents' Estates and Trusts	4
LAW 501E	Secured Transactions	2
LAW 532	Administrative Law	3
LAW 541E	Family Law I: Marriage and Divorce	3
LAW 550	Conflict of Laws	3
LAW 579G	Federal Jurisdiction	3
LAW 616B	Criminal Procedure I	3
- Complete a 3-credit Experiential Learning experience.

Intellectual Property and Communications Law

- Two of the following courses:

LAW 533B	Copyright Law	3
LAW 533K	Patent Law	3
LAW 533N	Trademark Law and Unfair Competition	3
LAW 533Q	Communications Law and Policy	3

Students may select a third course from this group to count as an elective.
- Eight credits from the following:

LAW 504	Antitrust Law	2
LAW 520	Entertainment Law	2
LAW 533A	Advanced Patent Law	2
LAW 533B	Copyright Law	3
LAW 533C	Cyber Law	2
LAW 533D	E-Commerce	2
LAW 533E	International Intellectual Property	2 or 3
LAW 533F	Licensing Intellectual Property	2
LAW 533J	Patent Application Preparation	2
LAW 533K	Patent Law	3
LAW 533N	Trademark Law and Unfair Competition	3
LAW 533R	Patent Litigation	2
LAW 534	Biotechnology and Pharmacy Patents	2
LAW 535	Intellectual Property Management and Technology Transfer	2
LAW 535A	International Property Topics: Copyright Wars/Music Industry	2
LAW 535B	Intellectual Property Practice and Policy in the Pacific Rim	2
LAW 535C	Topics in IP and Comm Law: IPR and International Technology Transfer	2
LAW 551B	Constitutional Law Topics: Free Expression	2
LAW 609	Sports Law	2
LAW 624	Directed Study	2 or 3
LAW 625A	Law Externship	2 or 3
LAW 625B	Law Externship	1 to 6

International and Comparative Law

- The following course:

LAW 548N	Public International Law	2 or 3
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- Fourteen credits from the following:

LAW 512A	European Business Law	3
LAW 512B	International Business Transactions	3
LAW 512E	International Trade Regulation	3
LAW 541G	Immigration Law	2
LAW 547	Admiralty Law	2
LAW 548A	Canadian Charter of Rights	2
LAW 548B	Chinese Law	2
LAW 548C	European Union Law	3
LAW 548D	International Criminal Law	2
LAW 548E	International Environmental Law	2
LAW 548F	International Human Rights	2
LAW 548G	International Sale of Goods	2
LAW 548J	International Taxation	2
LAW 548K	International Litigation and Arbitration	2 or 3
LAW 548P	Tax Treaties: Domestic Taxation Implications	2
LAW 548Q	Transnational Legal Research	2
LAW 548R	Weapons of Mass Destruction and International Law	2
LAW 548U	Law of International Areas	2
LAW 549B	Comparative Law	2
LAW 551A	Constitutional Law Topics: Comparative Constitutional Law	3
LAW 624	Directed Study	2 or 3
LAW 625A	Law Externship	2
LAW 625B	Law Externship	1 to 6
LAW 627E	Jessup Team	2

LAW 627F	Niagara International Law Competition	4
LAW 629A	Journal of International Law	2
LAW 634	Canadian Summer Law Placement	6

Public Law and Regulation

- All of the following courses:

LAW 532	Administrative Law	3
LAW 579G	Federal Jurisdiction	3
LAW 579P	Legislation	3
- Five or more credits from the following:

LAW 504	Antitrust Law	2
LAW 511A	Disability Law	2
LAW 511D	Labor Law	2
LAW 523	Regulated Industries	3
LAW 524B	Securities Regulation I	3
LAW 533Q	Communications Law and Policy	2
LAW 541C	Elder Law	2
LAW 558B	Food and Drug Law	2
LAW 558C	Health Care Law	3
LAW 541G	Immigration Law	2
LAW 566A	Environmental Law	3
LAW 573	State Constitutional Law	2
LAW 579D	Education Law	2
LAW 579E	Election Law	2
LAW 579M	Legislative Drafting	2
LAW 579N	State and Local Government Law	2
LAW 608	Public Employment Labor Law	2
LAW 635B	Federal Law and Indian Tribes	3
- Courses may be taken from the following to meet the credit requirement for the concentration:

LAW 511B	Employment Discrimination Law	3
LAW 511C	Employment Law	3
LAW 512F	International Trade Remedies	3
LAW 514	Insurance Law	2
LAW 515	Law and Economics	2
LAW 521	Leadership, Power and Responsibility	2
LAW 524A	Securities Litigation Seminar	2
LAW 547	Admiralty Law	2 or 3
LAW 548A	Canadian Charter of Rights	2
LAW 551A	Constitutional Law Topics: Comparative Constitutional Law	2 or 3
LAW 551B	Constitutional Law Topics: Free Expression	3
LAW 558A	Bioethics and the Law	2
LAW 558G	Public Health Law	2
LAW 558J	Health Care Fraud and Abuse	2
LAW 564	Air Pollution Law and Policy	2
LAW 566C	Natural Resource Law	2
LAW 566D	Water Law	2
LAW 566E	Wetlands Protection Law	2
LAW 579A	Bill of Rights Seminar	2
LAW 579B	Civil Rights Seminar	2
LAW 579C	Constitutional Law Seminar	2
LAW 579J	Jurisprudence	2
LAW 579K	Law and Religion	2
LAW 610	Workers' Compensation	2
LAW 619	Courts and Social Policy Seminar	2
LAW 625A	Law Externship	3
LAW 635A	Advanced Topics in Indian Law	2 or 3
LAW 801	Introduction to American Jurisprudence	2

Taxation Law

- All of the following courses:

LAW 501A	Basic Income Tax A	2
LAW 501B	Basic Income Tax B	3
LAW 508C	Corporate Income Tax	3
LAW 540D	Estate and Gift Taxation	3
LAW 519	Partnership Tax	2
- Four or more credits from the following:

LAW 507	Business, Securities and Tax Planning	2
LAW 510	Deferred and Executive Compensation	2
LAW 540B	Estate Planning and Drafting Seminar	2
LAW 548J	International Taxation	2
LAW 548P	Tax Treaties: Domestic Taxation Implications	2
LAW 572A	Practice and Procedures Before the IRS	2
LAW 572B	State and Local Taxation	2
LAW 572C	Tax Fraud	2
LAW 572D	Tax Policy Seminar	2
LAW 572E	Tax Practice and Procedure	2
LAW 624	Directed Study	2 or 3
LAW 625A	Law Externship	2
LAW 625B	Law Externship	1 to 6
LAW 630C	Tax Clinic I	3

Full and Part-time Programs

The American Bar Association (ABA) sets requirements for the study of law at all of the law schools it has accredited. The residency requirement states that students must attend classes a prescribed number of days and weeks. Full-time students at the MSU College of Law complete their J.D. degree in three years. A student may accelerate by completing some course work in the summer. The recommended maximum time for completion of requirements for full- and part-time students is five and six years respectively.

Full-time Program

The MSU College of Law full-time program is designed for students who can devote most of their time to the study of law. By definition, a full-time student does not hold employment that requires the student to work more than 20 hours a week or who have other commitments which preclude them from focusing exclusively on their legal studies. Classes are held at varying times between 8 a.m. and 9:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, and a normal course load is 14 to 16 hours per semester. Based on the current curriculum, students can complete their law degree in three years, or six full semesters, exclusive of summer school.

Part-time Program

The MSU College of Law part-time program is designed for students who work more than 20 hours each week. Most part-time students take classes between the hours of 5:45 and 9:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The part-time program offers two basic formats. The first is a four-year option, or eight semesters, exclusive of summer school, with a normal course load of 10 to 12 credit hours per semester. The second is a more flexible schedule, with classes taken two or three days each week. Part-time students who choose the second option take six to nine credit hours each semester and five to six additional credits every summer for four summers. The same full-time faculty members teach both full-time and part-time required courses.

Summer Session

Both full- and part-time students may enroll in a seven-week summer session.

Master of Laws Programs

The LL.M. and M.J. programs are open to both domestic and international students. Participants may enroll on either a full-time or part-time basis and may begin their studies in either the fall or spring semester. Unless approved by the program director, LL.M. candidates who do not have a basic or an advanced law degree in common law jurisdiction and M.J. candidates who do not possess knowledge of common law jurisdiction will not be able to begin their studies in the spring semester.

The LL.M. program provides a rigorous academic program to advance the legal training of those who already hold a J.D., LL.B. or an equivalent law degree. The M.J. program provides an equivalent academic program, without the opportunity for licensure to practice law, for students who do not have a law degree.

Strong writing and verbal skills as well as a solid conceptual understanding of basic legal or intellectual property theory are expected of all participants.

Admission

Admission to the LL.M. or M.J. program is based on the:

1. applicant's academic record;
2. applicant's professional accomplishments; and
3. recommendations from persons with knowledge of the applicant's capability to participate in a rigorous graduate-level academic program.

Applicants must submit all of the following items:

1. an application including a personal statement and a course plan or research proposal of no more than three single-spaced pages in length.
2. an application fee of \$100.
3. three letters of recommendation including at least one from a dean or faculty member familiar with the applicant's previous legal training or academic ability.

International applicants must provide evidence of sufficient financial support to fulfill the program, including tuition, books, medical insurance and living expenses during the program, and proof of medical insurance.

Unless the program director grants a waiver, all applicants who do not have a law degree must submit an official transcript of the applicant's Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score. International applicants whose native language is not English must also submit documentation showing a TOEFL score of 250 or above for the computer-based test or 600 or above for the paper-based test. The Law College may request applicants to participate in a telephone interview.

Directed Study Option for Part-time Students

Although all students in the LL.M. and M.J. program are strongly encouraged to take the LL.M. and M.J. seminar, part-time students may elect not to attend the seminar. Students who elect not to take the LL.M. and M.J. seminar must complete a two-credit directed study to fulfill the thesis requirement and two additional credit hours of courses chosen from the LL.M. and M.J. curriculum. These credits are in addition to the 14 credit hours required to fulfill the elective course requirement.

LL.M. and M.J. in Intellectual Property and Communications Law

Both degree programs offer advanced course work in a full range of intellectual property and communications law. To offer further specialization and better prepare for career advancement, students select from the general category of Intellectual Property Law or one of the following five specialized tracks: (1) Communications Law, (2) Copyright/Trademark Law, (3) Entertainment and Sports Law, (4) International Intellectual Property Law, and (5) Patent Law.

The LL.M. and M.J. program strongly encourages students to design their own courses of study with the assistance of their faculty advisers. The LL.M. and M.J. curriculum includes a wide variety of courses and seminars.

Academic Requirements

1. Candidates for the LL.M. and M.J. program must successfully complete 24 credit hours of course work, which is distributed as follows:
 - a. Six credit hours of basic courses in two of the primary areas of intellectual property and communications law (Communications, Law, Copyright Law, Patent Law and Trademark and Unfair Competition Law) are required. This requirement may be fully or partially waived if the student obtained a grade of B (3.0) or above in an equivalent course (or courses) in law school within five years of initial enrollment at the Law College.
 - b. Fourteen additional credit hours of elective courses chosen from the LL.M. and M.J. curriculum are required. To fulfill this requirement, students who have obtained a one-course (or two-course) waiver of the basic course requirement must complete 17 (or 20) credit hours of courses chosen from the LL.M. and M.J. curriculum.
 - c. Four credit hours of the LL.M. and M.J. seminar and thesis complete the program. The LL.M./M.J. seminar is a year-long course offered in two semesters. The seminar features eminent scholars and distinguished practitioners as guest speakers. Students are required to write response papers, make presentations and complete an LL.M. or M.J. thesis. The thesis must be at least 30 pages in length and satisfy the standards of the Upper-level Writing Requirement.

All candidates must achieve a grade of PASS or above in all courses taken for credit toward the LL.M. and M.J. degrees.

Subject to waiver by the Associate Dean, full-time students must complete the requirements for the LL.M. and M.J. program

within two academic years, and part-time students must complete the requirements within five academic years.

LL.M. in the American Legal System

For many attorneys around the world, the successful practice of law requires an understanding of the American legal system. The LL.M. program in the American Legal System is for international lawyers who want to advance their careers with knowledge of the laws and regulations of the United States. In addition to receiving an in-depth understanding of the U.S. legal system, students in the program may focus their work in one of three areas: (1) Business and Commercial Law, (2) Public Law, and (3) International and Comparative Law.

1. Candidates for the LL.M. in the American Legal System must successfully complete 24 credits distributed as follows:
 - a. Twenty credits of regularly scheduled courses, seminars or independent study project over the course of two academic terms. Of these 20 credits, 2 credits will be devoted to the two-credit writing requirement.
2. Unless the program director grants a waiver, LL.M. candidates who do not have a basic or an advanced law degree in a common law jurisdiction and M.J. candidates must complete four credit hours of the following, which will count toward the elective course requirement.
 - a. a two-credit course in *American Jurisprudence*, which will familiarize the student with the structure of the American legal system and with the requisite research techniques to support continued study; and
 - b. a two-credit course in *Legal Research and Writing* taught in the fall semester. This course will provide a special focus on the research and writing needs of international scholars and non-lawyers