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 Michigan State University College of Law remains one of the oldest continuously operating independent law schools in the United States. The law school affiliated with Michigan State University 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 Michigan State University’s East Lansing campus.

Through the affiliation, the programs and identities of the two institutions are aligned, and the Michigan State University College of Law faculty and students are able to participate fully in Michigan State University 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 Michigan State University Board of Trustees on April 16, 2004. The law school now fully participates in the same manner as Michigan State University’s constituent colleges, although it remains financially independent and receives no state or Michigan State University funding.

Mission

The mission of the Michigan State University College of Law is to provide a rigorous educational program, preparing a diverse community of students to become leaders in private legal practice, business and industry, government service, and legal education. The Law College draws upon a century of service, an association with a major research institution, a commitment to broad educational access, scholarly excellence, and service to society.

The Law College teaches core legal skills, supplemented with academic concentrations, specialized programs, and scholarly research. The college stresses ethics, good lawyering, professionalism, and service. Consistent with these values, it instructs students in the arts of client representation and trial advocacy, and the tenets of legal principles, private rights, and public policy.

The Law College strives continuously to strengthen academic quality in all of its programs and activities. The college is committed to offering opportunities for professional growth, innovation, research, and scholarship to its faculty. The faculty embraces its mandate to provide excellence in instruction with significant contributions to legal research, public service, and community outreach. The staff contributes service, support, and creativity.

The Law College aspires to preserve its 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.

Legal Education

The Michigan State University College of Law legal education program leading to a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree is designed to offer integrated learning, combining theory with practice. The Law College wants its graduates to be ready to practice law in real-world settings. This goal is accomplished in and out of the classroom. The classroom provides skill-based learning — especially writing and advocacy skills — and legal theory. Out of the classroom, experiential learning opportunities such as internships, externships, and clinical experiences provide opportunities to apply classroom lessons.

A distinction of an Michigan State University Law education is the substantive collaboration with other disciplines and programs at Michigan State University. College areas of focus and certifi-
Admission

Admission to the J.D. program is based on the following:
1. applicant's academic record;
2. applicant's Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score;
3. applicant's professional accomplishments; and
4. recommendations from persons with knowledge of the applicant's capability to participate in a rigorous professional-level academic program.

The admissions process identifies individuals who have the potential to excel in their legal studies and the practice of law. In order to be considered for fall-term admission, an applicant must:
1. possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university;
2. create an account with the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), register for and complete the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), and sign up for the Credential Assembly Service;
3. provide an official transcript to the LSAC for each undergraduate and graduate institution attended;
4. submit two letters of recommendation or evaluations to the LSAC (up to four letters/evaluations will be accepted);
5. submit an application fee (contact the Michigan State University College of Law Office of Admissions to request a fee waiver if you are unable, for financial reasons, to provide this fee);
6. submit a resume of up to two pages;
7. submit a personal statement of up to three pages;
8. submit a supplemental statement if you respond in the affirmative to any questions in the Character and Fitness section of the application.

An applicant file will not be reviewed until all materials are received by the Michigan State University College of Law Office of Admissions and are reviewed on a "rolling" basis.

Of the 88 credit hours needed to graduate with a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree, required courses consist of the following:

Indigenous Law

(1) All of the following courses:
- LAW 635A Advanced Topics in Indian Law
- LAW 635B Federal Law and Indian Tribes
- LAW 635C State, Tribal, and Local Taxation

(2) Six credits from the following:
- LAW 501D Trusts and Estates
- LAW 501E Secured Transactions
- LAW 532 Administrative Law
- LAW 541E Family Law I: Marriage and Divorce
- LAW 550 Conflict of Laws
- LAW 579G Federal Jurisdiction

(3) Complete an Experiential Learning experience

Trial Practice

All of the following courses:
- LAW 610B Criminal Procedure: Investigation
- LAW 616C Criminal Procedure: Adjudication
- LAW 623A Trial Practice Institute: Theatrical Skills – Advocacy as a Performing Art
- LAW 623B Trial Practice Institute: Pretrial I
- LAW 623C Trial Practice Institute: Pretrial II
- LAW 623D Trial Practice Institute: Trial I
- LAW 623E Trial Practice Institute: Trial II
- LAW 623F Trial Practice Institute: Forensic Science
- LAW 623G Technology Enhanced Trial Advocacy
- LAW 623J Trial Practice Institute: Trial Pracitcum

Students in the Trial Practice concentration may not receive credit towards the requirements of the Juris Doctor degree for the following courses: LAW 587B, 587C, 590A, 591A, 617A, and 617B. The content of these courses are
or an equivalent law degree. The M.J. program provides an equivalent degree certification. The degree may not be completed in less than two calendar years.

In order to be considered full-time for academic purposes, students must carry the minimum number of credits per semester or summer session as defined below:

- Master of Laws (LL.M.): 6 credits
- Master of Jurisprudence (M.J.): 6 credits
- Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.): 6 credits
- Juris Doctor (J.D.): 12 credits

Full-time Program
The Michigan State University College of Law full-time program is designed for students who can devote most of their time to the study of law. By definition, full-time students do not hold employment that requires them to work more than 20 hours a week or have other commitments that preclude them from focusing exclusively on their legal studies. Classes are held at varying times between 8:00 a.m. and 9:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, and a normal course load is 14 to 16 credit hours per semester.

Part-time Program
The Michigan State University College of Law part-time day option offers a flexible alternative to our full-time program. Students who elect this option can customize their schedules to fit their needs. Students who pursue this option either work more than 20 hours per week or have other commitments that are not conducive for full-time study.

Summer Session
Both full- and part-time students may enroll in a seven-week summer session. Most summer program courses require prior legal education. Students who have not completed the first-year curriculum may be limited in their course selection because they may not satisfy course prerequisites.

Master of Laws Programs
The Master of Laws (LL.M.) and Master of Jurisprudence (M.J.) programs are open to both domestic and international students. Participants may enroll on either a full-time or part-time basis. 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. The M.J. in Legal Doctrine and Analysis is only offered after a student has successfully completed the first-year required J.D. curriculum.

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 Michigan State University College of Law complete their J.D. degree in three years. A student may accelerate by completing some course work in the summer. The time limit for the completion of the requirements for the J.D. degree is seven calendar years from the date of enrollment in the first courses included for degree certification. The degree may not be completed in less than two calendar years.

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Admission
Admission to the LL.M. or M.J. program, with the exception of the M.J. in Legal Doctrine and Analysis, is based on the:

1. applicants' academic record;
2. applicants' 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. a brief statement of interest in the Michigan State University's College of Law LL.M. or M.J. program. The statement may be one or two pages in length and should be a sample of professional writing sufficient to demonstrate comprehension of writing skills in English.
2. two or more letters of recommendation.
3. transcripts indicating degrees earned. Unofficial transcripts may be sent with your application, however official transcripts must be received prior to enrollment. If the transcripts are not in English, the transcripts must be translated and certified or notarized. Transcript information will be verified for the College of Law by an independent transcript evaluation service.
4. the scores from an English Language Proficiency test, such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE A), or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Unofficial test results may be sent; however, official scores must be received prior to enrollment.

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.

LL.M. and M.J. in Global Food Law
Both degree programs are offered entirely online and are designed for working professionals in the food and agriculture industry, law, government, and related areas who wish to enhance their working knowledge of these careers in the field of international food law. Students should have an earned Juris Doctor (J.D.), Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), or comparable law degree.

Academic Requirements
All students must complete 24 credits within five academic years with a 2.0 minimum cumulative grade-point average. Students who are pursuing the M.J. degree must complete an additional 2 credits in item 3. below.

1. All of the following courses (9 credits):
   - LAW 810A Food Regulation in the United States
   - LAW 810D International Food Laws and Regulations
   - LAW 810K Administrative Law: Focus on Food Safety and Labeling

2. At least 15 credits from the following courses:
   - LAW 512B International Business Transactions
   - LAW 512K International Commercial Arbitration
   - LAW 624 Directed Study
   - LAW 810B Food Regulation in the European Union
   - LAW 810C Food Regulation in Canada
   - LAW 810E Animal Health, World Trade, and Food Safety
   - LAW 810F Codex Alimentarius: The World Food Code
   - LAW 810G Food Regulation in Latin America
   - LAW 810H Food Regulation in Asia
   - LAW 810M Regulation of Agricultural Production and Marketing
   - LAW 810N Survey of Intellectual Property in Agriculture
   - LAW 810P Biotechnology Law and Food Products
   - LAW 810Q Global Risk Regulation – Food Focus
   - LAW 810R United States Food Imports: Process, Regulations, and Food Safety

   CREDITS
   - 3

   Additional courses may be approved by the Associate Dean for Graduate and International Programs and Director of the Global Food Law Program.

3. Students who are pursuing the M.J. degree must complete an additional 2 credits in the following course:
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.

Students are strongly encouraged to design their own courses of study with the assistance of their faculty advisors. The LL.M. and M.J. curriculum includes a wide variety of courses and seminars.

Academic Requirements

All students must complete 24 credits within two fall and spring semesters with a 2.0 minimum cumulative grade-point average. A longer time period may be granted with a waiver.

1. One of the following courses:
   - LAW 500B Contracts ........................................ 2
   - LAW 530E Research, Writing and Analysis: Intellectual Property Perspective ........................................ 2
   - LAW 530F Criminal Law ...................................... 4
   - LAW 530G Property ......................................... 4

2. Two of the following courses (5 to 8 credits):
   - LAW 500B Contracts ........................................ 2 or 3
   - LAW 530E Research, Writing and Analysis: Intellectual Property Perspective ........................................ 2
   - LAW 530F Criminal Law ...................................... 4
   - LAW 530G Property ......................................... 4
   - LAW 530H Property ......................................... 4

3. Electives: Complete additional electives to achieve 24 credits by designing a curriculum in consultation with the student’s academic advisor based upon the student’s professional needs and interests using the standard set of classes offered to current J.D. students.

M.J. in Legal Doctrine and Analysis

This program is designed to give current J.D. students who do not plan to complete the J.D. program the opportunity to receive the M.J. degree after successfully completing the first-year J.D. curriculum.

Admission

Students must meet the admission criteria for the Juris Doctor (J.D.).

Academic Requirements

All students must complete the following:

1. One of the following courses:
   - LAW 530D Research, Writing and Analysis .................. 2
   - LAW 530E Research, Writing and Analysis: Intellectual Property Perspective ........................................ 2
   - LAW 530F Criminal Law ...................................... 4
   - LAW 530G Property ......................................... 4

2. A minimum of two courses from the following:
   - LAW 533B Copyright Law ..................................... 3
   - LAW 533C Patent Law ....................................... 3
   - LAW 533D Trademark and Unfair Competition ............. 3
   - LAW 533G Media Law ....................................... 2
   - LAW 533H Licensing Intellectual Property ................. 2
   - LAW 533I Patent Litigation ................................ 2
   - LAW 533J Patent Application Preparation .................. 2
   - LAW 533K Patent Law ....................................... 3
   - LAW 533L Constitutional Law Topics: Free Expression ... 2
   - LAW 533M Constitutional Law Topics: Free Speech ....... 2
   - LAW 533N Trademark and Unfair Competition ............. 3
   - LAW 533O Constitutional Law Topics: Free Speech ....... 2
   - LAW 533P Trademark and Unfair Competition ............. 3
   - LAW 533Q Constitutional Law Topics: Free Speech ....... 2

3. Electives: Complete additional electives to achieve 24 credits by designing a curriculum in consultation with the student’s academic advisor based upon the student’s professional needs and interests using the standard set of classes offered to current J.D. students.

M.J. in Legal Doctrine and Analysis

This program is designed to give current J.D. students who do not plan to complete the J.D. program the opportunity to receive the M.J. degree after successfully completing the first-year J.D. curriculum.

Admission

Students must:

1. have a bachelor’s degree from a recognized educational institution;
2. demonstrate an interest in and aptitude for legal study through submission of a required personal statement.

An applicant’s overall record will be considered including the student’s personal goals for legal study, letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, and professional experience.

Academic Requirements

All students must complete 24 credits within three academic years with a 2.0 minimum cumulative grade-point average.

1. One of the following courses (2 credits):
   - LAW 530D Research, Writing and Analysis .................. 2
   - LAW 530E Research, Writing and Analysis: Intellectual Property Perspective ........................................ 2
   - LAW 530F Criminal Law ...................................... 4
   - LAW 530G Property ......................................... 4
   - LAW 530H Property ......................................... 4
   - LAW 530I Constitutional Law II .............................. 4
   - LAW 500M Business Enterprises ............................ 3 or 4

2. Two of the following courses (5 to 8 credits):
   - LAW 530Q Research, Writing and Analysis: Intellectual Property Perspective ........................................ 2
   - LAW 530R Research, Writing and Analysis: Criminal Law Perspectives ........................................ 2
   - LAW 500G Property ......................................... 4
   - LAW 500M Business Enterprises ............................ 3 or 4

LL.M. and M.J. 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 designed for foreign-educated lawyers who want to advance their careers with knowledge of the laws and regulations of the United States. The M.J. is designed for individuals who do not have a law degree, who will use the knowledge to aid in understanding legal principles used in their profession, business or home countries.

Academic Requirements

All students must complete 24 credits within two academic years with a 2.0 minimum cumulative grade-point average. A longer time period may be granted with a waiver. Students pursuing the M.J. degree must complete 27 credits.

1. One of the following courses:
   - LAW 500B Contracts ........................................ 2
   - LAW 530E Research, Writing and Analysis: Intellectual Property Perspective ........................................ 2
   - LAW 530F Criminal Law ...................................... 4
   - LAW 530G Property ......................................... 4

2. Two of the following courses:
   - LAW 500G Property ......................................... 4
   - LAW 500M Business Enterprises ............................ 3 or 4
   - LAW 500N Constitutional Law II .............................. 4
   - LAW 500R Torts I ........................................ 4
3. Electives to meet the minimum requirement of 24 credits, planned in consultation with the student's advisor and based on the student's professional needs and interests. Courses are chosen from courses offered to current J.D., L.L.M., and M.J. students.