

COLLEGE OF LAW

Graduate Program

Degree Offered

The College of Law offers a master's degree in the study of law. The master of studies in law (MLW) is an entry-level graduate degree designed for those who seek a better understanding of the law, legal institutions and legal methods. The master of studies in law program can benefit those who work with lawyers, those whose work is governed by law and regulations, and those in professions where knowledge of the law is valuable. Although designed for professionals to enhance their careers, the master of studies in law program can help re-direct and launch career paths, too.

The degree does not qualify the holder to sit for a bar examination or to practice law, nor will it be considered as a qualifier for entry into the J.D. program. Classes taken toward the master of studies in law degree will not be later applied toward a J.D. degree.

Requirements

The master of studies in law program requires students to successfully complete the equivalent of one year of full-time study, consisting of 30 semester credit hours. Students also may enroll in the program on a part-time basis. It is expected that a student pursuing the master of studies in law on a part-time basis will take two to four years to earn the degree. Students will need to satisfy the same retention and graduation requirements as other graduate programs at The University of Toledo. Required courses include an introductory course offered only to master students (LAWM 5000 Law and the Legal System, 3 hours), Lawyering Skills I (2 hours), at least one of the basic courses required for J.D. students, and a law seminar or independent research project (2-3 hours). Law and the Legal System is a prerequisite to all other law courses. The seminar or independent research project is the degree capstone course. In addition, master of studies in law students pursuing a concentration in a particular area of study may be required to take other specified law courses. The student is required to work closely with and obtain registration permission for specified law classes from a College of Law faculty adviser.

Sample Areas of Concentration

Because of the diverse and rich curriculum and the varied scholarly and teaching backgrounds of the instructional staff at the College of Law, master of studies in law students may design specific areas of concentration to fit their particular interests and needs. Sample areas of concentration include business law, criminal justice law, education law, employment and labor law, environmental law, health law, intellectual property law, international law, real estate law, and trusts and estates. Many of these courses are offered not only during the day, but also in the evening and during summer sessions, enabling part-time students to take full advantage of course offerings.

Grading

Master of studies in law students will take classes side-by-side with J.D. students. However, master of studies in law student grades will be determined using the standards associated with other graduate programs at The University of Toledo.

The College of Law permits master of studies in law students to earn up to six credit hours of graduate-level courses in a related field at institutions offering graduate programs. To transfer the credits toward the master of studies in law degree, the student must earn a minimum grade of B (or Satisfactory, if graded on a satisfactory/no credit basis) in the non-law graduate course.

Application

The application for the master of studies in law program is at apply.utoledo.edu

Master of studies in law applicants will need to complete an application for graduate study; submit transcripts from all baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate programs attended; submit a personal statement, and submit two letters of recommendation. Students may also submit their LSAT, GRE, GMAT or MCAT scores, but no score is required unless their undergraduate GPA is below 2.7. Students educated outside the U.S. must also submit a TOEFL score and an LSAT, GRE, GMAT or MCAT score.

Admission to the master of studies in law program does not require undergraduate or graduate academic preparation in law. To qualify for admission, all applicants must meet the admission criteria set by the College of Graduate Studies at The University of Toledo.

The College of Law will make final recommendations for admission.

For more information, contact the College of Law Admissions Office at 419.530.4131, or send an e-mail to law.admissions@utoledo.edu.