

COLLEGE OF LAW

2016-2017 Graduate Catalog

Graduate Program

Programs Offered

The College of Law offers a master of studies in law degree. 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.

In addition, the College offers three graduate certificate programs in Compliance, Health Care Compliance, and Higher Education Compliance. These non-degree graduate programs are aimed to provide skill- and competency-based training to prepare students for entry-level positions as compliance officers for colleges, universities, hospitals, health care organizations, corporations, and other organizations.

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 must 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 other basic courses required for first-year J.D. students (3-4 hours), and a law seminar or independent research project (2-3 hours). Law and the Legal System is a co-requisite 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.

The Compliance, Health Care Compliance, and Higher Education Compliance programs involve 15-18 credits of study in compliance and compliance-related courses. All three certificates require the following core courses: Statutory & Regulatory Interpretation for Compliance (1 hour); Compliance Education (3 hours); Organizational Governance & Compliance (3 hours); Compliance Skills: Investigating, Auditing & Reporting (3 hours); Privacy & Data Security (2 hours); Compliance Ethics (2 hours); and one of two Compliance Exam Skills courses (1 hour). In addition, the Compliance certificate requires Advanced Research & Writing (1 hour); the Health Care Compliance certificate requires either Health Law (3 hours) or Health Care Fraud & Abuse (3 hours); and the Higher Education certificate requires Higher Education Law (2 hours). The program is designed to be one that students can complete in 10 months on a part-time basis. Classes meet either in the evening or via distance learning. Students may continue to work full-time while enrolled in the compliance programs. Students may transfer 9 credits from the compliance program to the MLW. Students may take longer than 10 months to complete the program if desired.

Sample Master's 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 and regulatory compliance, 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. Courses are offered during the day, in the evening, during summer sessions, and in a distance learning format, enabling part-time students to take full advantage of course offerings.

Grading

Master of studies in law and compliance certificate students take classes side-by-side with J.D. students. However, non-J.D. graduate student grades are 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 another College at the University of Toledo. 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 applications for the master of studies in law and compliance certificate programs are available at apply.utoledo.edu.

Master of studies in law and compliance certificate applicants need to complete an application for graduate study; submit transcripts from all baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate programs attended; and submit a personal statement and resume. Master's applicants must also submit one letter of recommendation. Applicants may also submit their LSAT, GRE, GMAT or MCAT scores, but no score is required unless their undergraduate GPA is below 2.7 (that requirement does not apply for students who have successfully completed another master's degree). 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 or compliance graduate programs 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 Director of Communications, Special Programs, and Financial Aid, at (419) 530-4712 or kirsten.winek@utoledo.edu.

