Master of Laws

Course Catalog and Graduation Requirements

www.MontereyLaw.edu

The philosophy of the LL.M. program is to offer students a broad platform to design their own course of study within parameters set by the MCL law faculty.

For **international students**, the program emphasizes exposure to U.S. law, a comparison of U.S. and other legal systems, and advanced legal theory and policy. Subject to criteria established by the State Bar of California, the LL.M. may qualify a foreign-educated graduate to sit for the California Bar Exam.

For **U.S. students**, the program provides an opportunity to utilize the resources of MCL to pursue advanced study in areas of specific interest. Within this framework, LL.M. students have considerable latitude in planning their course of study.

Master of Laws

Advanced law degrees serve as recognition of formal legal education beyond the J.D. degree. The LL.M. program offers students a broad platform to design their own course of study within parameters set by the MCL law faculty. Upon completion of the program, graduates will demonstrate mastery of three learning outcomes.

✓ **2 Year Graduate Program**

✓ **On-Site and Online Cohorts**

Vision & Mission

Monterey College of Law's mission is to provide a quality legal education in a community law school setting with graduates who are dedicated to professional excellence, integrity, and community service.

Applicants to the LL.M. Program must have received their first degree in law at either an American Bar Association (ABA) approved law school, a state-accredited law school, or at a law school approved by the appropriate authority in a country other than the United States.

In addition, MCL will consider any applicant, domestic or international, who is licensed to practice law and is currently in good standing in the jurisdiction in which they are licensed.

Graduation Requirements

The LL.M. degree requires the successful completion of 24 graduate law units, including a capstone thesis. In addition to the capstone thesis, LL.M. students may take doctrinal, skills, clinical, or elective courses.

Transfer credits will be allowed for certain graduate and law courses that meet MCL's academic standards. If approved, transfer credits may be applied towards up to one-half of the 24-unit graduation requirement.

Policies and requirements may be found on the school's website and in the Student Handbook.

Doctrinal & Skills Courses

Business Law	Evidence
Civil Procedure	Legal Writing
Community Property	Mediation
Constitutional Law	Real Property
Contracts	Remedies
Criminal Law	Torts
Criminal Procedure	Wills and Trusts

Elective Courses

Electives change annually. Electives frequently offered include:

Bankruptcy Law	Immigration Law
Employment Law	Intellectual Property
Environmental Law	International Commercial Transactions
Family Law	Introduction to Legal Issues for Tech Companies
Food, Ag, & Environmental Law	Introduction to Venture Capital & Private Fund Formation

Other Requirements

✓ 12+ Units in residence

✓ Pass at least 60% of units each term

✓ Capstone thesis

✓ GPA of 75+

At Monterey College of Law, our institutional learning outcomes are designed to cultivate the knowledge, skills, and professional values necessary for success in the legal field. These outcomes reflect our commitment to academic excellence, ethical responsibility, and the pursuit of justice, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to meet the diverse challenges of legal practice and leadership in an evolving global society. Through rigorous coursework, experiential learning opportunities, and a focus on critical thinking and effective communication, we aim to produce competent, ethical, and reflective practitioners equipped to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the legal profession.

INSTITUTIONAL Learning Outcomes

1 Legal Knowledge

Graduates will acquire a comprehensive understanding of fundamental legal principles and theories relevant to their specific legal degree program.

2 Legal Application

Graduates will develop critical reading, thinking, and communication skills important in all work related to the law, including the ability to competently apply principles of law to fact situations to inform resolution and counseling strategies, and the ability to communicate those strategies persuasively and professionally in both written and oral form.

3 Ethics, Values, and Professionalism

Graduates will demonstrate good judgment consistent with the legal profession's ethics, values, and duties to clients, the legal system, and society.

4 Service to Justice and the Rule of Law

Graduates will attain skills for furthering the goal of impartial justice and protecting the rule of law. Through experience with diverse individuals, cultures, ideas, and perspectives, they will be encouraged to enhance justice through service to their communities and the public.

5 Reflection and Self-Fulfillment

Graduates will be able to reflect on their values, learning, and performance as these relate to their responsibilities as professionals to continuously learn, evolve, and achieve self-fulfillment.
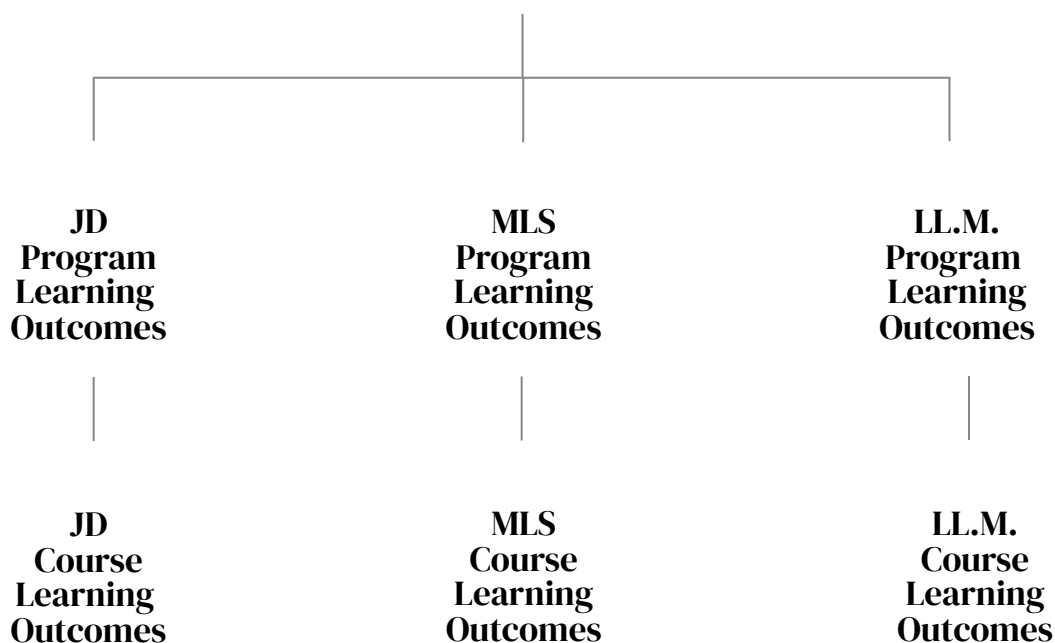
Institutional to Program to Course
Learning Outcomes

At Monterey College of Law, our institutional learning outcomes serve as the foundation for all academic programs, providing a cohesive framework that guides the development of program-specific learning outcomes. These institutional outcomes reflect our core mission to cultivate knowledge, skills, and ethical values that prepare students for meaningful contributions to the legal profession and society.

The program learning outcomes, whether for the Juris Doctor (JD), Master of Legal Studies (MLS), or Master of Laws (LL.M.) programs, are directly aligned with these overarching goals, translating them into specific competencies tailored to each program.

At the course level, Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) are designed to reflect and support the PLOs of the respective programs. CLOs are aligned with PLOs through detailed curriculum mapping, ensuring that each course contributes to the development of skills and competencies outlined in the program-level outcomes. The alignment between ILOs, PLOs, and CLOs ensures a coherent and integrated learning experience across all programs. This systematic approach allows MCL to assess and enhance student achievement at every level, fostering continuous improvement and maintaining alignment with accreditation standards.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

JD Program Learning Outcomes	MLS Program Learning Outcomes	LL.M. Program Learning Outcomes
JD Course Learning Outcomes	MLS Course Learning Outcomes	LL.M. Course Learning Outcomes

LL.M. PROGRAM Learning Outcome Assessment

The LL.M. program requires 24 graduate law credits, culminating in a capstone thesis. Alongside the thesis, students can tailor their studies by selecting from doctrinal, skills, clinical, and elective courses. Because the program is highly customizable, the chart below illustrates the typical assessment methods associated with each course category.

	PLO 1: Doctrinal Knowledge	PLO 2: Communication & Application	PLO 3: Professional Responsibility	PLO 5: Research & Analysis
	Articulate substantive knowledge of legal theories and use in specialized or key areas tested on the California Bar Exam.	Demonstrate fluency with advanced American legal terminology through exposure to substantive texts, cases, statutes, and memoranda.	Apply knowledge of legal professionalism, ethics, and the responsibilities required of representatives of clients and officers of the court in California.	Demonstrate the ability to transfer previously learned legal concepts to those relevant to law in the United States and California.
Doctrinal Subjects (ex. criminal procedure)	75+ course grade to demonstrate competency	75% MBE Quiz Average to demonstrate competency		
Elective Subjects	P/P+ to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback		P/P+ to demonstrate competency
Writing & Skills Courses	P/P+ to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P/P+ to demonstrate competency
Clinical Courses		Nongraded assessment feedback	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	
Thesis	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency