MASTER OF SCIENCE IN LEGAL STUDIES

Description and Outcomes

The Master of Science in Legal Studies program is designed to provide a solid foundation in legal doctrine and concepts while developing and refining your ability to identify and analyze legal issues. The program highlights the foundations of the American legal system, process and procedure, dispute resolution, legal research and writing, legal reasoning and analysis, ethical decision making, jurisprudence and legal history, and substantive law in selected areas. If you are not interested in practicing law, but want to develop a better understanding of the law as it affects your career or other areas of interest, this may be the program for you. The program in legal studies does not prepare you for the practice of law, and you are not eligible to sit for any state’s bar examination based solely on your completion of this program.

Upon graduation, you could pursue career opportunities in law and law-related fields, government, or business, or may use the background knowledge gained through this degree to prepare for further graduate study.

Tracks of Study

The Master of Science in Legal Studies program offers two capstone options as the program’s culminating experience: an applied research project or a comprehensive exam. The applied research track could help you develop a better understanding of applied research methods and their application to legal studies through two applied research courses: LS504 Applied Research in Legal Studies and LS698 Applied Research. At the conclusion of the comprehensive exam track, you must successfully complete a written examination covering the core curriculum courses.

Program Length

The Master of Science in Legal Studies program consists of a minimum of 55 quarter credit hours. Upon successful completion of the program, you will be awarded a master of science degree.

Program Outcomes

1. Legal Principles: Apply legal principles and concepts to the analysis of complex social, political, and economic issues.
2. Ethics: Reflect on the ethical and moral implications of the law and legal processes.
3. Leadership: Apply principles of leadership to shape change and improve the application and direction of the law and the legal system in relation to institutions or society.
4. Reflective Practice: Utilize the skills of a reflective practitioner to analyze and solve problems within a professional context.

Professional Competencies

In addition to the discipline-specific outcomes, professional competencies are integrated throughout your academic program. You can review the professional competencies associated with your academic program in the Professional Competencies (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/graduate/professional-competencies/) section of this Catalog.

Program Availability

For program availability, please refer to the U.S. State and Other Approvals (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/policy-information/university-information/accreditation-approvals-memberships/) section and Program Availability Information (https://www.purdueglobal.edu/catalog-program-availability-info.pdf).

Policies

Progression Requirements

Comprehensive Exam Track

You must successfully complete LS602 Comprehensive Exam Capstone, a written course covering the core curriculum and concentration courses. You will have the opportunity to take the comprehensive examination course one time after successful completion of all academic program requirements.

The comprehensive examination course consists of four comprehensive questions to which you write four research papers. Each paper will be evaluated by three terminally degreed legal studies instructors. A passing score must be earned from two out of three faculty members on all four questions. Should you not earn a passing score on any part of the four papers, you will receive grading feedback and be allowed to revise and resubmit the paper(s) one time during the term. If you fail any of the four revised papers, you will fail the comprehensive examination course and you will be academically dismissed from the program. If you experience extenuating circumstances, you may appeal to the Dean (or designee) to retake the course. Students who are approved to retake the comprehensive examination will only be allowed to retake the course one time.

Certification, State Board, and National Board Exams

Certain state certification and licensure boards have specific educational requirements for programs to lead to a license or nongovernmental certification that is a precondition for employment in a recognized occupation.

Unless otherwise specified, Purdue Global’s programs are not designed to meet any specific state’s licensure or certification requirements. If certain licensed occupations, vocations, or professions are not explicitly listed, Purdue Global has not reviewed the licensure or certification requirements of those occupations, vocations, or professions, nor intended the program to meet such requirements. Licensure-track programs may limit enrollment to students in certain states; please see Purdue Global’s Program Availability Information (https://www.purdueglobal.edu/catalog-program-availability-info.pdf) to determine enrollment eligibility.

You are responsible for understanding the requirements of optional certification exams. Such requirements may change during the course of your program. You are not automatically certified in any way upon program completion. Although certain programs are designed to prepare you to take various optional certification exams, Purdue Global cannot guarantee you will be eligible to take these exams or become certified. Your eligibility may depend on your work experience, completion of education and/or degree requirements, not having a criminal record, meeting other certification requirements, or the program or the University itself having appropriate accreditation or licensure.
Degree Plan

The icon appears in the title of traditional courses that are also available as a set of module courses. Module course availability may be limited to certain academic calendars. See Course Types (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/policy-information/university-information/approach-to-learning/) for information about module courses.

Program Requirements

Applied Research Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LS500</td>
<td>Legal Methods and Process</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS501</td>
<td>Ethics and the Professional</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS502</td>
<td>Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS503</td>
<td>Jurisprudence and Legal History</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS504</td>
<td>Applied Research in Legal Studies</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS526</td>
<td>Academic and Professional Writing for Graduate Students</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS698</td>
<td>Applied Research ¹</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one core elective of the following:

- LS506 Understanding Civil Responsibility
- LS507 Understanding Criminal Responsibility
- LS508 Family and the Legal System
- LS509 Contracts as Private Law

Total Core Requirements: 40

Open Elective Requirements

- 500/600 Level Legal Studies Electives: 15

Total Open Elective Requirements: 15

TOTAL CREDITS: 55

¹ LS698 Applied Research combines research and writing skills with application in a professional setting. This is a capstone course.

Comprehensive Exam Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LS500</td>
<td>Legal Methods and Process</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS501</td>
<td>Ethics and the Professional</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS502</td>
<td>Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS503</td>
<td>Jurisprudence and Legal History</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS526</td>
<td>Academic and Professional Writing for Graduate Students</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS602</td>
<td>Comprehensive Exam Capstone</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one core elective of the following:

- LS506 Understanding Civil Responsibility
- LS507 Understanding Criminal Responsibility
- LS508 Family and the Legal System
- LS509 Contracts as Private Law

Total Core Requirements: 35

Open Elective Requirements

- 500/600 Level Legal Studies Electives: 20

TOTAL CREDITS: 55