

The Master of Legal Studies (MLS) degree program is designed to provide professionals with a comprehensive understanding of legal principles and their practical applications. By exploring the intersection of law and various industries, the MLS program empowers students to identify legal risks, make informed decisions, and effectively communicate with legal professionals. This program offers a flexible online format, making it accessible to working professionals seeking to advance their careers and enhance their professional skills.

Program Outcomes

- **Legal Foundations:** Develop a strong understanding of the legal system, including its structure, history, and underlying principles.
- **Legal Research and Analysis:** Master the skills of legal research, analysis, and critical thinking to identify and address complex legal issues.
- **Effective Communication:** Cultivate effective communication skills, both written and oral, to convey legal concepts clearly and persuasively to diverse audiences, including legal professionals.
- **Problem-Solving and Decision-Making:** Apply legal knowledge and analytical skills to solve practical problems and make informed decisions.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Understand and apply ethical principles in legal practice.
- **Legal Risk Management:** Learn strategies to identify, assess, and mitigate legal risks in various contexts.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Explore the complexities of regulatory compliance and develop skills to ensure adherence to legal and ethical standards.



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Our MLS program is designed to equip you with the practical tools and knowledge to address real-world challenges.”

Marisa Cianciarulo
Dean & Professor of Law



Program of Study

Common Core Courses

MLS120	Research, Analysis, & Communication Skills	3 credits
MLS110	Intro to the US Legal System	3 credits
MLS130	Administrative Law	3 credits
MLS140	Compliance Skills	3 credits
Total		12 credits

Healthcare Compliance Track:

Required Courses

MLS210	Healthcare Payer-Provider Relationships	3 credits
MLS220	Law of Patients' Rights	3 credits
MLS230	Law of Accreditation and Licensure	3 credits
MLS900	Capstone	3 credits
Total		12 credits

Students select three of the six electives listed below:

Electives:

MLS310	Public Health Law	2 credits
MLS320	Pharmaceutical Law	2 credits
MLS240	Health Information Technology	2 credits
MLS250	Regulatory Compliance in Healthcare Industry	2 credits
MLS260	Collaborating with Counsel (Unauthorized Practice of Law)	2 credits
MLS330	Telehealth Law and Telemedicine	2 credits
Electives Total:		6 credits



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What is Healthcare Compliance?

Compliance refers to the adherence of a healthcare organization to the laws, regulations, and industry standards that govern its operations. It's about conducting business in an ethical and legal manner, ensuring transparency, and maintaining trust with stakeholders. Non-compliance can lead to hefty fines, reputational damage, and even legal consequences. As healthcare compliance professionals, your role will be pivotal in upholding the integrity and reputation of your organizations.

What is Healthcare Risk Management?

Risk management is the art of identifying, analyzing, and mitigating potential risks that healthcare organizations face. In a world that is becoming more interconnected and complex by the day, the ability to effectively manage risks has never been more crucial. Your expertise in this area will allow you to guide healthcare organizations through uncertainties, turning challenges into opportunities.

Careers in Healthcare Compliance:

Compliance and risk management might sound like buzzwords, but they lie at the heart of every successful and responsible healthcare organization. In a world where business environments in healthcare are constantly changing, and healthcare regulations are becoming more stringent, understanding and effectively managing compliance and risk is not just an option, but a necessity.

Graduates with a Master of Legal Studies (MLS) with a specialization in healthcare compliance have a broad range of employment opportunities. Graduates will be qualified to work in a variety of healthcare related businesses, including private physicians' offices, hospitals, insurance companies, pharmacies, diagnostic services, and eldercare businesses (for example home healthcare, assisted living, nursing home and hospice), as well as pharmaceutical or device manufacturers, and food processing companies.

Need Financial Assistance?

Applying for financial aid can be a daunting process. We're here to help! Our Student Finance Office works hard to provide opportunities to those students for whom finances are a determining factor. To learn more: financialaid@westcliff.edu

How to Apply?

Applications are accepted electronically through the Western State Master of Legal Studies application portal.

Apply today at: connect.westcliff.edu/apply

What to submit:

Prospective students must have a bachelor's degree completed prior to enrollment and submit both a program application and a personal statement detailing their goals and interest in the program.

- **Personal Statement:** A student's personal statement should be focused and a reflection of who they are. This often includes not only an applicant's motivators (accomplishments, skills, experiences, or personal motivators) but also career goals, outside interests, and anything else they believe relevant to their success within the program and who they are as an individual. The statement should also be double-spaced and no longer than 5 pages in length.
- **Transcripts:** To streamline applications, we accept unofficial transcripts for initial evaluation. Should you be admitted, official transcripts will be required prior to enrollment.
- **Letter(s) of Recommendation:** One letter of recommendation is required, additional letters may be requested in certain circumstances.
- **GRE/LSAT Scores:** While GRE or LSAT scores are optional, they may be submitted to strengthen an application.
- **Addenda:** As requested.

Please note that successful completion of this degree program will not prepare students to practice law, will not satisfy requirements for licensure to practice law, and will not provide the possibility of advance standing in a JD program, should a student in the MLS program later decide to apply for admission to a JD program.

Western State College of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association (321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60610, (312) 988-5000).

Western State College of Law is a campus of Westcliff University. Westcliff University is accredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, California, 94501, www.wascsenior.org).

Westcliff University is a private institution and has been granted approval to operate by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education 1747 N. Market Blvd., Ste. 225 Sacramento, CA 95834, www.bppe.ca.gov, Toll-free phone: 1.888.370.7589). Approval to operate means compliance with state standards as set forth in the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 (CEC) and Title 5, Division 7.5 of the California Code of Regulations (5, CCR).