



**PennState**  
Dickinson Law

# MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES (M.L.S.) PROGRAM







ADVANCE YOUR  
CAREER BY LEARNING  
ABOUT THE LEGAL  
LANDSCAPE  
RELEVANT TO  
YOUR PROFESSION.



# EMPLOYERS INCREASINGLY VALUE EMPLOYEES WITH MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES (M.L.S.) DEGREES.

Professionals like you know that the M.L.S. degree program at Dickinson Law is a worthwhile investment.

## THE MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES DEGREE

In today's changing economy, some knowledge of the law has become increasingly relevant for nonlawyers working in a number of industries. Businesses now place greater emphasis on cross-disciplinary skills and the ability to move and adapt quickly, and the growing complexity of not only law but also governmental and regulatory structures and procedures means that familiarity with law is an important part of those skills. Professionals who work in or are seeking to enter fields such as finance, education, health care, social work, real estate, regulatory compliance, law enforcement, or government will gain tremendous value in gaining foundational or specialized knowledge of laws and legal systems relevant to them.

The Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) degree is a one-year, graduate-level, academic degree designed for nonlawyers to enhance their professional knowledge by providing them with a solid grasp of the law. This program will acquaint students with the general structure of the U.S. legal system and will allow them to focus on one or more specific aspects of the law as it relates to their field of interest.

Dickinson Law's M.L.S. degree thus provides a particularly marketable asset for college-educated professionals whose duties involve working with lawyers or with issues for which some legal knowledge would be helpful. The M.L.S. program is designed for professionals who work for or with governmental bodies, legal departments, regulatory agencies, and other law-related institutions and organizations, or wish to do so in the future. Those who complete this degree will be equipped with tools for navigating the complex world of law and policy, as well as a credential that will advance their career opportunities and goals. The M.L.S. degree can help enhance careers by creating opportunities for advancement and by laying the groundwork for new career paths.



# PROFESSION-READY AND STUDENT-TAILORED CURRICULUM

At Dickinson Law, you can choose from a variety of specializations or create one designed for your own needs.

## GOVERNMENT LAW AND POLICY

### GOVERNMENT LAW AND POLICY CONCENTRATION

The Government Law & Policy concentration touches upon a broad range of topics, including interaction between the federal government and state and local governments, as well as between the various branches of the government.



#### Topics include but are not limited to:

- property and zoning law
- marijuana legalization
- federal and local immigration enforcement
- federal involvement in criminal law enforcement
- international, federal, state and local environmental and energy law and policy
- community and economic development
- election law
- state and federal administrative agencies
- regulatory compliance
- government procurement
- public health
- federalism and states' rights
- separation of powers
- international trade agreements
- law of the sea

### GOVERNMENT LAW AND POLICY COURSES

- Constitutional Law I
- Civil Liberties Litigation
- Congressional Investigations Seminar
- Administrative Law
- Regulatory and Legislative Practice Seminar
- National Security Law
- Cybersecurity Law and Policy Seminar
- Internet Law
- Information Privacy Law
- Blockchain, Cryptocurrency, and the Law
- Corporate Compliance
- Federal Securities Regulation
- Energy Law and Policy
- Environmental Law
- State and Local Government
- Public Health Law
- Health Law and Policy
- Child Welfare Law and Policy
- State and Local Government Procurement
- State and Local Tax
- Election Law
- Education Law
- Construction Law
- Insurance Law
- Protection of Individual Rights Under State Constitutions Seminar
- Taxation of Business Entities



# ORGANIZING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

## CONCENTRATION IN ORGANIZING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Organizing for Social Justice concentration centers on what are commonly considered the four principles of social justice: human rights, access, participation, and equity. This track thus focuses on not just equal protection under the law but also fair and equitable distribution of wealth, opportunities for advancement, access to the political process, and maintenance and improvement of social institutions, including schools, communities, and families.



### Topics include but are not limited to:

- criminal justice reform
- assistance for underserved communities
- access for the disabled
- anti-racism
- educational opportunity
- environmental justice
- consumer protection
- family rights, elder rights, and child welfare
- civil liberties
- employment discrimination and fair labor practices
- LGBTQ rights
- voting rights
- immigration
- human rights
- public policy
- philanthropy

## ORGANIZING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE COURSES

- Civil Liberties Litigation
- Constitutional Law I
- First Amendment — Free Speech
- Election Law
- Women’s Suffrage, the 19th Amendment, and the Duality of the Movement
- Information Privacy Law
- Family Law
- Child Welfare Law & Policy
- Elder Law
- Law and Individuals with Disabilities
- Education Law Seminar
- Employment Discrimination
- Labor Law
- International Human Rights
- Protection of Individual Rights Under State Constitutions Seminar
- Race, Racism, and American Law Seminar
- Race and Equal Protection of the Law
- Gender and Sexuality Law
- Immigration Law
- National Security Law
- Environmental Law
- Poverty Law
- Criminal Procedure
- Post-Conviction Process
- Innocence and Wrongful Conviction
- International Criminal Law
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Administrative Law
- Regulatory and Legislative Practice Seminar



## OTHER CONCENTRATIONS:

Students may also focus their course of study in any of the following specialized fields:

- Business Advising
- Criminal Law
- Cyber Law, Data Privacy and Information Security
- Energy and Environmental Law
- Entrepreneurship
- Family Law
- Health Law and Policy
- International Law
- Intellectual Property and Innovation
- Regulatory Compliance
- Security Law
- Tax Law
- Wealth Management

Students in the M.L.S. program may also enroll in a rich array of courses offered at the law school to design their curriculum to meet their own needs.



# A FLEXIBLE DEGREE PROGRAM

Earn your M.L.S. degree in the way that best fits  
your busy schedule.



## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students in the M.L.S. program must complete a minimum of twenty-four credits, and no more than thirty-four credits, in courses approved for the M.L.S. degree.

The only required course is Introduction to the U.S. Legal System (2 credits). The remaining credits can be taken as electives chosen from a broad range of courses in the law school's curriculum. Students in the M.L.S. program also may transfer up to six credits from:

- coursework completed at another accredited law school in the U.S. or abroad within the last five years; or
- prior related work experience completed in the U.S. or abroad within the last five years.

## AN ACCESSIBLE CURRICULUM

Because many students already will have careers for which they are seeking an M.L.S. degree, Dickinson Law offers flexibility in how they approach their studies.

### **This includes the choice to:**

- begin their studies in either the fall or spring semester;
- participate in their classes either online or in person; and
- complete their degree on either a full-time basis, finishing their studies in as little as two semesters, or a part-time basis, finishing their degrees over three to four semesters.

# ADMISSIONS

Applying to the M.L.S. program is easy.

## ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Eligible students must hold at least a B.A., B.S., or equivalent degree from a duly accredited or recognized institution of higher education in the U.S. or abroad but cannot hold a terminal degree in law from a U.S. law school (e.g., J.D., LL.M., or S.J.D./J.S.D.).

## HOW TO APPLY

Students can apply to the M.L.S. program either through LSAC or directly to Dickinson Law. Those who wish to apply directly to Dickinson Law should send a request to DickinsonMLS@psu.edu for a copy of the M.L.S. application form and the email address to which to submit your application materials.

## ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS:

- A completed application form;
- Official academic transcripts documenting the applicant's undergraduate degree and any prior graduate studies (with certified translations into English if necessary). Applicants who apply through LSAC should submit their transcripts through the LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service (which is used for both LL.M. and M.L.S. applicants). Applicants who apply directly to Dickinson Law must ensure that their transcripts are sent to the director of the M.L.S. program directly from their educational institutions, not by the applicants themselves;
- Proof of English language proficiency sufficient to complete graduate-level coursework taught in English. Such proof can take the form of:
  - Completion of an undergraduate or graduate degree at a university in the U.S. or other country where English is the official language or in a program in which courses are primarily taught in English;
  - A score of 88 points or higher on the internet-based version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); or
  - A score of 6.5 points or higher on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination;
- One or more letters of recommendation in English (or certified translations into English) from professors or employers. Letters of recommendation should be submitted either to the LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service or directly to Dickinson Law;
- A curriculum vitae or resume written in English; and
- A personal statement or other writing sample in English.

Standardized test scores are not required but may be submitted at the applicant's discretion.

The M.L.S. Admissions Committee review applications for admission on a rolling basis.

# FINDING THE RIGHT M.L.S. PROGRAM CAN BE A CHALLENGE

Here's why students choose to study  
at Dickinson Law.



As one of the nation's **oldest law schools** and as a member of **world-renowned public research institution The Pennsylvania State University**, Dickinson Law prepares its students for a competitive, global market.



Dickinson Law is **ABA-accredited** and located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, a beautiful college town just 20 minutes from the state's capital in Harrisburg and about two hours north of the nation's capital in Washington D.C. Regional attractions include Hershey (the home of Hershey's chocolate) and Gettysburg, the site of the most famous battle of the United States Civil War.



Our program is a **24-credit, one academic year course of study**. Our M.L.S. cohort is kept intentionally small (no more than 20 students) to foster greater interaction with faculty and J.D. students, as well as to cultivate relationships with alumni, judges and lawyers in nearby metropolitan legal markets beyond Harrisburg and Washington, D.C., including Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, and Wilmington. We're also a short drive from Penn State College of Medicine, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, and Penn State Harrisburg.



M.L.S. students may enroll in a rich array of courses, as well as **a focused course of study in a specialized field**, taught by our globally renowned faculty, including many Fulbright scholars and grant recipients.



M.L.S. students may earn **experiential learning** credits.



We believe that **cultural diversity** enriches everyone's educational experience, and we strive to maintain an **inclusive community**. Our Law School family includes students who have served in the military, self-identify as students of color and/or as members of the LGBTQ community, are first-generation graduate students, and are first-generation college students.



Some M.L.S. applicants may be considered for **merit-based scholarships**.

**Ranked #43 of 1,000 institutions globally** for the quality of education of its students and the research excellence of its faculty by the 2018-2019 Center for World University Rankings



# GET INVOLVED

We make it easy to become involved in the Dickinson Law community. Our students collaborate with faculty on research projects and participate in a variety of student organizations. Below are just some of the opportunities that await you.

- Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Business Law Society
- Center on Children and the Law
- Center for Government Law and Public Policy Studies
- Center for International Trial Advocacy
- Center for Public Interest Law and Advocacy
- Criminal Law Society
- Environmental Justice Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Health Law and Policy Society
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- International Law Society
- Intramural Sports
- Latino/a Law Student Association
- Middle Eastern Law Student Association
- Military Law Caucus
- Moot Court Board
- OutLaw
- Phi Alpha Delta – Burr Chapter
- Public Interest Law Fund
- Speakers Trust
- Student Bar Association
- Women’s Law Caucus



## THIRD THURSDAYS


While faculty-student interaction happens daily at Dickinson Law, “Third Thursdays” are special. On the third Thursday of every month, you’ll gather with faculty and staff in the Ridge Commons to unwind, socialize, and enjoy good food and music.

## MIND AND BODY WELLNESS

To help you manage the stress that comes with the study of law, we offer free yoga and mindfulness classes at the Law School taught by certified instructors. Off campus, you’ll find a number of fitness centers, yoga and pilates studios, meditation centers, acupuncture practitioners, massage therapists, and chiropractors within easy walking distance. We think you’ll discover that learning how to channel stress and clear your mind helps you develop more creative solutions to your clients’ problems.





A woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a striped shirt, is sitting at a wooden desk in a modern library. She is looking at a laptop. In the foreground, there are wooden chairs and a large blue armchair. The background shows bookshelves and a bright orange wall. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

THE H. LADDIE  
MONTAGUE JR.  
LAW LIBRARY IS A  
STATE-OF-THE-ART  
RESEARCH FACILITY  
WITH ACCESS TO A  
WIDE RANGE OF  
RESOURCES AND  
SERVICES.



# ACCOMPLISHED FACULTY

Your professors have spent years practicing law, and they continue to interact nationally and internationally with the legal profession through pro bono litigation, mediation, advisory committees, and scholarship.



**Laurel Terry**

Professor of Law  
H. Laddie Montague Jr. Chair in Law

"Community is important to me. I think my most lasting scholarly legacy won't be my publications but will be the students I have influenced and the networks that I have tried to build."

## ENGAGED SCHOLARS

In addition to our dedicated full-time faculty, you'll learn from an adjunct faculty of practicing attorneys and judges who translate years of legal experience into exercises in critical thinking and problem solving. Their experience becomes your experience as you prepare to represent your clients at the local, state, national, and international levels.

The Dickinson Law faculty believes that its scholarly and teaching missions should be complementary. Our professors believe that having both a solid

understanding of existing theory and the ability to develop new theories is indispensable to our students' ability to operate as legal professionals in an increasingly global, diverse, and sophisticated legal environment.



**Mohamed Rali Badissy**

Assistant Professor of Law

“Bring your curiosity and personality into the classroom, and I will match your contribution with a presentation of the complexities of the law that is simultaneously accessible and memorable.”

**Medha Makhoul**

Assistant Professor of Law  
Director, Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic



“A guiding principle of my teaching is to challenge students to inform theory with practice and practice with theory—not only in law school, but throughout their legal careers.”



**Dermot Groome**

Professor of Law

“I believe that a good legal education is a transformative process. When students finish their education, they should be intrinsically different people.”



# LIVE AND LEARN IN CARLISLE

The Dickinson Law campus is perfectly situated in the town of Carlisle within the greater Harrisburg metropolitan area.



## MORE TO OFFER

Earning a degree is about more than attending classes, writing papers, and taking exams. At Dickinson Law, not only will you receive a solid legal foundation, but you will also have the opportunity to experience multiple aspects of local culture while living in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Carlisle continuously ranks as one of the country's most livable small towns due in part to the diversity of the people and institutions, amenities, and array of things happening here. The cost of living consistently rates below the U.S. average, making it an afford-able, cost-efficient option for attending law school. Everything you need is within easy walking or biking distance. In fact, most Dickinson Law students find reasonably priced housing close to the school for just that reason.





There's a balance in Carlisle. As a springboard to nearby major legal markets and networking opportunities on the East Coast, you'll find that you're close to policy makers and professionals who will be ready collaborators. The slower pace of life in town moves in counter-rhythm to the intensity of academic activity on campus—giving you the space to focus on your personal and professional growth.

Beyond our campus sits a region of unparalleled beauty and culture. Known for its historic charm, Carlisle features our valued neighbors, Dickinson College and the U.S. Army War College; a variety of restaurants, shops, and galleries; an independent movie theatre; a downtown farmers market; and much more.

If you need a big city fix, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and New York City are all easily accessible by car or train. Whatever you crave, it's easy to find an adventure just a short trip away.

*Often referred to as "the gem of downtown," the historic Carlisle Theatre presents musical concerts, performances, films, live theatrical productions, and programming for children and families. Established in 1939 and renovated in 1993, the Theatre is Carlisle's downtown source for entertainment.*



Not only is Carlisle near major U.S. cities, it also features several ways to experience local Pennsylvania culture.

- If you decide to live in Carlisle, it is easy to make plans with your classmates. You can watch a movie at the local independent theater, try foods at local restaurants, or observe a U.S. court case at the Cumberland County Courthouse. Other local activities include skiing, hiking, and bicycling.
- Downtown Carlisle is a ten-minute walk from the Law School. Every weekend, the farmer's market brings locally produced fruit and vegetables.
- Each fall, Carlisle is host to Corvettes at Carlisle, which brings more than 5,000 American sports cars to the city. The event culminates in a parade within five minutes of the Law School.





# MAKE OUR HOME YOUR HOME FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

We are well-positioned in the heart of a vibrant legal community offering a diverse selection of career-building opportunities.

1834  
FOUNDED  
IN 1834,  
WE ARE  
ONE OF  
THE  
OLDEST  
LAW  
SCHOOLS  
IN THE  
NATION.



5 state and federal courthouses within a 30-minute drive from the Law School  
including  
1 courthouse just a few blocks from the Law School.

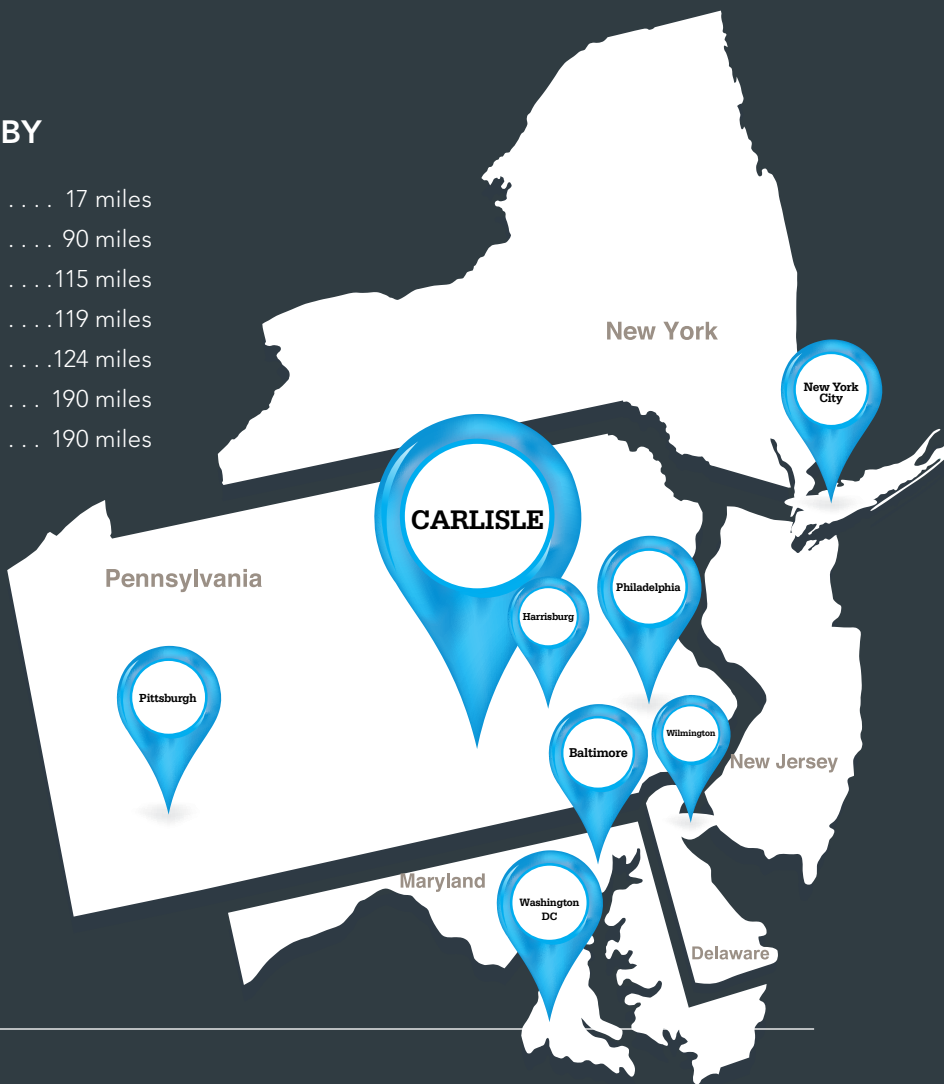
Our proximity to the state capital opens the doors to internships, networking, and cultural experiences beyond the classroom.

19,198

Carlisle’s estimated population (July 2019, census.gov)

## LEGAL MARKETS NEARBY

Harrisburg	17 miles
Baltimore	90 miles
Washington, D.C.	115 miles
Wilmington	119 miles
Philadelphia	124 miles
Pittsburgh	190 miles
New York City	190 miles



## RECREATION

46 miles



of the Appalachian Trail meander through Cumberland Valley, with its halfway point located in Boiling Springs—a short drive from campus.

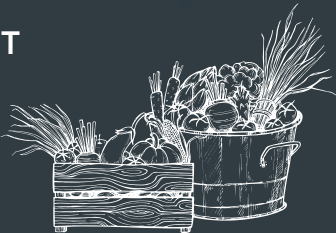
## MUCH MORE

Carlisle features a variety of restaurants, shops, and galleries; an independent movie theater; and more.



## FARMERS MARKET

You’ll find a year-round, producer-only farmers market on the square in downtown Carlisle to satiate your appetite with fresh-picked vegetables, seasonal fruits, hearth-baked breads, and more.



## RENT

\$781

is the average rent in Carlisle for a studio apartment.





OVER THE YEARS,  
OUR GRADUATES  
HAVE INCLUDED  
THE NATION'S  
FINEST ATTORNEYS,  
JUDGES, GOVERNMENT  
AND CORPORATE  
LEADERS,  
AND LEGAL  
EDUCATORS.



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Dickinson Law

CONNECT WITH US



CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME STATISTICS: The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and Pennsylvania Act of 1988 require that crime statistics for Pennsylvania colleges and universities be made available to applicants upon request. Penn State's combined Annual Security and Annual Fire Safety Report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings owned or controlled by the University, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as those concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters. You may obtain this information for the Penn State campus to which you are applying by accessing the website at [www.police.psu.edu/clery/](http://www.police.psu.edu/clery/). A printed copy of the report may be obtained by writing to University Police & Public Safety, The Pennsylvania State University, Eisenhower Parking Deck, University Park, PA 16802-6703 or by calling 814-865-1864.

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. U.Ed. DSL 19-04

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