

Current State of Other Types of Law Degrees and Programs

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Our Mission

LSAC promotes quality, access, and equity in law and education worldwide by supporting individuals' enrollment journeys and providing preeminent assessment, data, and technology services.



LSAC: The Hub for All Law Programs

Other Types of Law Degrees and Programs

Trends to Watch:

- **Master's and certificate programs** make up **15%** of all law school enrollment
- Legal education: attractive to people who want to advance their goals in many fields
- Candidates see the benefit of legal knowledge and the acquisition of the problem-solving skills
- Increase in online programs



Other Types of Law Degrees and Programs

Academic legal master's degrees, such as:

- ✓ JM (Juris Master)
- ✓ MJ (Master of Jurisprudence)
- ✓ MS (Master of Science or Master of Studies)
- ✓ MPS (Master of Professional Studies)
- ✓ MLS (Master of Legal Studies)



Types of Law Programs

High education can open up new and interesting career opportunities. Law schools offer a variety of degrees or certificates to match your goals — and your schedule.

<p>JD Degree JD</p> <p><small>If you want to practice law in the United States, you'll probably need this degree, but it's also useful in other career paths.</small></p> <p>About This Degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Usually a three-year, full-time program, but can also be part-time✓ Admission requires a bachelor's degree✓ LSAT is an integral part of the admission process <p><small>"I always knew I wanted to go to law school, but maybe back then I didn't even know what it meant to be a lawyer. ... This drove home the point because, we were in law school and we never people who used our skills." —Alison</small></p> <p>Learn more about JD Degree Programs</p>	<p>LLM Degree LLM</p> <p><small>This degree helps people who already have a JD or equivalent professional knowledge or work in a specialized area of law.</small></p> <p>About This Degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ JD degree (or international equivalent) required for admission✓ Curriculum varies depending on the school and the program✓ Can help you specialize and extend your credentials in a specific area <p><small>"I think my LL.M. is one of the best things I ever did. ... I learned more in a single year than in any other aspect of my professional experience." —Chris</small></p> <p>Learn more about LLM Degree Programs</p>
<p>Master's Degree MLS</p> <p><small>If you want to study law but aren't looking to become a lawyer, this interdisciplinary approach could be an ideal fit.</small></p> <p>About This Degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Includes Master of Science in Law (MSL) and Master of Legal Studies (MLS) degrees, among others✓ Often can be earned in one year, on-site and part-time programs available✓ Admission requires a bachelor's degree <p><small>"My interest in the law is second only to my interest in education. To be able to enroll in a program that combined the two was a perfect fit for me." —Avery</small></p> <p>Learn more about Master's Degree Programs</p>	<p>Legal Certificate CRT</p> <p><small>Broaden your knowledge of the law with these options, which require minimal time and are fairly affordable.</small></p> <p>About This Degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Areas of study vary, some are broad, others are more specialized✓ Can be completed in as little as three months, on-site options available✓ Often an industry-specific credential, especially in highly regulated areas <p>Learn more about Legal Certificate Programs</p>

Other Types of Law Degrees and Programs

Post-JD law degrees for practicing lawyers and/or foreign lawyers seeking to practice in the US, such as:

- ✓ LLM (Master of Law)
- ✓ MCL (Master of Comparative Law)

Research and academic-based doctorate level degrees, such as:

- ✓ JSD (Doctor of Jurisprudence)
- ✓ SJD (Doctor of Judicial Science)
- ✓ DCL (Doctor of Comparative Law)



Types of Law Programs

A legal education can open up new and interesting career opportunities. Law schools offer a variety of degrees or certificates to match your goals — and your schedule.

JD Degree JD If you wish to practice law in the United States, you'll probably need this degree. It's also useful in other career paths. About This Degree: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Usually a 3-year, full-time program, but can also be part-time.✓ Admission requires a bachelor's degree.✓ LLM is an integral part of the admission process. <p>"I always knew I wanted to go to law school, but I didn't know what it meant to be a lawyer... The more I learned about the profession, the more I saw some people who had made the 'right' choice."</p> <p>Learn more about JD Degree Programs</p>	LLM Degree LLM This degree helps people who already have a JD or equivalent expand their knowledge or study a specialized area of law. About This Degree: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ JD degree (or international equivalent) required for admission.✓ Curriculum varies depending on the school and the program.✓ Can help you specialize and extend your credentials in a specific area. <p>"I found my LLM to be one of the best things I ever did... It provided me a single path and focus in any other aspect of my educational experience."</p> <p>Learn more about LLM Degree Programs</p>
Master's Degree M.S. If you wish to study law with an emphasis on research, the interdisciplinary approach can be an ideal fit. About This Degree: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Includes Master of Science in Law (MSL) and Master of Legal Studies (MLS) degrees, among others.✓ Often can be earned in one year, either on- and part-time programs available.✓ Admission requires a bachelor's degree. <p>"My interest in the law is centered only on my chosen education. This allows me to enroll in a program that combines the law with another field."</p> <p>Learn more about Master's Degree Programs</p>	Legal Certificate CRT Broaden your knowledge of the law with other careers, which require relatively little time and are fairly affordable. About This Degree: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Areas of study vary; some are broad, others are more specialized.✓ Can be completed in as little as three months; online options available.✓ Often an industry-specific credential, especially in highly regulated areas. <p>Learn more about Legal Certificate Programs</p>

Other Types of Law Degrees and Programs

Certificate programs for Post-JD and Post-Baccalaureate

- ✓ Some programs are broad and teach basic legal knowledge and skills; others are more specific and focus on a single area of interest



Types of Law Programs

Legal education can open up new and interesting career opportunities. Law schools offer a variety of degrees or certificates to match your goals – and your schedule.

<h3>JD Degree</h3> <p>If you want to practice law in the United States, you'll probably need this degree. You'll also need it for other careers.</p> <p>About This Degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Usually a three-year, full-time program, but can also be part-time.✓ Admission requires a bachelor's degree.✓ LLM is an integral part of the admission process. <p>"I always knew I wanted to go to law school, but didn't know what I'd do if I ever wanted a career in the law. ... The more classes I took, the more I realized I was on the right path. ... I'm glad I did it." —Alex</p> <p>Learn more about JD Degree Programs</p>	<h3>LLM Degree</h3> <p>This degree helps people who already have a JD or extensive legal knowledge or study a specialized area of law.</p> <p>About This Degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ JD degree (or international equivalent) required for admission.✓ Curriculum varies depending on the school and the program.✓ Can help you specialize and extend your credentials in a specific area. <p>"I studied for LLM to be one of the best things I ever did. ... I learned more in a single year than in any other quarter of my educational experience." —Chris</p> <p>Learn more about LLM Degree Programs</p>
<h3>Master's Degree</h3> <p>If you want to study law but aren't looking to become a lawyer, this interdisciplinary approach could be an ideal fit.</p> <p>About This Degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Includes Master of Science in Law (MSL) and Master of Legal Studies (MLS) programs, among others.✓ Often can be earned in one year, online and part-time programs available.✓ Admission requires a bachelor's degree. <p>"The interest in the law is passed onto my interest in education. To be able to enroll in a program that combines the two was perfect for me." —Judy</p> <p>Learn more about Master's Degree Programs</p>	<h3>Legal Certificate</h3> <p>Broaden your knowledge of the law with these options, which require relatively little time and are fairly affordable.</p> <p>About This Degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Most of these only require one or two semesters.✓ Can be completed in as little as three months, unless options available.✓ Often an industry-specific certificate, especially in highly regulated areas. <p>Learn more about Legal Certificate Programs</p>



Volume Data

Post-Graduate Legal Education Enrollment

Year	*Non-JD Total	Post-JD Total	Post-Baccalaureate Total	Non-JD Online Total
2013	11,132	9,401	1,738	1,677
2014	11,973	9,478	2,495	1,590
2015	13,086	9,797	3,289	2,239
2016	13,826	9,939	3,162	2,820
2017	17,117	**	**	4,558
2018	18,253	**	**	5,588
2019	19,819	**	**	7,378

*Total includes a small number of miscellaneous enrollments not reported

**Not Published by the ABA for 2016

In the last six years, total non-JD enrollment is up 78%.

- ✓ 2013-2016 Post-JD enrollment is up just **6%**
- ✓ 2013-2016 Post-Baccalaureate enrollment is up **82%**
- ✓ 2013-2019 Online enrollment is up **340%**

Distinct LSAC-LLM Electronic Applicants by Enrollment/Application Year

Year	*Non-JD Total	Post-JD Total	LSAC-LLM Applicant Total	Post-Baccalaureate Total	Non-JD Online Total
2013	11,132	9,401	7,404	1,738	1,677
2014	11,973	9,478	7,991	2,495	1,590
2015	13,086	9,797	8,646	3,289	2,239
2016	13,826	9,939	8,775	3,162	2,820
2017	17,117	**	8,852	**	4,558
2018	18,523	**	8,375	**	5,588
2019	19,819	**	7,667	**	7,378

*Total includes a small number of miscellaneous enrollments not reported"

**Not Published by the ABA for 2017

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/statistics.html

LLM Electronic Apps by Year and Location

App Year	Flex-Apps	Applicants	Domestic/International	Apps per Domestic/International	Apps per person (rounded to half app)
2015	29,666	7,177	1,165 - D	2,416	2
			6,012 - I	27,250	4.5
2016	28,730	7,479	1,280 - D	2,460	2
			6,199 - I	26,270	4
2017	29,704	7,629	1,403 - D	2,774	2
			6,226 - I	26,930	4.5
2018	28,819	7,267	1,234 - D	2,522	2
			6,033 - I	26,297	4.5
2019	27,859	7,041	1,076 - D	2,155	2
			5,965 - I	25,704	4.5

Thank you.

Questions / Comments?



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