



# Master of Legal Studies (MLS) in Criminal Law

Conveniently taught at the Chicago Police Academy in the West Loop, DePaul Law's Master of Legal Studies (MLS) in Criminal Law offers a challenging two-year curriculum designed specifically for law enforcement professionals. The program deepens legal knowledge and sharpens problem-solving skills, helping officers, lieutenants and captains navigate legal challenges more effectively in their current and future roles.

## 2025-2026 Program Faculty

DePaul carefully selects experienced and engaging instructors who understand the nuances of the job, and classes are taught through the lens of contemporary policing. The following instructors regularly teach in the program:

**Justice Jack O'Malley** teaches Criminal Law in the MLS program. He began his career as a Chicago police officer and earned his law degree while working full time, attending both Cornell and the University of Chicago. He has served as assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago, was a litigation partner at Winston & Strawn, and later general counsel for a G.E. Medical Systems subsidiary. His public service includes two terms as Cook County State's Attorney and 10 years on the Illinois Appellate Court.

**Rachel Koch** is an assistant public defender in Cook County's Child Protection Conflicts Division, where she represents parents in cases involving potential loss of custody. Before joining the Public Defender's Office, she operated a solo practice handling criminal defense, family law, civil litigation and administrative hearings. She teaches Evidence in the MLS program.

**Allen Moye** is an associate professor of law at DePaul and director of the Rinn Law Library. He manages library services and research support for faculty, students, alumni and the broader legal community. At the College of Law, he teaches Advanced Legal Research, and in the MLS program, he teaches Introduction to American Law & Legal Systems.



Law education focuses on the most fundamental goals of our democracy: the Constitution and its Amendments. My students spend weeks reading, writing, and arguing how to faithfully apply the First and Fourth Amendment—how to protect those rights, properly preserve evidence and apply the law even handedly. The class always includes many 'white shirts'—that is commanding officers who also are responsible for the conduct of their officers. I can honestly tell you on more than one occasion, students tell me they were on the scene of a crime applying what they had learned the night before in class."

– **Katherine Schweit, JD, CCEP**  
Owner, Schweit Consulting  
and Former FBI Executive

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## Criminal Law Concentration Requirement

The MLS program is a 30-credit hour degree program completed at the Police Academy in two years of part-time study.

All applicants with at least one year of on-the-job experience as a police officer will qualify for a waiver of up to six (6) credit hours, for a total degree requirement of only 24 credit hours.

## Curriculum and Schedule

All courses meet twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:50 to 8:30 p.m., and all courses are 3 semester hours.

### Fall Semester 2026

- Introduction to American Law & Legal Systems
- Criminal Law

### Spring Semester 2027

- Introduction to Legal Writing & Research
- Criminal Procedure for Police Professionals

### Fall Semester 2027

- Criminal Procedure II: Adjudication
- Policing in the 21st Century: Law, Compliance & Technology

### Spring Semester 2028

- Evidence
- Policing Special Communities

## Tuition and Aid

Members of the Chicago Police Department are eligible for the tuition reimbursement program offered through the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and City of Chicago. Students are responsible for applying for tuition reimbursement each semester in accordance with the tuition reimbursement plan.

If you are not eligible for 100% tuition reimbursement by your employer, DePaul also provides Chicago FOP members with a 25% tuition discount for the onsite MLS program at the

Chicago Police Academy. As a result, FOP members who earn an "A" could have their tuition fully covered—with a 75% tuition reimbursement from the City of Chicago and a 25% tuition discount from DePaul University. This discount cannot be used in combination with other university aid.

## Admission

All MLS degree applicants are required to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university or the foreign equivalent from a university authorized to confer such a degree by the country in which it is located.

All application materials, including official transcript(s), can be emailed to [gradlaw@depaul.edu](mailto:gradlaw@depaul.edu). Alternatively, applicants can mail the signed application form along with a personal statement, official undergraduate transcript and résumé to:

DePaul University College of Law  
Office of Law Admissions  
ATTN: MLS Program-Chicago  
Police Academy  
25 East Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-2287

## When to Apply

This two-year program was launched in August 2016 and is now accepting applications for its eleventh session, which begins in August 2026. Space is limited for this popular program, so apply early to reserve your spot. To join the eleventh cohort, applicants should submit all required materials by May 1 for priority consideration. Applications will be accepted until program is full.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the program and to apply:



One of the most impressive aspects of the DePaul MLS program is the caliber of instructors they have brought in. We are learning from seasoned professionals who have worked for and alongside various law enforcement agencies, including CPD. They are understanding of the demands of police work and challenge us in meaningful, thought-provoking ways. The coursework is applicable to everyday work on the job, whether you're on patrol, in the detective division or in a supervisory role."

- Officer Incandela, LCSW









My ultimate career goal within the Chicago Police Department is to become a detective. It is my belief that this Master of Legal Studies, through DePaul's law school, will help me realize that particular goal, as well as generally improve my law and law enforcement expertise. Having received my bachelor's degree from DePaul, I know the value and esteem that comes with a DePaul education, and I look forward to successfully completing this program."

-Officer Hodges

## For More Information

[law.depaul.edu](http://law.depaul.edu)  
[gradlaw@depaul.edu](mailto:gradlaw@depaul.edu)  
(312) 362-8185  
Outside Illinois: (800) 428-7453

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