

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES (MLS) IN CRIMINAL LAW*

SET YOURSELF APART FROM THE CROWD.

Conveniently taught at the Chicago Police Academy in the West Loop, DePaul College of Law's Master of Legal Studies (MLS) in Criminal Law offers police officers, lieutenants and captains a challenging two-year curriculum specially designed for law enforcement professionals. It is ideal for those who are not seeking to practice law but who regularly encounter legal issues in their work. MLS students develop a more sophisticated understanding of the law and develop problem-solving skills that can help them in their current and future positions.

2024-2025 PROGRAM FACULTY

DePaul carefully selects only 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 for the MLS program. He began his career as a Chicago police officer. While working full time, he attended law school at Cornell University and the University of Chicago. After graduating from law school, he served as assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago. He later worked as a litigation partner at Winston & Strawn and as general counsel for a subsidiary of G.E. Medical Systems. His public service career includes two terms as the Cook County State's Attorney and a 10-year term on the Illinois Appellate Court.

Rachel Koch is an assistant public defender for Cook County, Illinois. She currently works in the Child Protection Conflicts Division where she represents parents when the state petitions to take their children from their care. Prior to her work for Cook County, Koch had a solo practice where she represented clients in all stages of litigation in criminal defense, family law, civil forfeiture, family law, civil and administrative cases. She teaches Evidence for the MLS program.

Allen Moyer is an associate professor of law at DePaul and director of the Rinn Law Library. As director, he is responsible for the financial management and quality of library services and research support offered to faculty, students, alumni and other patrons of the library. At the College of Law, he teaches Advanced Legal Research, and for the MLS program, he teaches Introduction to American Law & Legal Systems.

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

"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."

*Formerly the Master of Jurisprudence (MJ)

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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 2025

- Law 322 Introduction to American Law & Legal Systems
- Law 506 Criminal Law

Spring Semester 2026

- Law 556 Introduction to Legal Writing & Research
- Law 562 Criminal Procedure for Police Professionals

Fall Semester 2026

- Law 465 Criminal Procedure II: Adjudication
- Law 377 Policing in the 21st Century: Law, Compliance & Technology

Spring Semester 2027

- Law 410 Evidence
- Law 376 Policing Special Communities

TUITION & 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. 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

The two-year program was launched in August 2016 and is now accepting applications for its tenth session, which begins in August 2025. Space is limited for this popular program, so apply early to reserve your spot. To join the tenth 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

gradlaw@depaul.edu

(312) 362-8185

Outside Illinois: (800) 428-7453

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