

Health Law

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Advanced Studies (M.A.S.) in Health Law is a joint-degree offering from UC San Diego and California Western School of Law. The program was developed in response to the increasing need to equip professionals from the health care and legal disciplines with a more complete understanding of

the best scientific, ethical, regulatory, and management practices. As medical decisions grow more complicated and far-reaching, the intersection of legal and medical/health care practices will be one of the most critical focal points of society for decades to come. Managed care, advances in medical treatment and biotechnology, issues of access, and bioethics all absorb the attention of our regulatory, legislative, and judicial systems. Health care and legal professionals will need to have the specialized skills and training to be effective and influential in this complex environment.

Led by select faculty from the School of Medicine at UC San Diego and California Western School of Law, the rigorous and timely graduate-level curriculum is designed to orient professionals to the common activities, philosophy of practice, and challenges of the companion discipline in health care or law. The program focuses on acculturating practitioners in both fields to become leaders in providing integrated, sensitive solutions to everyday practice and policy issues.

ADMISSION

New students are admitted in the fall quarter of each academic year. Prospective candidates should submit an official UCSD on-line graduate application for admission, the application fee, one set of official transcripts from each institution attended after high school, three letters of professional letters of recommendation, and a current résumé or c.v. The GRE/GMAT is not required; however, it is strongly recommended that candidates possess, or currently be pursuing, a graduate degree in a scientific or health care related field and also have some level of experience in scientific or clinical research. In some instances candidates without an advanced degree may be admitted to the joint-degree program if they have demonstrated substantial professional experience in the field at increasing levels of responsibility. The application deadline is April 2.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The part-time master's degree program is designed to be completed in eighteen months to two or three years, depending upon a participant's time to devote to the program. Responsibility for course offerings is shared between UC San Diego School of Medicine and California Western School of Law and students will be expected to enroll in courses at both institutions. Classes are typically held in the late afternoons or evenings, to allow flexibility for participants' home and work life. The forty-five-unit degree comprises fifteen units of required courses, twelve units of core courses, twelve units of general electives, and six units of a capstone project.

COURSES

For course descriptions not found in the UC San Diego General Catalog, 2010–11, please contact the department for more information.

REQUIRED COURSES (FROM UCSD)

HLAW 201. Introduction to Medical/Health Care Practice (3)

This overview for the non-medical professional examines the environment in which the medical practitioner must manage the patient relationship and deal with legal concerns. Topics include patient safety and privacy, medical technology and research, pharmaceuticals, and economics. Cases are used. **Prerequisite:** M.A.S. health law student or consent of instructor.

HLAW 207A. Principles in Health Law and Policy A (6)

This course presents a comprehensive view of modern issues at the intersection of healthcare and law, with an emphasis on improving understanding and synergy between the professions. The course stresses foundational understanding of how health law and policy is formulated and the application of health law and policy in current practice. A portion of the class is devoted to group work where students select and study issues in depth to build a framework for resolving enduring challenges in the field. A variety of timely topics on the health law system and procedures/processes, such as Medicare and MediCal coverage, are introduced to reinforce understanding. Students who have taken HLAW 202A–C, HLAW 203A–C, or HLAW 204A–C may not receive credit for HLAW 207A. **Prerequisite:** M.A.S. health law student or consent of department.

HLAW 207B. Principles in Health Law and Policy B (6)

This course presents a comprehensive view of modern issues at the intersection of healthcare and law, with an emphasis on improving understanding and synergy between the professions. The course stresses foundational understanding of how health law and policy is formulated and the application of health law and policy in current practice. A portion of the class is devoted to group work where students select and study issues in depth to build a framework for resolving enduring challenges in the field. A variety of timely topics on the health law system and procedures/processes, such as Medicare and MediCal coverage, are introduced to reinforce understanding. Students who have taken HLAW 202A–C, HLAW 203A–C, or HLAW 204A–C may not receive credit for HLAW 207B. **Prerequisite:** HLAW207A, M.A.S. health law student, or consent of department.

HLAW 296A. Independent Study Project Proposal (2)

As part of preparing for the independent study project, each student must prepare a proposal based on a topic of research interest directly relevant to health law. The proposal will consist of an integrative literature review and a proposal for an applied research project based on the chosen topic. **Prerequisite:** admission to the M.A.S. in Health Law Program or consent of the department.

HLAW 296B. Independent Study Project in Health Law (4)

The independent study project is the cornerstone of the M.A.S. Program. Students will be involved in a high-level applied research project that integrates what they have learned in their formal course work. The project will be an independent and creative scholarly activity in an area of health law related to one or more of the topics covered in the formal curriculum. Students' work will be evaluated by a committee of faculty and may also include industry advisors when appropriate. **Prerequisites:** admission to the M.A.S. in Health Law Program or consent of department; HLAW 296A.

PRESCRIBED ELECTIVES (FROM UCSD)

HLAW 205A. Bioethics Seminar—Clinical Focus A (2)

This seminar examines bioethical concerns and considerations from a clinical perspective. Using medical literature and case law, topics such as bioethics principles, informed consent, technology and reproduction, surrogacy, fetal rights, and the right to die are presented and discussed. **Prerequisite:** M.A.S. health law student or consent of instructor.

HLAW 205B. Bioethics Seminar—Clinical Focus B (2)

The seminar broadens the focus on the patient/doctor relationship and medical ethical issues in healthcare policy at the national and global levels. Topics include allocation of scarce medical resources; compulsory public health measures; clinical research in the developing world; and cross-cultural medical practice. **Prerequisite:** M.A.S. health law student or consent of instructor.

LHCO 205. Modern Health Care Organizations (4)

Describes and analyzes the dynamics responsible for the change in health care delivery and effects on development of modern health care organizations. Describes actions taken by employers, insurers, consumers, and government, and analyzes the effects on physicians and provider organizations. **Prerequisite:** M.A.S. health law student or consent of instructor.

LHCO 206. Topics in Financial Management/ Decision-Making in Health Care (2)

Presents real-life applications in health care provider organizations of financial management and decision-making. Topics include budgeting, uses of financial reports, development of long-range forecasts, benchmarking, business plan development, and actuarial analysis in projecting health care delivery costs. **Prerequisite:** M.A.S. health law student or consent of instructor.

LHCO 213. Financial Accounting and Analysis (2)

Students will learn the use of financial information within a healthcare organization. Topics covered will include capital structure, working capital and cash management, the time value of money, and capital budgeting. Students who have taken LHCO 208 may not receive credit for LHCO 213. **Prerequisite:** admission to the M.A.S. in the leadership of healthcare organizations program or consent of department.

HLAW 208. Influencing Public Policy (2)

Students will learn the basic policy framework in the U.S. (i.e., the "legal process") and points at which this framework can be influenced to formulate public policy in healthcare. **Prerequisite:** M.A.S. health law student or consent of department.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

Varies. Refer to list of elective courses from UCSD and California Western School of Law.