



Pepperdine Caruso School of Law Online Master's Programs

Pepperdine Law is known for providing a superior legal education to working professionals who value diversity, integrity, and service. Our online master's programs will equip you with the critical legal expertise, negotiation strategies, and conflict resolution skills to help you set yourself apart and move your career and organization forward.





Which Degree Is Right for You?

We offer three online master's programs: a Master of Dispute Resolution, a Master of Laws in Dispute Resolution, and a Master of Legal Studies with an optional concentration in dispute resolution or human resources. Each program offers different skill sets and career outcomes, and you can customize your learning with a variety of electives.

Scroll down to learn more about each of these programs.



Master of Legal Studies (MLS)

Time to complete

As few as 16 months for full-time students; approximately 28 months for part-time students

Who it's for

Nonlawyers who need a solid foundation in US law to make more informed decisions on the job

Skills you gain

Legal research and writing expertise and enhanced understanding of legal concepts such as contracts, compliance, and constitutional law.

Professionals who benefit

- Paralegals who research and draft legal documents
- Legal consultants who advise on contracts and compliance
- HR officers who navigate complex contracts and employment laws
- Politicians and lobbyists who help shape public policy



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Master of Dispute Resolution (MDR)

Time to complete

As few as 16 months for full-time students; approximately 28 months for part-time students

Who it's for

Mid-career professionals looking to become a more effective leader and resolve difficult situations on the job

Skills you gain

The ability to negotiate complex transactions and manage conflict in the workplace before they impede organizational goals.

Professionals who benefit

- Business managers and HR directors who need conflict resolution skills
- Counselors and social workers who need mediation skills
- Lobbyists and union administrators who need negotiation skills
- Subject matter experts who serve as witnesses or help navigate arbitration

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Dual Degree in Master of Legal Studies and Master of Dispute Resolution

After you earn your Master of Legal Studies (MLS) or Master of Dispute Resolution (MDR), you have the opportunity to pursue a dual degree in MLS and MDR by taking an additional 18–22 units. Degrees can be completed in either order, and will be earned and awarded separately.

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Master of Laws in Dispute Resolution (LLM)

Time to complete

As few as 12 months for full-time students; approximately 16 months for part-time students

Who it's for

Lawyers around the globe who want to set themselves apart in a competitive field and be a driving force in solving the most pressing conflicts of today.

JD or first professional degree in law required.

Skills you gain

The ability to negotiate major disputes between people, organizations and policymakers, and facilitate mediation between parties without having to set foot in a courtroom.

Professionals who benefit

- Lawyers from all around the globe who want to become expert negotiators, arbitrators and mediators
- Attorneys who want to positively affect national and international institutions that seek to deliver justice and advance the rule of law


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About Pepperdine Caruso School of Law

With Pepperdine Law's online programs, you can advance in your field by attaining the skills, expertise, and confidence to more effectively lead and grow your career. Located in Malibu, California, Pepperdine Law empowers students with the legal expertise and ethical judgment to meet the complex challenges they may encounter in their professional roles.

Scroll down to learn more about Pepperdine Law.



As an American Bar Association (ABA)-accredited law school, we emphasize professional, ethical, and moral responsibility, embracing the philosophy that professionals can best understand and apply legal principles when they uphold the highest standards of personal conduct. Our online Master of Legal Studies, Master of Dispute Resolution and Master of Laws in Dispute Resolution programs have all been granted ABA acquiescence.

If you are interested in commuting to campus and attending classes in person, Pepperdine Law also offers [traditional on-campus degree programs](#).

Straus Institute: Top-Ranked in Dispute Resolution

All dispute resolution courses are offered through Pepperdine Law's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, which is top-ranked for dispute resolution in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2020 law school rankings.




A man with short, graying hair, wearing a dark pinstripe suit jacket over a light blue shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is looking slightly to his left with a serious expression. The background is a chalkboard filled with faint, white chalk drawings of legal diagrams, including a Venn diagram and various lines and circles. An orange horizontal bar is positioned above the main heading.

Learn from Our Distinguished Faculty

The same faculty who teach on campus design and lead the courses for the online programs, and our professors are deeply committed to enhancing your understanding of how to apply legal principles and conflict resolution techniques at work.

Our faculty members have one common goal: to position you for professional success. They prioritize individual mentoring and counseling to make sure all students, on campus and online, feel supported and have the resources they need to succeed.



“ Our students have diverse backgrounds and perspectives that enrich the classroom experience and foster meaningful inquiry and discussion. As professionals who must understand and navigate legal systems to do their jobs effectively, our students bring a practical, realistic approach to the study of law. **We are teaching the students invaluable skills that will enhance their knowledge and efficacy. I hope my students are learning as much from me as I am learning from them.**”



Amy B. Levin

Associate Professor of Legal Research
and Writing for Pepperdine Law;
Co-Director of Byrne Judicial Clerkship Institute

Experiential Learning Online and In Person

Pepperdine Law was ranked number three in the country by *National Jurist* for practical training in 2019.

Our online programs make you an active participant in your learning so that you can translate your skills to the real world.

Scroll to learn more about the Pepperdine Law online experience.

The Immersive Virtual Classroom

Our online learning format is designed to mimic the in-person classroom experience with face-to-face online classes—held through video conferencing—and interactive course work. To hone your skills and gain practical experience, you will participate in:

- Simulations
- Case studies
- Mock exercises
- Virtual negotiations



In-Person Experiences

A critical and highly valuable requirement of the program is the in-person residency courses. You will attend two weekend residencies on Pepperdine's campus in Malibu, where you will put your skills into practice, interact with field experts, participate in group projects, and network with classmates, faculty, and program leadership. Each residency is considered a 1-unit course and will be offered at various times throughout the year.



Take the Next Step



Contact an Admissions Counselor

Our admissions counselors are here to support you with whatever you may need as you are researching programs and working on your application. They are also happy to discuss the program and answer your questions.

[Email Us Today](#)

Ready to Start Your Application?

Pepperdine Law seeks motivated, ethically responsible candidates to apply to our online master's degree programs. We accept applications on a rolling basis. No GRE, GMAT, or LSAT scores are needed to apply.

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