

MSL: HEALTH CARE COMPLIANCE CONCENTRATION

Course Descriptions

Note: MSL students must take Torts I or Contracts I.

Capstone (3 credits)

MSL students may choose to enroll in a regularly scheduled law school seminar or complete a research action project for their capstone experience.

Seminars require production of a substantial thesis-quality research paper, with students obligated to complete at least one well-developed draft, which the professor will critique extensively. Students rewrite their draft(s) based on the faculty member's assessments. Enrollment in seminar classes cannot exceed 16 students. In a typical semester, five to six seminars are offered, including topics directly related to Institute subjects (e.g., conflict resolution; health law; and business law) that are most likely to be the focus of MSL student work.

As an alternative to a seminar, students may complete a research action project in a 3-credit independent study. MSL students electing the research action project option would prepare a project of direct relevance to their current work-place. Research action projects will utilize standardized approaches used in a student's chosen field such as development of an environmental assessment, creation of a legal compliance program, design of a workplace dispute system, or preparation of a conflict resolution curriculum. MSL action research projects will be expected to be professional in their presentation, but need not adhere to the formal thesis guidelines typically utilized by seminar teachers.

Compliance Laws and Regulations (2 credits)

This course is designed to give students a practical understanding of the laws and regulations encountered by compliance professionals in daily practice. The key objective of this course is learning how to apply a range of statutory, regulatory, and common law principles to a variety of compliance situations. Students utilize legal principals and theory through a variety of simulation-based exercises.

Compliance Summer Institute (3 credits)

This interdisciplinary course introduces students to the most important legal and practical concepts in the field of health care compliance. Specifically, students will develop an understanding of the laws and regulations encountered by compliance professionals in daily practice with specific attention paid to the federal regulatory infrastructure. Students will also explore key operational concepts including investigations, enforcement and reporting requirements, billing and coding basics, along with employee and vendor issues. Students will test legal and operational concepts through simulation-based projects and small group exercises, including drafting assignments and mock interviews.

Contracts I (3 credits)

Explores the enforceability of promises, including contract formation, consideration, promissory estoppel, unjust enrichment, and contract interpretation. The content of this course is tested on the bar exam in a majority of states.

Electives (5 credits)

MSL students will choose elective courses with the advice and approval of their faculty advisor (and subject to the same prerequisite requirements imposed on all law students for upper-level offerings). Please refer to the list of all courses and descriptions provided by the Office of the Registrar: http://law.hamline.edu/course_descriptions.html

Governance and Ethics in Health Care Compliance (2 credits)

Our health care system is plagued with high costs and inconsistent outcomes. This class focuses on the role of

Boards of Directors in meeting these and other health care challenges. In addition to outlining governance structure and responsibilities, the course reviews current state and federal laws that apply to our health care system, as well as tax policy with respect to tax exemptions for charitable entities and detail how the tax exemption is conferred. Special attention is given to not-for-profit, as well as for-profit entities, and the unique ethical and governance issues presented by various organizational structures.

Health Care Compliance Skills: Auditing, Investigating and Reporting (3 credits)

This course is designed to expose students to key legal and operational concepts in the heath care corporate compliance field. Students use knowledge gained in prior mandatory coursework and participate in simulation-based projects that require them to perform audits, investigations, and reporting activities to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state laws.

HIPAA Privacy (2 credits)

This course examines the health information confidentiality regulations that promulgate one portion of the Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), signed into law by President Clinton on August 21, 1996, as amended by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009, as recently amended and/or implemented on August 24, 2009 (by the Breach Notification Interim Final Rule), October 7, 2009 (by the GINA/HIPAA Proposed Rule), October 30, 2009 (by the HIPAA Enforcement Interim Final Rule), July 14, 2010 (by the Proposed Modifications to the HIPAA Privacy and Enforcement Rules), and any additional proposed or final rules that may be issued prior to the commencement of this course.

Legal Method and Ethics (3 credits)

This highly interactive, skills-centered course prepares MSL students for success in law school classrooms. Topics to be covered include: the adversary system and the legal profession; thinking like a lawyer; basics of the American judicial system (civil and criminal); introduction to legal reasoning/case law method; statutory analysis; legal history; introduction to legal research and writing; ethics; and comparative law.

Negotiation (2 credits)

This course examines the skills, constraints, and dynamics of the negotiation process. A theoretical framework for understanding negotiation practice in a variety of contexts will be developed through readings and highly interactive exercises and role-plays. The course addresses the fundamental skills of systematic and thorough negotiation preparation, the ongoing management of a negotiation process, and the identification and achievement of optimal agreements. Legal and ethical constraints of negotiation also are considered. Course content is drawn from the fields of law, psychology, business, and communication.

Theories of Conflict (2 credits)

This interdisciplinary course introduces students to important theoretical perspectives on our understanding of conflict and conflict response. Specifically, students explore the biological/ physiological, psychodynamic, social psychological, communication and sociological/political perspectives on conflict by reading and discussing major theoretical works within each perspective. Emphasis is on comparing and distinguishing key dimensions of these theories, such as the nature and sources of conflict, conflict escalation, conflict response, and the nature of the third party role. Classes follow an interactive format. Using case studies, exercises, and group discussion to draw upon personal experiences, including those involving race and social identity, the course explores the usefulness of each perspective to understanding the experience of conflict.

Torts I (3 credits)

Focuses on civil actions for injury to person, property, or intangible interest on claims of intentional wrongs, negligence, or strict liability. Torts I is a vehicle to teach development of the common law. The content of this course is tested on the bar exam in a majority of states.

For more information about Hamline Law's Master in the Study of Law (MSL), visit: law.hamline.edu/msl