

Middle Tennessee State University

2026-2027 Graduate Catalog [Working]

Legal Studies, Entertainment Concentration, M.S.

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The Department of Accounting offers an M.S. in Legal Studies with concentrations in Anti-Money Laundering, Fraud, and Compliance; Business Law; and Entertainment. This is a versatile, non-thesis program designed for business professionals and individuals seeking a deeper understanding of U.S. laws and the legal system but who will not practice law and do not require a Juris Doctor degree. Housed in MTSU's AACSB-accredited Jennings A. Jones College of Business, and offered in collaboration with the Scott Borchetta College of Media and Entertainment and the Nashville School of Law (NSL), the program equips students with a broad understanding of the U.S. legal system.

The Legal Studies Entertainment Concentration, M.S. offers learners a broad understanding of the legal issues and regulatory frameworks impacting the entertainment and media industries. Learners will explore topics pertinent to the entertainment business, such as drafting and negotiating entertainment industry contracts and copyright and trademark law. The curriculum emphasizes the practical application of legal concepts in creative and commercial contexts, with opportunities to probe into many of the unique legal challenges of the entertainment sector.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the program director to schedule a phone, virtual, or in-person meeting. The program director also serves as the academic advisor and welcomes prospective applicants to learn more about the program's structure and how it may align with applicants' academic and professional goals.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the M.S. in Legal Studies Entertainment concentration requires one of the following:

1. a graduate or professional degree from an accredited institution of higher education. If the applicant was enrolled in another graduate program but did not earn a degree from that program, they must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 on all graduate work from an accredited institution of higher education and a minimum of 2.75 on all undergraduate work from an accredited institution of higher education.
2. a bachelor's degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education with GPA of 3.00 or higher;
3. an earned bachelor's degree with a GPA of 2.75 from an accredited institution of higher education or higher and five (5) or more years of professional/managerial or military experience.

NOTE: *These are minimum requirements. All steps in the Application Procedures below and the supportive materials described in those steps are required and must be received by the College of Graduate Studies before the applicant will be considered for admission.*

Application Procedures

All application materials are to be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies.

Students admitted to the Entertainment concentration begin this program with summer core courses. Applicants are encouraged to apply early as space for the Nashville School of Law courses may be limited. Completed applications must be submitted by March 1 to receive priority admission consideration for the upcoming summer start. Applications will be accepted after March 1, but admission consideration is not guaranteed. Applicants must submit the following:

1. an application with the appropriate application fee (online at www.mtsu.edu/graduate/apply.php). Once this initial application has been accepted, the applicant will receive directions on how to enter the graduate portal to be able to submit other materials.
 2. official transcripts from all previously attended colleges or universities;
 3. a resume or curriculum vitae that includes
 - Full name, address, and phone number;
 - Post-secondary institutions attended, including GPA, major, minor and degrees earned;
 - Employment history, including employer names, job titles, dates of employment, and brief description of responsibilities.
 4. a professional statement and in two to three double-spaced pages describe:
 - Why you are interested in this specific program
 - Your professional and academic goals
 - Why you feel you will be successful in this program.
 5. a signed Consent/FERPA Release Form (available in the application portal) authorizing the exchange of academic information with the Nashville School of Law.
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Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Legal Studies with a concentration in Entertainment requires completion of 30 semester hours.

Candidate must

1. complete a minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate coursework, which includes the required courses, with a minimum GPA of 3.0.
 2. complete all courses within six (6) years from the time of admission.
 3. have no more than six (6) credit hours of C grade coursework applied toward the master's degree.
 4. have no grade below a C- applied toward the degree; however, all grades are included in the calculation of the cumulative GPA.
 5. reapply for admission if one or more semesters is missed, excluding summers, regardless of the reason. If admission requirements have changed since their initial admission, students applying for readmission will have to meet the new requirements.
 6. take no more than 30 percent of the total degree hours dual listed as undergraduate/graduate hours (5000-level courses).
 7. not apply any undergraduate courses toward the graduate program requirements.
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Curriculum: Legal Studies, Entertainment Concentration

The following illustrates the minimum coursework requirements.

NOTE for NSL Courses: *The program is designed with two core courses to be taken as an enrolled student at the Nashville School of Law (NSL). Students will pay NSL tuition and fees directly to NSL for these two courses (1054L Contracts and 1064L Legal Skills and Values). Students admitted to this concentration must be admitted to and granted permission by NSL to register for the NSL courses. NSL courses start in the fall and end in the spring based on NSL's academic calendar.*

Transfer credits: *MTSU will transfer each NSL course grade on a pass/fail basis. Students must request and submit their NSL transcript to the College of Graduate Studies at MTSU for transfer credit processing. NSL credit hour calculations differ from MTSU calculations. Each 3 credit-hour NSL course transfers to MTSU as 4 credit-hours. An NSL course grade that is equal to or above the NSL standard to remain in good academic standing according to NSL policy will transfer as a passing grade. A grade that is below the NSL standard to remain in good academic standing transfers to MTSU as a failing grade and will not count for credit towards the degree.*

Core Courses (12 hours)

- [BLAW 6510 - Introduction to Law and the U.S. Legal System](#) 1 credit hours
- [RIM 6760 - Legal Ethics](#) 3 credit hours
- 1054L - Contracts 4 credit hours (Nashville School of Law)
- 1064L - Legal Skills and Values I 4 credit hours (Nashville School of Law)

Concentration Courses (18 hours)

Entertainment Law Fundamentals (9 hours)

- [RIM 6710 - Drafting and Negotiating Entertainment Industry Contracts](#) 3 credit hours
- [RIM 6720 - Copyright and Trademark Law](#) 3 credit hours
- [RIM 6730 - Legal Issues in the Entertainment Industry](#) 3 credit hours

Professional Project (3 hours)

- [RIM 6780 - Professional Project](#) 3 credit hours

Electives (6 hours)

Two of the following:

- [ACTG 6010 - Foundations of Accounting I](#) 3 credit hours
- [ACTG 6030 - Foundations of Accounting III](#) 3 credit hours
- [BCED 6820 - Managerial Communication](#) 3 credit hours
- [BIA 6905 - Applied Business Analytics](#) 3 credit hours
- [BLAW 6500 - Legal Aspects of Healthcare](#) 3 credit hours
- [BLAW 6520 - Current Legal Topics in Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Fraud](#) 3 credit hours
- [BLAW 6530 - Survey of Selected Business Law Topics](#) 3 credit hours
- [ECON 5510 - Unions and Collective Bargaining](#) 3 credit hours
- [MGMT 6750 - Business Ethics](#) 3 credit hours
- [MGMT 6670 - Seminar in Negotiation](#) 3 credit hours
- [PHIL 6100 - Techniques in Reasoning and Argumentation](#) 3 credit hours

- [RIM 6020 - The Music Industry: Revenues, Rights, and Professions](#) **3 credit hours**
 - [RIM 6740 - International Intellectual Property Law](#) **3 credit hours**
 - [RIM 6750 - Social Media and the Law](#) **3 credit hours**
 - [RIM 6770 - Valuation and Acquisition of Entertainment Rights](#) **3 credit hours**
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Program Notes

Students planning to graduate in the minimum amount of time, including summer attendance, should plan their courses carefully to meet course sequencing and scheduling constraints. Students need to contact the program director each semester and seek scheduling guidance with the program director (or other person designated by the Department of Accounting) in advance of priority registration.