

PROGRAM FEE REQUEST

University: **University of Arizona** College: **James E. Rogers College of Law**
 Program: **Master of Legal Studies (MLS)**

Graduate Undergraduate Upper Division Lower Division Both

New	\$	Fall 2016	Proposed fee to be applied as:
	(Proposed)	(Effective Date)	<input type="checkbox"/> Per Term X Per Unit , Total of 30 Units per Program
Proposed:			Proposed fee to be applied:
\$26,000-fixed (excluding mandatory fees), applied as \$866.67/unit (per credit) plus mandatory fees			X Fall X Spring X Summer X Winter
Current:			Date Submitted: November, 2015
\$18,000-fixed (total degree) / \$600/unit fixed (per credit) (Year Approved 2015)			

Rationale for Request (~100 words)

The Master of Legal Studies (MLS) degree program was introduced Fall 2013, in response to demand from non-lawyers who seek training in specific areas of law. The program is designed for professionals practicing in areas such as journalism, government, hospital administration, education administration, human relations, criminal and juvenile justice, the court system, business, and other professionals who work with lawyers or in heavily regulated settings.

The existing program fee (tuition) is currently a flat/fixed rate tuition of \$18,000, applied on a prorated per-unit basis of \$600/unit. A continued per unit tuition structure is necessary in order to accommodate the program's part-time students, most of whom are working professionals who participate in the program over a longer term period (averaging 4-6 terms, vs. 2 terms). After having 2 years of successful experience with the MLS program, we have determined that the cost of instruction and market factors necessitate the program's rate be increased to \$26,000-fixed tuition, applied on a prorated **per-unit basis of \$866.67/unit for the 30 unit program plus mandatory fees**. The existing rate of \$18,000 has been priced under market, in comparison to the average tuition rate of several competing institutions, with an average MLS tuition rate of ~\$31,000 (see referenced list). \$26,000 program cost is therefore still competitively priced. Consistent with the MLS current pricing structure, mandatory fees to be applied in addition to the fixed-unit price of \$866.67/unit.

Compliance with Board Guidelines (~250 words)

Quality of Student Experience: As a highly-regulated professional program, our accreditation process mandates significant resource inputs and quality checks to ensure a high-quality experience for students in all programs. Tuition funding has been and will be applied to improve the College's library and research materials, student affairs areas, career and professional development opportunities, faculty services, and increase the course offerings and focus areas to meet student demands.

Access and Affordability: An extensive review of similar degree programs across the country was undertaken to determine a student-competitive price for UA's program. Included in this review were other professional degree programs that are complimentary to the MLS, such as the MBA, MPH, and MPA. The all-inclusive price of \$26,000 (charged as \$866.67 per unit) PLUS MANDATORY FEES falls just below the middle of the group and is highly advantageous for students. Since this is a professional program, no financial aid from set aside will be awarded, but scholarship funds may be available.

Cost of Instruction: The costs of instruction include, but are not limited to, the amount of individual, student-focused time faculty spend with each student, the costs of providing a fully-equipped legal library, as well as research and instructional facilities, administration, and student support funds necessary to make all law programs successful. There are cost efficiencies in that the library costs are already fixed and there is significant overlap in courses, administrative costs, materials and operating costs from the existing JD and all other legal programs. Annual expenditures include costs incurred against base tuition, program fees, and/or state funds.

Increased Earnings Potential of Program Graduates: The MLS program attracts students in search of a professional master's degree or those who already hold a graduate degree or who would like grounding in legal

concepts. A degree such as the MLS open opportunities to a broad field of professional areas, or simply advance the student's current career. Given the customizable nature of this degree, earnings potential of graduates will largely depend upon the students' backgrounds and current careers. This professional program should benefit the earnings potential of all graduates.

Student Consultation (~100 words)

The original and existing MLS program was advertised to students as a fixed/flat tuition cost of \$18,000 – an all-inclusive cost to complete the degree. Prior to moving to a per unit fee structure, the program's tuition structure was tied to the University's full-time tuition criteria of 9+ units, and as such, part-time students who took longer than 1 year to complete the program were disadvantaged by having to pay tuition costs far in excess of the program's intended fixed/flat rate of \$18,000. The continued per unit rate structure implemented in Fall '15 (currently proposed at \$866.67 plus mandatory fees), will continue to facilitate part-time enrollment and keep the program affordable.

Students have been advised that the existing rate of \$18,000-fixed tuition was priced below the University graduate base tuition, and thus priced below market value. Students are advised the new rate of \$26,000-fixed (\$866.67/unit plus mandatory fees) remains competitively priced and helps provide quality services and instruction consistent with the pricing structure of all non-JD College of Law professional programs.

MARKET PRICING (~200)

The schedule below shows the annual tuition for similar programs across the country. MLS programs are relatively new nationwide but have begun to expand rapidly. Tuition and fees reflect the 2015-16 rates (or most current available).

Program	Tuition & Fees
University of San Diego MS in Legal Studies	\$43,613
Wake Forest MLS	\$41,402
ASU MLS Program	\$31,200
University of Pittsburgh MSL	\$31,586 (R) \$39,410 (NR)
UA MLS Program	\$26,000
Grand Canyon University MS in Criminal Justice and Legal Studies	\$20,550
West Virginia University MLS	\$18,234

ACCOUNTABILITY

Proposed Annual Revenue

Program Fee	\$	26,000 (\$866.67/unit * 30)
Number of Students	#	~35 full-time equiv.
Total Revenue	=	\$910,000

Proposed Annual Expenditures

Administrative Charge (14.38%; 12.38% RCM tax + 2% SI)	\$	131,000
Institutional and Advising Personnel	\$	450,000
Support Staff Expense	\$	210,000
Operating Expenses/Student Services and Support, other	\$	119,000
Total Program Costs	=	910,000