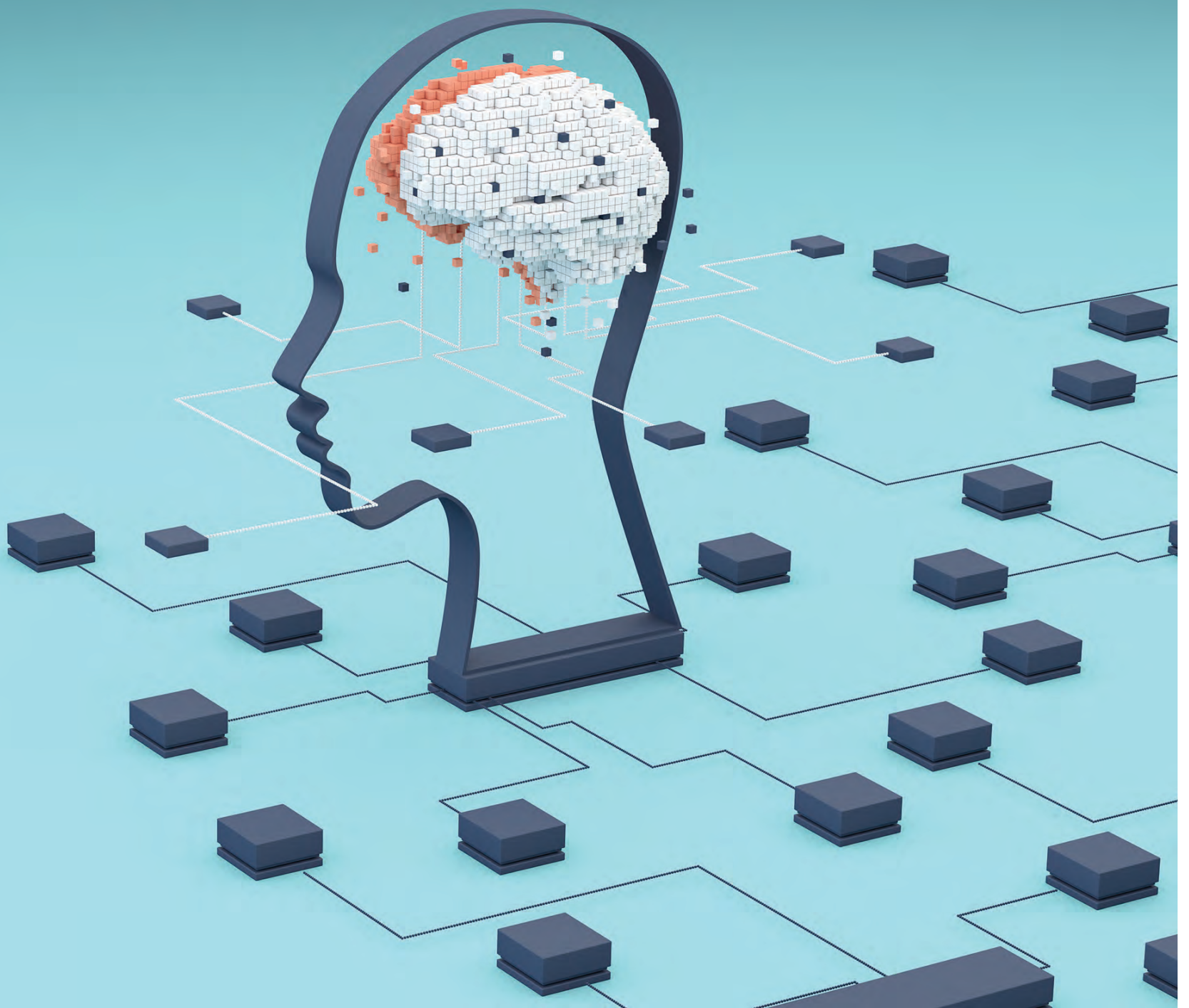


# Higher Education & ONLINE LEARNING



ONE OF THE TOPICS ON MANY OF OUR READERS' MINDS IS EDUCATION. THEY WANT TO EXPLORE THE BENEFITS of an advanced degree for themselves or their employees. They want to know about the latest trends in MBAs, masters degrees and what is being studied. And they want to know what higher education institutions are doing to stand apart from the competition.

This special supplement to the Los Angeles Business Journal takes a look at some of the top executive education programs in the region that are taking local professionals to the next level of excellence, while we also dig into some of the trends affecting the education landscape and how – through innovative programs such as online learning platforms – schools are preparing professionals to withstand and overcome challenges and unforeseen circumstances such as the global pandemic and economic hurdles.

## HIGHER EDUCATION &amp; ONLINE LEARNING



## Creative Education Backed by Powerhouse Academics

Woodbury University has earned a reputation as a leading creative university thanks to nationally ranked programs in its School of Architecture and School of Media, Culture & Design.

What makes the university unique among its peers are the unparalleled academic offerings of its School of Business and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. At Woodbury students acquire a well-rounded, world-class education that prepares them for a life others can only dream of—a life where you can carve out your own path and truly make a difference.

Woodbury's location in Southern California—the global epicenter of creativity and influence—and its connection to the most iconic and innovative companies in the country give the school a unique edge. Its internship program (required) means students gain practical work experience before graduation.

What's your dream job? Working on feature

films? Designing games? Animating a series? Many of Woodbury's students not only intern with leaders in these industries but accept full-time positions with them upon graduation. Or maybe you have a mission—a cause about which you feel passionate. Designing sustainable housing for underserved communities; using communications to influence public opinion and drive social change; being the business mind at the table that makes progress happen. Thanks to the exceptional education offered at Woodbury, many students go on to enjoy extraordinary and fulfilling careers. Many even start their own businesses.

Woodbury's faculty are among the most professionally accomplished in higher education, and its 9:1 faculty-to-student ratio guarantees unhindered access to their expertise and insights. The university offers degrees in Architecture, Animation, Filmmaking, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Game Art

& Design, Interior Design, Media Studies, Professional Writing, Accounting, Marketing, Management, Business Administration, Construction Management, Psychology, Environmental Sciences, Public Safety Administration, Sustainable Practices, Fashion Marketing, Political Science, History, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science Data Analytics, and Applied Computer Science in Media Arts. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences even offers an Interdisciplinary Studies major where faculty collaborate with students to create unique course plans based on the student's passions and life goals.

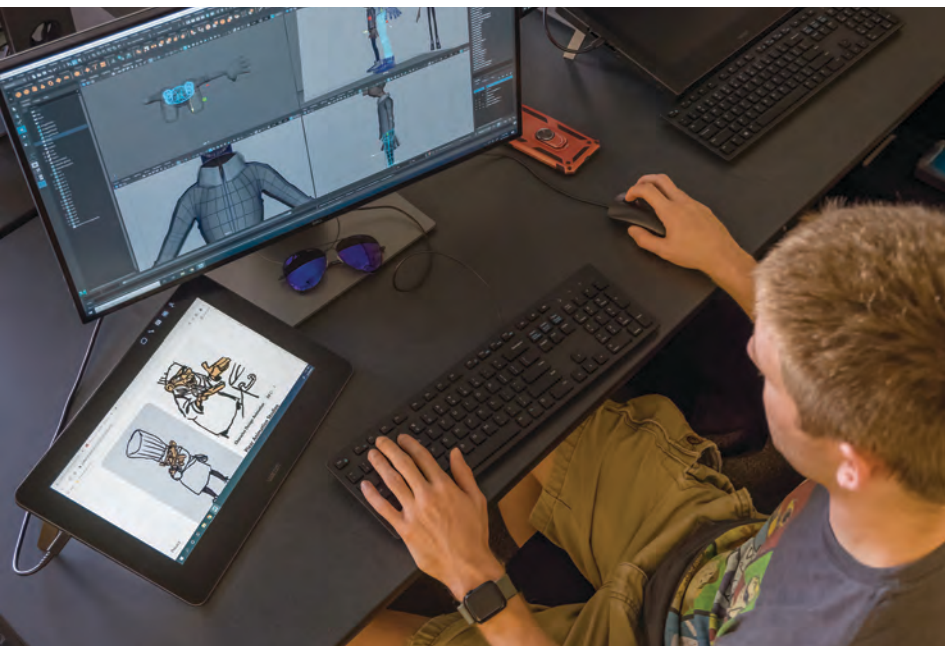
Woodbury is recognized as an Hispanic Serving Institution and has been named a College of Distinction for seven years running. The university has earned NASAD (MCD, architecture), AACSB (business), WSCUC, ACBSP (business), CIDA (architecture), and NAAB (architecture) accreditations.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

The truth is that Woodbury is not for everyone. If you're looking for football teams and pep rallies, the school is likely not for you. If you're looking for a never-ending party or a place where you can pick up just enough lingo to fake it until you make it, Woodbury would save you the effort of applying. But if you're passionate about your work and maybe have felt unheard, this university gets you. If you've struggled in a standardized testing environment but know that you have something powerful to share, Woodbury can help you.

If you're serious about your future and want to learn from the best, most accomplished minds in the world, Woodbury welcomes you. Talk to Woodbury's admissions team and find out why Woodbury University is your school.

Learn more at [Woodbury.edu](http://Woodbury.edu).



# BUILDING BETTER EXECUTIVES

At Woodbury School of Business, our Executive Education offerings create more thoughtful business leaders who succeed for all the right reasons. We not only teach the skills needed in today's business world, but we also help you stay true to your personal North Star.

- > 9:1 Student-to-Faculty Ratio
- > Highly Accomplished Faculty
- > Affordable Tuition and Generous Financial Aid Packages

Take the next step. Contact Woodbury today.

VISIT [WOODBURY.EDU/PROGRAM/SCHOOL-OF-BUSINESS/PROGRAMS/MBA/](https://www.woodbury.edu/program/school-of-business/programs/mba/) OR SCAN THIS QR CODE TO LEARN MORE.



**PROUDLY RECOGNIZED AS AN HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION**



## HIGHER EDUCATION &amp; ONLINE LEARNING

# Riverside Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson Applies Her Training Daily

“Knowing myself provides me with the confidence to proceed in the face of criticism,” said Patricia Lock Dawson, mayor of the City of Riverside and a current candidate in the Executive MBA program at the Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University (CGU).

Sworn in as the city’s mayor in 2020, Dawson has pursued a robust agenda to bring resources to the city as she juggles the demands of her academic experiences at the Drucker School. But her work as a student is actually paying big dividends in her role as public servant. She says the principles taught by the late Peter Drucker, a longtime member of the CGU faculty and the father of modern management, have made her more effective in her civic role.

“Drucker’s idea that ‘the best way to predict the future is to create it’ drives me daily,” she said. “In fact, it’s inspired this year’s State of the City address, which is titled ‘Building Tomorrow Today.’ I’m creating the future economy in Riverside by establishing the city as a global center for green and clean technology.”

Dawson said Riverside’s challenges with air quality and traffic “create a living laboratory for innovative environmental research and technology,” and she credits Professors Hideki Yamawaki and Kristine Kawamura for giving her a lens to treat these issues as opportunities for attracting businesses and driving investment into the city’s economy.

That ability to find silver linings is something that has grown for Dawson thanks to her experiences as a management student.

“I used to approach my development from



a deficit viewpoint, focusing on my weaknesses and looking for ways to improve or fix myself,” she explained, “but Drucker principles taught me that knowing my strengths and building on them was a much better use of my time and efforts.”

Management schools often overlook a crucial aspect of leadership: To manage teams effectively, you have to first be able to manage yourself.

That ability to recognize one’s strengths and blind spots was something Drucker empha-

sized—and today that concept of “managing oneself” is a signature part of the Drucker EMBA program that is taught by Professor Jeremy Hunter, who has revolutionized the field by introducing Eastern practices of mindfulness into management training.

“In my role as mayor, my judgment and decisions are often questioned and harshly critiqued,” said Dawson. “Knowing myself provides me with the confidence to proceed in the face of criticism. My classes with Professors Jeremy Hunter and Chris Laszlo taught

me grounding techniques and gave me the resources to build resilience and flourish in my leadership role.”

Dawson’s Drucker training is clearly paying off. In addition to regular media coverage highlighting her efforts to help the city, she also applied and was accepted into the competitive Bloomberg Harvard City Initiative. She was one of only 38 mayors selected from around the world to participate in this year-long program that includes support and coaching to establish a clean and green innovation economy in Riverside.

The Drucker School’s low teacher-student ratio has enabled Dawson to work closely with all of her professors, including Dean David Sprott, who is collaborating with her on a capstone project in her final semester that will leverage her work with Harvard. Additionally, as a member of the state’s Big City Mayors’ Coalition, she has secured millions in funding for youth workforce development as well as homeless programs by identifying opportunities in the state.

If she could give one piece of advice to up-and-coming executives about the key to her success, what would it be?

“Relationships are everything, so build them, nurture them, and be trustworthy,” Dawson explained. “Important relationships can develop with anyone. Never discount someone because you think they aren’t powerful or able to help you.”

*Learn more about the Executive MBA program at the Drucker School at [cgu.edu](http://cgu.edu).*

## Survey Reveals that Adaptations in Education are Powered by Technology

The Executive MBA Council (EMBAC) recently announced the results of its 2021 EMBAC Membership Program Survey, which revealed EMBA Programs made greater use of technology and format adaptations – with 88.6 percent of schools now reporting offering some form of distance learning compared to 73.9 percent in 2020 and just 55.3 percent in 2019.

“Clearly the global pandemic is driving acceleration in the use of technology, and is evidence of how adaptable our member programs are,” said Michael Desiderio, executive director of EMBAC.

The results also show the average number of applications received per program increased by 17 percent in 2021 compared to 2020. Along with this increase, inquiries rose 3 percent in 2021 compared to 2020.

“Despite the uncertainty of the global pandemic, interest in EMBA programs remains strong,” said Desiderio. “That said, more inquiries and applications didn’t necessarily translate into increased enrollments as average class size dipped a bit from 47 in 2020 to 44 in 2021.”

Despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, EMBA Programs continue to innovate and adapt, with 47.6 percent indicating a change in program delivery this year, compared to 30.3 percent in 2020. The big-

gest changes result from online and virtual or blended and hybrid additions.

Programs have expanded their use of technology in other ways: Almost four out of five EMBA Programs in the survey purchased cases electronically, and the purchase of electronic books rose from 30.7 percent in 2020 to 35.6 percent in 2021. Programs that use other electronic course materials also increased from 33.5 percent in 2020 to 36 percent in 2021.

In addition to these trends, the findings also show that the percentage of female enrollment in EMBA programs is at its highest ever – now reaching 33 percent in 2021, compared to 30 percent in 2017.

“While there is work to be done, EMBA programs are chipping away each year at closing the gender gap,” said Desiderio.

Additional insights from the survey include:

Executive coaching continues to be an integral part of EMBA Programs: 88.1 percent of EMBA Programs offered executive coaching in 2021, up from 83.3 percent in 2020.

The percentage of students who received full financial sponsorship dipped, while self-sponsorship increased slightly. The percentage of self-funded students rose from 53.8 percent in 2020 to 56.2 percent in 2021, and 15.2 percent of students received full sponsorship in 2021, compared to 17.6 percent in 2020.



Almost 60 percent of programs offer scholarships or fellowships, and almost one-third of EMBA students receive scholarships or fellowships.

The EMBA Council currently includes nearly 200 colleges and universities that administer close to 300 programs in more than 30 countries worldwide. Each year, EMBAC

conducts a Membership Program Survey using the current methodology annually since 2003. In 2021, the survey was conducted by Percept Research, held from June 22 to Aug. 29, 2021, and was completed by approximately 84% of the EMBA member programs.

*To learn more, visit [embac.org](http://embac.org).*



**NANCY LEPAGE**  
PhD Student in  
Education

# Ignite: *action*

## Creating a Voice for Vulnerable Students

Nancy LePage never expected to experience food and housing insecurity. But, when her mother moved out of state and LePage stayed, she soon found herself without a dependable place to live and at the mercy of predatory landlords. Today, as a PhD student in Education, she's developing tools to understand the challenges facing many students in similar situations and helping to influence policy so that they get the assistance they need.

*Ignite Action. Explore CGU.*



To read more about Nancy and other CGU success stories, go to [cgu.edu/ignite](https://cgu.edu/ignite)



**Claremont Graduate University**  
*#carrytheflame*

## HIGHER EDUCATION &amp; ONLINE LEARNING

# Leading the Way in Distance Learning

U.S. News & World Report, a publication that ranks higher education programs, has again recognized the quality of the University of La Verne's online programs in three of its 2022 rankings.

Among California colleges and universities offering online bachelor's degree programs, the University of La Verne ranked sixth. It also ranked second for undergraduate business programs in the state. The online MBA program ranked eighth among California institutions. More than 1,600 online degree programs across the country were assessed as part of the annual rankings.

Students enrolling at the University of La

Verne have a variety of course delivery options to meet their individual needs. La Verne Online offers high-quality academic programs, small class sizes, and personal attention from experienced faculty and advisors.

These personalized, flexible, career-focused programs are designed for working professionals to advance their careers with lessons that can be applied on the job.

The U.S. News & World Report rankings are based on a weighted grouping of results factored as important to student success. Among these are educational best practices, graduation rates, assessments, class size, retention rates, student indebtedness,

technological infrastructure, and support services.

Faculty preparedness to teach distance learners is also factored into the final ranking report.

The University of La Verne offers 12 online undergraduate and graduate programs.

Among the most popular are the Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management, Master of Business Administration for Experienced Professionals (MBAX), and Master of Science in Leadership and Management.

Starting this fall, the College of Business and Public Management will offer a new

Doctor of Business Administration degree program fully online.

University of La Verne's distance programs are available to residents in California and other select states.

Founded in 1891, the University of La Verne is a private, nonprofit, comprehensive institution founded on four core values: lifelong learning, ethical reasoning, civic and community engagement, and diversity and inclusivity. The university serves students on the historic La Verne campus as well as across regional campuses and online.

Visit [univ.lv/online](https://univ.lv/online) for more information.



## Build Your Career with La Verne Online

**Top-ranked bachelor's and master's programs.**

Rated among the best in  
*U.S. News & World Report's*  
2022 Best Online Programs

[univ.lv/online](https://univ.lv/online)

University of La Verne

# Redefining Excellence in Online Learning

In today's rapidly evolving workplace, an increasing number of roles and responsibilities intersect with legal matters more than ever. In response to these changes, higher education has evolved as well, with USC's Gould School of Law leading at the forefront to meet these needs.

In 2016, USC Gould – ranked among the top law schools nationwide – launched its innovative, online Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degree, which helps non-lawyer professionals enhance their business expertise with an essential legal education. From contracts and compliance, to finance and HR, to cybersecurity and IP, the online MSL program offers a uniquely specialized curriculum to give students a broad understanding of core legal concepts.

## ABOUT THE MSL AND ITS BENEFITS

USC Gould's MSL degree is a career-focused program, providing students with skills and knowledge on important legal issues related to their professional fields. It has attracted non-lawyer professionals from a diverse range of industries and sectors, including business, finance, media, entertainment, human resources and health care, among numerous other areas.

Students have the option to complete the degree 100% online, and the flexibility to study part-time, which makes the MSL an ideal format to balance the demands of work schedules. Much of the online coursework and learning activities may be completed at a student's individual convenience. Throughout the program, students are supported by a team of experienced

advisors who provide one-on-one guidance, from course selection to career development.

Taught by dedicated, distinguished faculty, including leading experts and scholars, the online classroom experience is collaborative and features small class sizes, allowing for greater student-and-instructor interaction. Each class also offers live sessions, where students attend discussions together virtually in real time, further elevating the learning opportunities.

No LSAT or GRE test is required; and no prior law degree is required either. USC Gould considers scholarships automatically for all applicants.

In addition, the benefits extend far beyond the classroom. Graduates of the MSL program gain access to the global Trojan Family network, which includes connections to more than 14,000 USC Gould alumni.

## TAILORED TO MEET YOUR GOALS

MSL students can customize their educational experience to meet their individual interests and career goals, by pursuing certificates aligned with their respective fields. These certificate programs can be completed at no additional cost, as a part of your MSL education.

Industry-specific certificate programs include:

- Business Law
- Entertainment Law and Industry
- Human Resources Law and Compliance
- Privacy Law and Cybersecurity
- Compliance
- Financial Compliance
- Health Care Compliance

## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

USC Gould partners with numerous organizations that offer scholarship savings for employees. Benefits also include personalized application support and individual academic advising.

To explore partnership opportunities, or to learn more about partner benefits, please contact USC Gould at [corporatecustomed@law.usc.edu](mailto:corporatecustomed@law.usc.edu) or visit [bit.ly/usc-corporate-ed](http://bit.ly/usc-corporate-ed).



Recently, the MSL program expanded its popular online Entertainment Law and Industry Certificate with new course offerings that cover Dealmaking in the Entertainment Industry; Digital Media Transactions; Music Law in Practice; and Negotiation Skills.

To learn more about the USC Gould School of Law's groundbreaking MSL program, as well as courses, certificates and upcoming deadlines, visit [bit.ly/usc-law-msl](http://bit.ly/usc-law-msl).

## Online Master of Studies in Law (MSL)

USC master's program for non-lawyer professionals

- > Flexible, online format
- > No GMAT, GRE or LSAT required
- > No prior law degree required
- > Partner scholarships available

Legal education to strengthen your organization from the inside out.

Specialize In: Business Law | Privacy Law & Cybersecurity | HR Law and Compliance | Entertainment Law | Compliance | Financial Compliance | Health Care Compliance

To find out more, visit <https://bit.ly/usc-law-msl>

**USC Gould**  
School of Law