

SCALE® 2-Year J.D. Program

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S A N G E L E S

SCALE students at the promenade



SCALE®—The Leading Accelerated J.D. Program

The SCALE 2-year accelerated J.D. program provides a unique opportunity to complete your J.D. degree in two years within a cohort of bright, diverse, and highly motivated colleagues.

With significant flexibility in the summer between the first and second year, the opportunity for up to two externships, and the choice of electives in the second year, SCALE students are able to create areas of focus in criminal law, civil litigation, entertainment, immigration, international law, and many others. The flexible skill-centered curriculum allows graduates to become practice-ready in just two years. SCALE students participate in honors programs adding a further dimension to their skill set and studies.

SCALE Program Highlights

- Smaller class size, fostering a close-knit student community and a rich classroom experience
- Professors who are highly invested in the SCALE approach and working closely with students
- Eligibility to participate in co-curricular programs such as Moot Court, Negotiation, and Trial Advocacy Honors Programs; Southwestern Law Review and Southwestern International Law Journal
- A flexible second-year curriculum created through a choice of summer session electives, second-year elective choices, particular externship placements (e.g., entertainment, international, criminal, or public interest law), and honors programs participation.
- A guaranteed full-time externship
- A three-year J.D./M.B.A. option with the Drucker Graduate School of Management
- A large and supportive network of SCALE graduates who practice in more than 40 states and internationally



“

SCALE exceeded my expectations. It’s been incredibly in-depth learning with top-notch professors. Truly, it’s people from the best schools in the country who are super-committed to teaching, with a class size that’s intimate, but also diverse and compelling.”

ORLY RAVID

’14, Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP,
The Film Collaborative

SCALE Program Structure

The SCALE academic calendar differs from semester-based J.D. programs:

- Instruction begins in **mid-June**
- The program is divided into **three parts** over the two years:

SCALE I (Periods 1-4) June - May	Mandatory 10-week Summer Session	SCALE II (Periods 5-8) August - May
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SCALE I	
Courses	Units
PERIOD 1 (11 weeks)	
Contracts I	3
Introduction to Lawyering	-
LAWS I ¹	3
Torts	4
PERIOD 2 (12 weeks)	
Contracts II	2
Criminal Law	3
Evidence Law and Practice I	3
Legal Profession	3
PERIOD 3 (12 weeks)	
Civil Litigation	3
Evidence Law and Practice II	3
LAWS II ¹	2
Property	4
PERIOD 4 (11 weeks)	
Agency and Partnership, Copyright, or Negotiation and Dispute Resolution	2 or 3
Criminal Procedure	3
Jurisdiction	3
Lecture Series on the Profession ²	-
Remedies with Exam-writing course	2

SCALE SUMMER SESSION (10 weeks)	
Independent Study on the Profession	2
Options:	4 to 6
Summer Abroad Program	
Summer Elective Course(s)	
Summer Externship	

SCALE II	
Courses	Units
PERIOD 5 (10 weeks)	
Cal Bar Writing: Skills and Strategies	3
Community Property	2
Constitutional Law I	3
Legislation	2
PERIOD 6 (10 weeks)	
Business Associations	4
Constitutional Law II	3
MBE Course	1
Required Traditional Fall Elective in lieu of Legislation	2 to 3
Traditional Fall Elective	2 to 3
PERIOD 7 (10 weeks)	
Intersession Course ³	1 to 2
MBE Course	1
Representing Entrepreneurs or Elective	3
Required Spring Elective	-
Wills and Trusts	4
PERIOD 8 (10 weeks)	
Mandatory 8-week Externship	5
MBE Course	1
Required Spring Elective	2 to 3
Trial Advocacy or Spring Elective	2 to 3

- 1 Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills
- 2 Units for the Independent Study Paper satisfy 2 units of the 6-unit Summer Session requirement and will be based on the Lecture Series on the Profession
- 3 1-2 units, if needed to meet the 87 unit requirement

SCALE I Curriculum

The first year of SCALE provides students with a solid grounding in the substantive coverage typically found in first- and some second-year traditional courses. It also exposes students to the interrelationship among legal concepts, and instruction in the development of legal writing and beginning lawyering skills. The SCALE I curriculum utilizes a variety of skills exercises in multiple courses both to teach lawyering skills and to reinforce substantive content. For example, in Evidence Law and Practice, students participate in small evidence labs and apply recently learned rules of evidence.

SCALE students become more familiar with each other as they work together, have the benefit of feedback from numerous faculty members, and gain a deeper understanding of concepts as they develop comfort and experience in oral advocacy. SCALE I students are tested at the end of each period. Frequent testing and feedback on oral and written exercises allow for enhanced learning and academic support intervention when necessary.

SCALE II Curriculum

SCALE II focuses on more advanced substantive courses and transactions similar to those conducted by attorneys. Through a hands-on approach, students build on concepts learned during the first year and are able to acquire and practice additional lawyering skills.

Externships provide opportunities for students to utilize lawyering skills introduced in the SCALE program as well as a rich opportunity for networking, career exploration, and further professional development. Students have two opportunities to participate in an externship, during the mandatory Summer Session where students may participate in an externship in entertainment, government, public interest, judicial, or in-house legal departments, and then during Period 8 of SCALE II where students participate in a guaranteed externship.

SCALE Mandatory Summer Session

During the Summer Session, SCALE students choose from several options and are also required to write a paper:

- Participation in an externship
- Enrollment in one or two summer electives
- Participation in a summer abroad program

Which can be supplemented by:

- A paid summer associate position with a law firm or government agency
- A paid or volunteer work with a professor as a research assistant



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I was looking for something that wasn't just the typical three-year program. What I found fascinating about SCALE was that you could finish in two years, get all the same material—but in a different format—and be part of a close-knit group of students for the whole program.”

STEPHEN SULLIVAN

'06, Partner,
O'Melveny & Myers

SCALE Two-Year Entertainment and Media Law Program

The SCALE Two-Year Entertainment and Media Law Program combines the strengths of Southwestern's Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute with the attraction of an accelerated curriculum. The first year of the program is consistent with the traditional SCALE program for all four periods. In the first summer of this program students take an entertainment-related externship, and/or entertainment-related electives, and/or take part in the London Summer Abroad Program in International Entertainment and Media Law at the University of London.

In the second year, SCALE students take up to four electives from the traditional Fall and Spring semester entertainment courses and will take those classes with the traditional three-year J.D. students. The final period of the SCALE Entertainment and Media Law Program is a guaranteed externship. Ideally the externship will be entertainment-related at such companies as BMG Chrysalis, CBS Corporation, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, PBS, or Warner Music Group.

SCALE Student Community

There is tremendous cohesiveness among SCALE students fostered by:

- small class cohort for the full two-year program
- small group projects
- study groups
- SCALE student/alumni networking receptions and presentations

Typical SCALE incoming classes have varied in size from about 35 to 50 students; the average age is 27, with a range from 20 to over 40; and the class is made up of a relatively equal percentage of men and women. Approximately 30 percent of the incoming students enter SCALE directly from college, and it is not uncommon for entering SCALE students to have graduate degrees in a wide variety of disciplines.

A typical class includes graduates of more than 20 undergraduate institutions around the country and is diversified in areas of interest, foreign languages spoken, and work experience. Students in recent classes have included a research scientist from the Mayo Clinic, a registered patent agent for an international biotechnology company, a refugee coordinator for the U.N., an assistant to a U.S. congresswoman, and a Tony Award-winning performer.



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SCALE is more of a nontraditional program, and you can really get hands-on experience. In class, we would read cases and learn legal concepts and theories, but we would also learn how to argue appellate briefs and draft motions.”

MACKENZIE BROWN

'13, Deputy District Attorney,
Los Angeles County District
Attorney's Office

SCALE Alumni

SCALE graduates pursue careers in all facets of the legal profession and many have gone on to prominent leadership positions in the private and public sectors. Among them are more than 20 judicial officers; partners in major firms around the country such as Baker & McKenzie, Loeb & Loeb and Musick, Peeler & Garrett; executives at 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros., ICANN, and the Walt Disney Co.; federal, state, and local prosecutors and public defenders; elected officials including mayors; and CEOs and general counsel of major investment, biotechnology, and multimedia companies.

The large and loyal network of SCALE alumni provides tremendous resources for current SCALE students, from mentoring and mock interviews to externship and employment opportunities.

3-Year SCALE J.D./M.B.A.

For SCALE students interested in business and management, an accelerated 3-year concurrent J.D./M.B.A. degree program is offered in partnership with The Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management, part of Claremont Graduate University and one of the top management graduate schools in the country. This program is one of only a few nationwide and the first on the West Coast to offer students the opportunity to earn both degrees in just three years.

Students in the SCALE J.D./M.B.A. program spend their first year at Southwestern, their second year at The Drucker School, and their third year completing their law degree. There are a certain number of units from Drucker applied to the Southwestern law degree and a certain number of units from Southwestern applied to the Drucker degree.

During the summers of both the first and second years of the program, students have significant flexibility in tailoring their curriculum to their individual interests through elective courses, externships, or summer abroad programs.

www.swlaw.edu/scalejdmba



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I knew I wanted to pursue a graduate education combining my interests in law, business, and economics. This unique and enriching program offers unprecedented access to dedicated professors and working professionals who not only guide you through this journey, but also become mentors along the way. Drucker's emphasis on the people side of management coupled with Southwestern's emphasis on a practical legal education gives students the ability to build a more competitive and complete professional profile.”

GEORGE KARR

'17, SCALE J.D./M.B.A. Alum





SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

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SCALE Class of 2018

Learn more about the SCALE experience from the students, faculty, and alumni at www.swlaw.edu/scale.

SCALE is ideal for intellectually mature individuals who are “self-starters,” who thrive under intensive study, and who enjoy working in small groups. Because of the unique curriculum and accelerated pace of the program, every SCALE applicant must engage in a personal interview to determine if the SCALE Program is a good fit. Students applying to the SCALE Program are also eligible to be considered for Southwestern’s other J.D. Programs. To explore whether SCALE is right for you, schedule an informational interview with the Associate Dean for SCALE, Harriet M. Rolnick, at (213) 738-6690 or scale@swlaw.edu.

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Each year, we welcome a select cohort of diverse and talented students to our unique two-year SCALE program. Featuring a structured curriculum that teaches core legal concepts and key lawyering skills, SCALE provides the flexibility for each student to create a focus area in Civil Litigation and Advocacy, Criminal Law and Advocacy, Entertainment and Media Law, Public Interest Law, or Technology Law and Entrepreneurship. I’m proud to be part of this longstanding, trailblazing program that encourages cohesion and collaboration.”

HARRIET M. ROLNICK

’79, Associate Dean for SCALE
and Associate Professor of Law