

# SCALE® 2-Year J.D. Program



LOS ANGELES



SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

## 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 with a select group of bright, diverse, and highly motivated colleagues with whom you attend most of your classes.

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 other areas. The flexible curriculum is skill-centered and allows graduates to become practice-ready in just two years. SCALE students participate in honors programs while at Southwestern 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 very 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 participation in honors programs.
- 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 Program Structure

The SCALE academic calendar differs from semester-based traditional 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



“SCALE has 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 I                                       |       |
|---|-------|
| Course  | Units |
| <b>PERIOD 1 (11 weeks)</b>                    |       |
| Introduction to Lawyering                     | n/a   |
| LAWS I <sup>1</sup>                           | 3     |
| Contracts I                                   | 3     |
| Torts   | 4     |
| <b>PERIOD 2 (12 weeks)</b>                    |       |
| Contracts II                                  | 2     |
| Criminal Law                                  | 3     |
| Legal Profession                              | 3     |
| Evidence Law and Practice I                   | 3     |
| <b>PERIOD 3 (12 weeks)</b>                    |       |
| LAWS II <sup>1</sup>                          | 2     |
| Civil Litigation                              | 3     |
| Evidence Law and Practice II                  | 3     |
| Property                                      | 4     |
| <b>PERIOD 4 (11 weeks)</b>                    |       |
| Copyright or Defenses in the Law <sup>2</sup> | 3     |
| Negotiation and Dispute Resolution            | 2     |
| Jurisdiction                                  | 3     |
| Criminal Procedure                            | 3     |
| Lecture Series on the Profession <sup>3</sup> | n/a   |
| <b>SCALE SUMMER SESSION (10 weeks)</b>        |       |
| Independent Study on the Profession           | 2     |
| Options:                                      | 4+    |
| Summer Elective Course(s)                     |       |
| Summer Externship                             |       |
| Summer Abroad Program                         |       |

| SCALE II  |       |
|---|-------|
| Course  | Units |
| <b>PERIOD 5 (10 weeks)</b>  |       |
| Constitutional Law I  | 3     |
| Business Associations   | 4     |
| Tort Litigation Practice  | 3     |
| Employment Discrimination or Traditional Fall Elective              | 2-3   |
| <b>PERIOD 6 (10 weeks)</b>  |       |
| Constitutional Law II   | 3     |
| Wills and Trusts  | 4     |
| Criminal Law Practice   | 3     |
| <b>PERIOD 7 (10 weeks)</b>  |       |
| Remedies  | 3     |
| Capstone: Representing Entrepreneurs or Traditional Spring Elective | 3     |
| Community Property  | 2     |
| Interession Course (if needed)                                      | 1     |
| <b>PERIOD 8 (10 weeks)</b>  |       |
| Guaranteed 8-week Externship  | 5     |
| Trial Advocacy or Traditional Spring Elective                       | 2     |

- 1 Legal Analysis, Writing and Skills
- 2 Defenses in the Law will be an alternative to Copyright for selected students. A third elective may also be available.
- 3 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.

**Note:** The above chart represents a sample schedule. SCALE course titles and schedule subject to change.

### SCALE 2.5 YEAR PROGRAM

The SCALE Program provides a required modified curriculum to those students whose GPA (grade point average) is 2.7 or below at the end of the first year of SCALE. Under the modified curriculum, students will have fewer units during each period in their second year of SCALE and will have additional academic support courses to strengthen their skill set. Students will complete the program following an additional semester of Fall classes and will be eligible to graduate in December resulting in a 2.5 year program. No additional tuition will be charged for the modified curriculum. Any SCALE student at the end of the first year of SCALE may request to participate in the 2.5 year program.

## 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, exposure 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 also provide an opportunity 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, first 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 which may include, in addition to the summer options, a private firm placement.

## SCALE Mandatory Summer Session

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

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

Which can be supplemented by:

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



**“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 will be able to 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 of this program, SCALE students will 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 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.

## SCALE Alumni

Graduates of SCALE 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



**“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

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 typically 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.

[admissions.swlaw.edu/scalejdmdba](https://admissions.swlaw.edu/scalejdmdba)



**“As a political science and economics double-major I knew I wanted to pursue a graduate education that combined both my interest in law with my interest in 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 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  
M.B.A. Candidate '16  
SCALE J.D. Candidate '17



# THE BOTTOM LINE ON SOUTHWESTERN'S 2-YEAR J.D. PROGRAM



Learn more about the SCALE experience from the students, faculty and alumni at [admissions.swlaw.edu/scalevideos](https://admissions.swlaw.edu/scalevideos).

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 the right fit. Students who apply 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](mailto:scale@swlaw.edu).



## SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

3050 Wilshire Boulevard · Los Angeles, CA 90010-1106

**Admissions Office** ■ (213) 738-6834 ■ [admissions@swlaw.edu](mailto:admissions@swlaw.edu)

**SCALE Office** ■ (213) 738-6690 ■ [scale@swlaw.edu](mailto:scale@swlaw.edu)

**[admissions.swlaw.edu/scale](https://admissions.swlaw.edu/scale)**

Southwestern Law School is approved by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60610; (312) 988-6738). Since 1911, Southwestern Law School has served the public as a nonprofit, nonsectarian educational institution. Southwestern does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, medical condition, pregnancy, marital status, veteran/military status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law in connection with admission to the school, or in the administration of any of its educational, employment, housing, financial aid, scholarship, or student activity programs. Nondiscrimination has been the policy of Southwestern since its founding. Southwestern’s policy on nondiscrimination is to comply fully with applicable state and federal law.



“Each year, we welcome a select cohort of diverse and talented students to our unique two-year SCALE program, which will see its 40th class graduate in May. Featuring a structured curriculum that teaches core legal concepts and key lawyering skills, SCALE provides the flexibility for each student to create a ‘mini focus area.’ I’m proud to be part of this longstanding, trailblazing program that encourages cohesion and collaboration.”

– Harriet M. Rolnick  
Associate Dean for SCALE  
and Associate Professor of Law