



THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL

Academic Rules for the JD Program

- 1. Good Academic Standing:** To be in good academic standing, a student must maintain a grade point average of 2.25 in all work undertaken. C, C-, and D grades earn the stated academic credit. However, an F grade earns no academic credit and the course, if required, must be retaken immediately. These grades fall below the required 2.25 average for graduation. The school uses a mandatory grading curve that is adjusted from time to time.

Registration, class attendance, and participation in law school activities are conditioned upon good academic standing.

Students whose cumulative average at the beginning of their second year (third semester for day students, fourth semester for night students) places them in the lowest 30 percent of their class or students who were dismissed and readmitted shall:

- a. Repeat any required courses where they earned an F, and
- b. Successfully complete Bar Essay Writing, Legal Fundamentals Review, Test Taking Skills, Writing for the Practice of Law, Corporations, Criminal Procedure I, Estates and Trusts, Real Estate Transactions, Secured Transactions, and either Products Liability or Advanced Torts. These courses may not be taken in on-line format. Any student who fails one of these courses must successfully repeat the course before he or she will be permitted to graduate.
- c. Be required to meet with one of JMLS's Academic Achievement Professors and create an Individualized Academic Achievement Plan. Each Individualized Academic Achievement Plan shall set goals and metrics for improving academic success and preparing to take the bar exam. Each Individualized Academic Achievement Plan may include, but will not be limited to, individual meetings, group meetings, course planning, special assignments, attendance at identified programs, and anything else, in the discretion of the Academic Achievement Professor that will move the students toward achieving the stated goals. The Academic Achievement Professors may, in their discretion, require these plans to include limits on participation in extra and/or co-curricular programs as well as limits on taking LL.M. courses and limits on outside employment. Each plan shall be

tailored to the specific needs of each student. The Academic Achievement Professors at JMLS shall have the responsibility for assuring that individual students implement their individualized Academic Achievement Plans.

Any student who knowingly fails to comply with these rules may have additional requirements imposed on him/her as a condition of graduation.

2. Probation & Academic Dismissal Policy: A student who attains a grade point average of below 1.75 in the first semester of law school will be dismissed. A student whose cumulative grade point average is below 2.25, but above 1.75, at the end of any fall or spring semester will be placed on academic probation, and must raise his or her cumulative grade point average to at least 2.25 by the end of the next semester and summer adjoining the next semester in which the student enrolls. A student is eligible for probation only once; if a student's cumulative grade point average again falls below 2.25 after any subsequent fall or spring semester, the student will be dismissed.

3. Readmission Policy: Students dismissed for academic reasons may apply for readmission pursuant to the following rules and standards. Readmission is not a matter of right; instead, it is within the sound discretion of the appropriate committee. Any student applying for readmission shall bear the burden of demonstrating that his/her performance to date does not accurately reflect his/her ability to successfully complete law school.

a. Procedures:

i. Students Dismissed After Their First or Second Semester (summer not included): Any student dismissed for academic reasons may apply, no earlier than one semester after the student's dismissal, to the faculty committee responsible for readmission decisions (hereafter, the "Academic Affairs Committee"), for readmission. If granted, such readmission will be effective no earlier than one year after the student's dismissal. Such a student will start over as a new, first semester, student.

ii. Students Dismissed After Three or More Semesters (summer not included): A student dismissed for academic reasons after completing three or more semesters may elect:

1. to apply for readmission under (a) above, or

2. to apply immediately to the Academic Affairs Committee for readmission. Such a student must, however, sit out one semester while his/her petition is being considered. If readmitted, such a student may be allowed to re-enter as a continuing student, with credit for earlier work (assuming the student has 31 or more graded hours), but such a student will be required to repeat all required courses in which he/she received a grade of "C" or lower. Any repeated courses will be included in the grade point average calculations but will count only once toward the 90 hour graduation requirement.

Any student readmitted as a continuing student must raise his/her overall GPA to 2.25 or higher by the end of the semester in which he/she re-enrolls. If a readmitted student has completed fewer than 31 graded hours of earlier work, or if the Academic Affairs Committee for other reasons determines that it would be inappropriate to grant credit for a readmitted student's earlier work, the student must start over as a first-semester student.

- b. **No Repeat Readmissions:** No student readmitted and dismissed a second time will be considered for a second readmission either by the Academic Affairs Committee or through the normal admission process.
- c. **Application For Readmission Was Rejected:** A student whose application for readmission has been rejected by the Academic Affairs Committee may not submit a subsequent application to the committee, but may seek readmission through the normal admission process (but in no case shall a student be readmitted without the affirmative vote of the faculty admissions committee). Such application may be made no sooner than two years from the end of the semester after which the student was dismissed for academic reasons.
- d. **Application to the Admissions Committee After Two Years:** If an eligible student seeking readmission applies two or more years after the date on which the student was dismissed for academic reasons, the student must apply through the normal admission process (but in no case shall a student be readmitted without the affirmative vote of the faculty admissions committee) and, if admitted, must start over as a first-semester student.

- e. **Standards:** In considering any petition for readmission, the Academic Affairs Committee will place particular emphasis on the following factors:
- i. how close the student's GPA is to the 2.25 minimum;
 - ii. whether the student has shown improvement since the first semester;
 - iii. whether the student is consistently performing at or below a "C+" level, or whether he/she has shown the ability to do "B-" or better work in at least a few courses;
 - iv. whether the student has taken clear steps to improve performance, such as participating in academic support programs since first going on probation; or
 - v. whether specific, unique circumstances may have contributed to the student's unacceptable performance, and whether those circumstances have clearly changed.