



## Degrees and Programs

Degrees are ordinarily conferred upon students who meet the prescribed academic requirements. However, the law school reserves the right to withhold a degree whenever it appears that the character or conduct of a student, or the quality of work the student has completed, will prevent acceptable representation of the law school or compromise the legal profession. Diplomas will be withheld if a student has an outstanding balance or obligation with the law school.

### JD Degree

To be eligible for the degree of Juris Doctor (JD), a student must meet the graduation requirements of the law school by: (1) having successfully completed at least 90 credits with a cumulative grade point average of 2.25 or above; (2) earned a minimum of three clinical or externship credit hours. Maximum credit hours for clinical or externship total is 10 with a maximum of 6 credits from externship; (3) completing the academic requirements within seven years of first matriculation.

The initial program consists of a required core curriculum that all students must pass in order to graduate. These courses provide students with a fundamental store of knowledge about substantive legal concepts and rules. This knowledge includes analysis of cases, statutes, and other sources of law; recognition of relevant facts from a mass of raw data; effective oral and written communication; advocacy; and organization and management of legal work and ideas.

This store of knowledge is the core of information that all lawyers must possess and that all students must obtain graduation. The core curriculum consists of the following courses:

Contracts I & II (3-3); Torts (4); Professional Responsibility (3); Expert Learning (1);

Lawyering Skills I, II, III, & IV (10); Property (4); Civil Procedure I & II (3-3); Criminal Law (3); Constitutional Law I & II (3-3) Evidence (4); Trial Advocacy (3); Clinical/Externship (3)

Although the core consists of the courses above, the following courses are considered general prerequisites for all elective courses: Civil Procedure I, Constitutional Law I, Contracts I and II, Criminal Law, Lawyering Skills I and II, Property, and Torts. Therefore, with respect to each listed course, each J.D. student must either

(a) have satisfactorily completed the listed course prior to taking any elective course; or (b) be enrolled in the listed course during the same term, including a summer term, that the student is taking his or her first elective course. If a student is taking his or her final listed course(s) during the same term, including summer term, that the student is taking his or her first elective course(s), the student may not withdraw from any listed core course above while remaining enrolled in any elective course.

Students may defer completing these required courses only for sufficient cause and upon permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Sufficient cause is limited to situations involving (a) serious health issues or equally important issues or (b) circumstances when the law school schedule makes it impracticable for a student to complete these courses in sequence. This policy will be implemented in compliance with state and federal law, including the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students who are permitted to take any of these courses out of sequence may only register for electives that are approved by the associate dean.

### **Class Level**

Class levels are calculated from completed credit hours and are a combination of the student's current year in law school (1L, 2L or 3L) and their current semester (1 or 2).

Class Level	1L1	1L2	2L1	2L2	3L1	3L2**
Hours completed	0-11	12-23	24-41	42-57	58-71	>71

\*\*A student can only be a 3L2 in their final semester of law school. If hours are greater than 71, but student will need two more semesters to graduate, student will be classified as 3L1.

### **Day Division – Full-time Program**

Full-time study requires registration for 12 or more hours per semester. Students may not enroll for fewer than 12 hours or more than 16 hours without advance approval from the Registrar. A full-time student may not be employed in excess of 20 hours a week.

**Proposed Full-time Track**  
 Estimated Completion: 6 Semesters

**First Semester (15 Hours)**

Contracts I	3
Property	4
Torts	4
Lawyering Skills I	3
Expert Learning	1

**Second Semester (15 Hours)**

Contracts II	3
Civil Procedure I	3
Criminal Law	3
Constitutional Law I	3
Lawyering Skills II	3

**Third Semester (15 Hours)**

Civil Procedure II	3
Constitutional Law II	3
Evidence	4
Lawyering Skills III	2
Electives	3

**Fourth Semester (15 Hours)**

* Professional Responsibility	3
Electives	12

**Fifth Semester (15 Hours)**

Lawyering Skills IV	2
* Trial Advocacy	3
<i>Electives</i>	10

**Sixth Semester (15 Hours)**

<i>Electives</i>	15
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**Proposed Part-time Track (Day or Evening)**

Estimated Completion: 8 Semesters + 2 Summer Sessions

**First Semester (11 Hours)**

Contracts I	3
Torts	4
Lawyering Skills I	3
Expert Learning	1

**Second Semester (10 Hours)**

Contracts II	3
Property	4
Lawyering Skills II	3

**Third Semester (9 Hours)**

Civil Procedure I	3
Constitutional Law I	3
Criminal Law	3

**Fourth Semester (11 Hours)**

Civil Procedure II	3
Constitutional Law II	3
Lawyering Skills III	2
<i>Electives</i>	3

**Fifth Semester (10 Hours)**

* Evidence	4
* Professional Responsibility	3
<i>Electives</i>	3

**Sixth Semester (11 Hours)**

Lawyering Skills IV	2
* Trial Advocacy	3
<i>Electives</i>	6

**Seventh Semester (11 Hours)**

<i>Electives</i>	11
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**Eighth Semester (11 Hours)**

<i>Electives</i>	11
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**Ninth Semester/Summer Sessions**

An additional 6 semester hours is required for graduation.

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\* These required courses may be taken at any time during a student's second or third year. Evidence is a prerequisite to Trial Advocacy. Trial Lawyer may be taken in lieu of Evidence and Trial Advocacy.

## **JD Certificate Programs**

In selected areas of concentration, students may receive a certificate, indicating successful completion of a focused curriculum. Certificates are available in:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Intellectual Property Law
- Sustainability
- Trial Advocacy
- International Human Rights Law

For details on certificate requirements see our listings online at <http://www.jmls.edu/certificates>

## **Joint JD/LLM Degree Programs**

Whether you want to join a firm or strike out on your own as a sole practitioner, our joint JD/LLM degree and select cooperative degree programs offer the specialized training and enhanced marketability employers look for in today's most sought-after practice areas. Building on our practical skills-based JD program, including nationally recognized programs in Legal Writing, Trial Advocacy, and Intellectual Property Law, The John Marshall Law School offers JD candidates the opportunity to gain a master's distinction while saving time and money.

Joint JD/LLM Programs at The John Marshall Law School develop advanced expertise and practical skills in one of seven market-relevant practice areas with a joint degree from John Marshall.

- [JD/LLM in Employee Benefits](#)
- [JD/LLM in Information Technology & Privacy Law](#)
- [JD/LLM in Intellectual Property Law](#)
- [JD/LLM in International Business & Trade Law](#)
- [JD/LLM in Real Estate Law](#)
- [JD/LLM in Tax Law](#)
- [JD/LLM in Estate Planning](#)

Joint degree students are permitted to apply the first 10 credit hours satisfactorily completed in the LLM program toward the 90 credit hours required for the JD degree. Thus, joint degree students, in most circumstances, will be able to complete the requirements of both programs with 104 credit hours (80 JD + 24 LLM). A JD student must have at least a 2.5 grade point average, and must have completed 30 credit hours to be considered for admission to the Joint Degree Program. Each of the joint JD/LLM degree programs has different qualifications beyond these minimum requirements.

Interested students should meet with the director of the program they wish to enter. With quality counseling and careful planning, JD students can complete coursework that enables them to participate equally with the lawyer students in LLM courses. The completion of the joint JD/LLM degree program will not only provide an in-depth educational experience in a particular area of the law, but it will allow law students to distinguish themselves from other recent graduates in order to compete successfully for jobs.

### **LLM & MJ Degrees**

The John Marshall Law School's Graduate Admission and International Education Office offers prospective degree candidates support when applying to Master of Laws (LLM) or Master of Jurisprudence (MJ) programs. In addition to providing detailed information about the graduate programs and the application process, admission staff is available for scheduled appointments, guided tours, and to provide information about the City of Chicago.

For detailed degree information, please visit us on our website.

- Master of Laws (LLM) programs offer practicing attorneys distinction and specialization. <http://www.jmls.edu/LLMdegrees/>
- Master of Jurisprudence (MJ) programs offer non-attorney professionals distinction and knowledge of legal issues in their field of expertise. <http://www.jmls.edu/MJdegrees/>

The John Marshall Law School offers Graduate Degrees in the following areas:

- Employee Benefits (LLM/MJ)
- Estate Planning (LLM/MJ)
- Information Technology and Privacy Law (LLM/MJ)
- Intellectual Property Law (LLM/MJ)
- International Business and Trade Law (LLM)

- Real Estate Law (LLM/MJ)
- Tax Law (LLM/MJ)

Each program builds upon John Marshall's broad base of required courses-both in substantive areas and in skills training-to permit students to specialize in one of these areas of law, without giving up the benefits of a traditional legal education. For administrative and financial aid purposes, a student taking five or more hours in a semester is counted as a full-time student.

A student will have five years from the date of matriculation to complete the LLM program. A student cannot take off more than two consecutive semesters without permission of the program director.

### **Employee Benefits**

Established in 1998, our LLM in Employee Benefits is the only ABA-approved graduate EB law program in the nation, attracting students both locally and nationally. Given the amount of regulation and legislation in this area of law, we are constantly adapting the curriculum to the changing practice with continuous input from our faculty and advisory board. As an LLM candidate, our transactional approach to employee benefits law will ensure that you develop the skills necessary to successfully practice in this area of law.

Our curriculum reflects the tax, labor, and employment aspects of employee benefits plans, as well as the interplay of these rules on the administration and maintenance of such plans. Courses are taught by knowledgeable employee benefits practitioners, as well as current and former members of the IRS's Office of Chief Counsel. A mentoring program between our candidates and regional practitioners, designed specifically to make the transition from academia to legal practice smooth and productive, provides exposure to a variety of practices and specialties within employee benefits law before graduation.

### **Estate Planning**

Our LLM in Estate Planning is designed for lawyers interested in developing an expertise in the estate planning arena. The program is available entirely online. This will enable students to tailor their academic schedules consistent with their other obligations, and conveniently participate in the program at home, the office, or even while commuting.

The degree provides lawyers the opportunity to become practice-ready in the estate planning arena. Courses will be taught by law professors and practicing estate planners so that students will develop both a firm theoretical foundation in the subject as well as a thorough understanding of how to apply what they have learned. Program graduates will be prepared for a variety of different career

options, including but not limited to, work in law firms, wealth management concerns, financial planning groups, trust departments, insurance companies, and fund-raising divisions of universities and other non-profit organizations.

### **Information Technology and Privacy Law**

Technology and privacy issues affect nearly every aspect of our lives, and knowing the law and underlying policies is crucial to employability in our technology-driven world. Our MJ in Information Technology and Privacy Law provides non-attorney business professionals and policy makers with a command of the legal and policy issues shaping the global information marketplace. We remain the only graduate law program in the country that emphasizes privacy as part of its core curriculum.

### **Intellectual Property**

With new technologies and social practices giving rise to new intellectual property issues, leading-edge training in IP law and related practice techniques is necessary to keep up and advance in the fast-moving, competitive world of intellectual property. Our LLM in Intellectual Property Law gives you the competitive advantage you need to excel in practice. Learn substantive law and practical skills from some of the nation's top IP academics, judges, and practitioners.

LLM in Intellectual Property Law candidates choose The John Marshall Law School for its extensive curriculum offerings, including numerous patent law courses. The LLM program offers two degree tracks: a patent track for candidates with technical backgrounds who wish to specialize in patent practice and a general IP track for candidates who wish to gain in-depth knowledge about the full range of IP laws and developments.

### **International Business and Trade Law**

John Marshall provides an exciting opportunity for US and international students to study international business and trade law in Chicago, one of the world's great commercial cities. Our LLM in International Business & Trade Law draws upon the rich resources of Chicago's legal, banking, and international business and trade communities to provide a practical learning environment for dealing with the many challenges of global business. Students are given a strong, practice-oriented foundation in the rules, regulations, and legal approaches underlying international economic law. We offer students an experienced US and international faculty, extensive course offerings, and an externship with a law firm or corporation.

### **Real Estate**

John Marshall's Graduate Real Estate Law Programs, the only ones of their kind in the Midwest, address the demands of the increasingly complicated practice of real estate law. In addition to the more traditional areas of real estate finance and

commercial leasing, real estate attorneys must possess skills in negotiating and drafting and be knowledgeable in emerging areas such as sustainability in commercial real estate transactions, bankruptcy, and work-outs. Our programs offer you the opportunity to learn these skills from attorneys who are involved in transactions on the cutting edge of real estate law, and who are active members of the ABA Real Property Section and the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. Both LLM and MJ programs are available for interested professionals.

### **Tax Law**

Among the nation's oldest tax programs, the Graduate Tax Law Programs provide a practical grounding in all major areas of taxation, and specialized expertise in particular areas. Our programs stress a transactional approach and deal with actual problems encountered in the practice of tax law. Experienced practitioners teach courses in such areas as corporate taxation, partnership taxation, estate and personal financial planning, foreign taxation, civil and criminal, and tax procedure. Both LLM and MJ programs are available for interested professionals.