

## Eligibility to Receive Federal Financial Aid

This policy addresses the minimum number of credit hours a student must register for in a given academic term to be eligible to receive federal financial aid.

Students should note that the terms “full-time” and “half-time” as used below do not necessarily equate with “full-time” and “part-time” as used in other policies or contexts at The John Marshall Law School.

Other loan requirements—such as entrance and exit counseling, satisfaction of verification requirements, and aid increases granted using professional judgment—are governed by federal law and other policies, as applicable.

1. **Minimum Hours Status for Aid Purposes:** Among other federal requirements, only students who are enrolled on at least a half-time basis are eligible to receive federal aid. Therefore, regardless of whether a student is classified as full-time or part-time by the Academic Services Office, loan eligibility for federal aid purposes requires at least half-time enrollment, as defined below.

Status	J.D. and J.D./Dual Degree	LL.M.**	M.J.**
Fall/Spring*	Full-Time Status: 12 hours	Full-Time Status: 5 hours	Full-Time Status: 5 hours
	Half-Time Status: 6 hours	Half-Time Status: 3 hours	Half-Time Status: 3 hours
	<b>Below 6 hours: not</b>	<b>Below 3 hours: not</b>	<b>Below 3 hours: not</b>
Summer*	Full-Time Status: 5 hours	Full-Time Status: 5 hours	Full-Time Status: 5 hours
	Half-Time Status: 3 hours	Half-Time Status: 3 hours	Half-Time Status: 3 hours
	<b>Below 3 hours: not eligible</b>	<b>Below 3 hours: not eligible</b>	<b>Below 3 hours: not eligible</b>

\*May include study-abroad programs for J.D., J.D.-dual degree, LL.M., and M.J. students.

\*\*Students taking only online courses may not qualify for the full amount of Cost of Living loans.

2. **Recalculation of Aid Awards:** A financial aid award will be recalculated only for changes in status that occur during an add/drop period, or for program

changes (i.e., a change from the full-time to part-time J.D. program, or the reverse). If a student drops classes during this period, but remains enrolled in at least one course, his or her *eligibility* to receive federal loans may be impacted. More specifically, if a student receives a federal loan disbursement based on preliminary registration information, but then drops enough credits to trigger a change in status (e.g., a change from full-time to half-time, or a change from half-time to not eligible), an “over-award” situation may exist. When an “over-award” occurs, federal financial aid funds likely must be returned by JMLS. In addition, as required by federal regulation, the student’s status is periodically reported to the National Student Loan Data System. A loss of aid eligibility may cause the grace period or loan repayment obligations to begin. Accordingly, federal loan recipients must contact the Office of Financial Aid when making schedule changes that will impact their enrollment status. In addition, if a student adds or drops classes, or withdraws from or is withdrawn from classes, after receiving a financial aid disbursement, the student may then owe additional sums to JMLS.

- 3. Relationship to Other Policies:** Aid eligibility operates independently from other requirements—including but not limited to student visa enrollment requirements for international students and approvals necessary to drop or withdraw from classes while in the required curriculum. The Vice Dean for Academic Affairs must approve reduced course loads for students in the required J.D. curriculum and for students enrolled full-time in an LL.M. or M.J. program. Title IV return calculations for students on leave or who withdraw are handled in accordance with other applicable policies, including Refund of Tuition and Fees.

*Administrative policy adopted February 23, 2018; effective immediately.*