



THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL

Grading and Class Ranks

1. **Grading System:** The John Marshall Law School (at all academic levels, including the J.D., LL.M., and M.J. programs) grading system is as followings. This system applies to all degree programs, including the J.D., LL.M., and M.J. programs. It does not apply to the pre-admission SCALES program.

A+	4.01	
A	4.00	
A-	3.67	
B+	3.33	
B	3.00	
B-	2.67	
C+	2.33	
C	2.00	
C-	1.67	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	
WF	0.00	(Withdraw/Fail)
W	0.00	(Withdraw)
I	0.00	(Incomplete Course Work)
NG	0.00	(No Grade Awarded)
P	0.00	(Pass)
AU	0.00	(Audit)
TP	0.00	(Transfer Credit Awarded)

The following grades **are not** used in calculating a student's Grade Point Average (GPA): W, I, NG, P, AU, and TP.

2. **Examination Reviews:** The law school has a policy requiring faculty members to engage in reasonable post-examination review with students. Issues regarding this provision should be directed to the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs.

3. Grading Curves:

- a. **Curve I:** In Civil Procedure I, Constitutional Law I, Contracts I and II, Criminal Law, Property, and Torts, provided the enrollment is 20 or more students, faculty must conform their grades to the following standards:

i. **Required Grades:**

Grades of A+, A, and A- must be awarded to no fewer than 20% and no more than 30% of the class.

Grades of B+, B, and B- must be awarded to no fewer than 35% and no more than 45% of the class.

Grades of C+, C, and C- must be awarded to no fewer than 15% and no more than 25% of the class. Grades of D and F must be awarded to no fewer than 10% and no more than 20% of the class.

- ii. **Required Cumulative Average:** For the class as a whole, the cumulative for the class as a whole, the cumulative average grade must fall between 2.40–2.80, inclusive.

- b. **Curve II:** In every J.D. course not subject to Curve I, other than Lawyering Skills and Trial Advocacy, provided the enrollment is more than 30 students, faculty must conform their grades to the following standards:

i. **Required Grades:**

Grades of A+, A, and A- must be awarded to no fewer than 25% and no more than 40% of the class.

Grades of B+, B, and B- must be awarded to no fewer than 35% and no more than 50% of the class.

Grades of C+, C, and C- must be awarded to no fewer than 10% and no more than 25% of the class.

Grades of D and F must be awarded to no more than 10% of the class.

- ii. **Required Cumulative Average:** For the class as a whole, the cumulative average grade shall fall between 2.70 and 3.10, inclusive.

4. Other Grading Provisions:

- a. **Minimum GPA/Impact of C Grades:** Because of the required 2.25 cumulative GPA, a student must earn a number of grades above C to remain in school and graduate. A student who receives only Cs during the first two semesters and summer will have a cumulative average of 2.00 and will be ineligible to continue in school. For these reasons, any grade of C is considered marginally acceptable.
 - b. **Credit Load for Students on Probation:** Absent a reasonable accommodation under the ADA or other law, a student on probation must take at least 12 semester hours in the full-time program or 8 semester hours in the part-time program. Students with questions about GPAs should make an appointment with the Academic Services Office (2nd floor of the State Street Building).
5. **Repeating Courses:** A student who receives a failing grade (F or WF) in a required course must repeat that course at the earliest opportunity; there is no restriction on the grade level that can be earned upon repetition. All grades received by the student for the repeated course, including failing grades, will be computed in the GPA. Tuition will be charged for repetitions. Otherwise, a student may not repeat for academic credit any course in which a grade has been received.
6. **Class Rank:**
- a. **When Calculated:** After grades have been issued at the end of each fall and spring semester, students are ranked according to their respective class level and their cumulative grade point average. The highest grade point average is ranked number one, followed by the rest of the class, with the lowest grade point average ranked last. Ranks are not re-calculated mid-semester if students receive grade changes or complete coursework for which and incomplete appeared on his or her transcript. However, in those situations, the Registrar can work with an impacted student to provide information about where the student would have fallen in his or her class.
 - b. **Class Levels:** Below are the class levels for ranking purposes. A student can be ranked as a 3L2 only in the student's final semester of law school. If a student has already earned more than 71 credit hours but the student will need two or more semesters to graduate, the student will be classified as 3L1.

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

c. **How Calculated:** The class-rank percentage is derived by dividing the rank by the total number of students. For example, assume a student in class level 2L1 had a cumulative grade point average of 3.24 and that the class level included 238 students. The student would be ranked 79/238; 79 divided by 238 is .33, so the student would be in the top 33 percent of the class. While rankings are provided for each level after every fall and spring semester, class rankings are unofficial and are not posted to a student’s transcript until the date of graduation. After graduation, final ranks are posted to students’ transcripts through the student information system.

- 7. **Dean’s List:** J.D. students qualify for the Dean’s List at the completion of each fall and spring semester. To qualify, a student’s semester GPA must be in the top 25 percent of his or her class level.
- 8. **Top Grade Awards:** The Top Grade Award is given each semester to the student or students who receive the highest grade in each J.D. section of a course. A professor may elect not to designate a top-grade winner.

Technical edits made February 4, 2018; effective immediately.