



Requirements to Earn the J.D. Degree

1. **Graduation Requirements for J.D. Students:** To earn the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree and be issued a diploma from The John Marshall Law School, a student must:
 - a. Successfully complete at least 90 semester hours of course work;
 - b. Satisfy all aspects of the required curriculum in place when the student matriculated;
 - c. Satisfy the provisions of the “Minimum Number of Classroom Credits Required for J.D. Students” policy;
 - d. Achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.25;
 - e. Absent extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Dean, not have a pending code of conduct case, Title IX investigation, or criminal case;
 - f. Absent extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Dean, not have an unresolved admissions application amendment;
 - g. Have been in residence at JMLS, or at a law school from which JMLS has accepted transfer credit for the student, no fewer than 24 months;
 - h. Absent extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Academic Affairs Committee (see “Time Limits for Degree Completion” policy), complete the course of study no later than 84 months after commencing law study either at JMLS or a law school from which JMLS has accepted transfer credit for the student;
 - i. Complete exit interviews with the Career Services Office and, if the student has borrowed any federal loans, the Financial Aid Office; and
 - j. Absent extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Dean, not have an outstanding financial balance at the law school.
2. **Character and Fitness:** Degrees are ordinarily conferred upon students who meet the prescribed academic and non-academic requirements listed above. But the law school reserves the right to withhold a degree whenever it appears that the character or conduct of a student will compromise the legal profession. Each student who meets the established graduation requirements will automatically be recommended by the faculty to receive the appropriate degree. Any faculty member who believes that a student who is otherwise eligible for graduation should not receive a degree must place the issue on the agenda of a faculty assembly meeting before the student’s scheduled graduation date.

3. **Dean's Certificate:** The criteria for earning a diploma and the law school issuing a Dean's Certificate are similar but not identical. Students should also consult the administrative policy titled "Dean's Certificates."

Faculty policy adopted December 15, 2017; effective for the Spring 2018 semester.