

ACADEMIC POLICIES FOR THE J.M.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LAW

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# ACADEMIC POLICIES FOR THE J.M.

## Preface

These Academic Policies for the Juris Master (J.M.) were promulgated and codified by the Florida International University College of Law on September 22, 2016, and have been periodically amended since that time.

## Introduction

These Policies are divided into eight parts. Each part is designated by a roman numeral and a title in capital letters. These parts are divided into one or more subparts. Each subpart is designated by a capital letter and an underlined title in initial capital letters.

### PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### A. Defined Terms

**Foundation course** – A course required before graduation.

**Full-time student** – A student enrolled for a minimum of 10 credit hours.

**Part-time student** – Not applicable.

#### B. General Provisions

##### 010. Applicability of FIU College of Law Academic Policies

The provisions of the FIU College of Law Academic Policies and of the Student Code of Conduct apply to the J.M. course of study and J.M. students unless modified or contradicted by the FIU College of Law Academic Policies for the J.M.

##### 012. Lock-step Program

The J.M. degree is a lock-step program and all requirements must be completed within one year of first enrollment within the program. No course counted toward a student's undergraduate degree may be included in that student's master's degree program.

##### 013. Credit Hours

The program leading to the J.M. degree requires completion of 30 credit hours. The J.M. program includes courses at the 5000 and 6000 levels.

## 014. Graduate Certificate Programs

A certificate program is a combination of courses with a common base or interest selected from one or more academic disciplines and so arranged as to form an area of academic concentration. The J.M. program's Graduate Certificates require 15 hours of graduate credit. At least six of the hours must be in core courses taken by all individuals obtaining a given Graduate Certificate. As a lock-step program, all courses within the concentration are "core" courses.

### **PART II. GENERAL ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS**

#### A. No Part-Time or Full-Time Divisions and Time for Completion

101. **One division; time for completion.** J.M. students will earn the degree in three semesters or one academic year (12 months).

#### B. Minimum and Maximum Course Loads

201. **Minimum course load.** A student must be enrolled in a minimum of 10 credit hours each semester (fall, spring, and summer) to be considered a full-time student for purposes of these policies.

202. **Maximum course load.** A full-time student may not enroll in more than 10 credit hours of courses. All candidates are full-time students.

203. **Exception to minimum/maximum course load requirement.** Under extraordinary circumstances and at the discretion of the Dean, a student may take more or less than the mandated 10 credits per semester, and therefore more or less time to graduate with the J.M. degree.

#### C. Employment

301. **Restrictions on J.M. students.** There are no employment restrictions imposed on J.M. students for the purposes of these policies.

### **PART III. SPECIFIC COURSE AND ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS**

#### A. Required Courses

401. **Foundation curriculum.** All students must successfully complete the foundation curriculum. The foundation or "core" courses for the J.M. degree are: Introduction to American Law for Non-Lawyers (3 credits); Legal Analysis and Writing for Non-Lawyers (3 credits); Contracts and Business for Non-Lawyers (4 credits); Torts and Criminal Wrongs for Non-Lawyers (3 credits); and Introduction to Regulatory Compliance for Non-Lawyers (4 credits).

402. **Other requirements.** The upper-level, distributional requirements for graduation consist of completion of all courses within one of the Concentration Curriculum units. The five units to choose from are as follows: Banking Law, Advanced Legal Skills & Litigation Management, Health Care, Employment & Labor Law Concentration, and Education Law.

#### **PART IV. STANDARDS FOR GRADING AND GRANTING CREDIT**

##### A. Grading System

501. **Class rank.** J.M. students are not ranked.

##### B. Grade Normalization

601. **Grade Normalization for classes with only J.M. students.** There is no grade normalization imposed on classes with only J.M. students.

#### **PART V. STANDARDS FOR CONTINUATION AND GRADUATION**

##### A. Readmission Standard

701. **Readmission standard.** The readmission standard for a J.M. student with a cumulative grade point average below a 2.00 after the second or subsequent semester is the same as under the College of Law Academic Policies with the exception that the ability to pass a bar examination is not a factor in determining readmission.

##### B. Graduation Requirements

801. **General Requirements.** The College of Law will confer the J.M. degree when the student has met the following conditions:

1. Earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or greater for all graded course work.
2. Passed all required courses.
3. Completed 30 credit hours of law school course work with passing grades. No more than 4 credit hours of “D” grade work can be applied to the 30 credit hours of course work.
4. Satisfied all requirements for the degree within the time period specified under §101.
5. In the event the student has either been subject to continuation requirements imposed under these policies or been subject to readmission requirements imposed under these policies, the

student must either have satisfied those requirements, or have been excused from doing so by the Dean, who may excuse the satisfaction of such requirements in compelling circumstances.

802. **Additional semester to meet 2.00 grade point requirement.** Subject to §101 regarding the time period to complete the degree, a student who fails to earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 upon completion of 30 credit hours of course work may petition the Academic Standards Committee for permission to continue his or her studies for an additional semester. To be permitted to continue, the student must persuade the Committee that the student is capable of successful completion of the curriculum. Such permission shall be granted only in compelling circumstances. In making this readmission determination, the Committee should consider the factors set forth in §701 for readmission. If the Committee readmits a student, it may impose any conditions it deems appropriate.

## **VI. CREDIT FOR WORK AT OTHER COLLEGES AND LAW SCHOOLS**

### A. Transfer credit

1001. **No transfer credit.** A student may not transfer credit for work performed at other colleges or law schools.

## **VII. CREDIT FOR NONCLASSROOM WORK**

### A. Independent Study

1101. **Independent Study.** J.M. students do not currently earn credit for the Independent Study course.

### B. Moot Court

1201. **Moot court.** J.M. students do not participate in Moot Court.

### C. Law Review

1301. **Law Review.** J.M. students do not participate in Law Review.

## **VIII. EXAMINATIONS**

### A. Rules Applicable During Examinations

1401. **Rules Applicable During Examinations.** Determined by the instructors.