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## Graduate Programs

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### JD/LLM FAQs

#### **What LL.M. programs do you offer as a joint degree?**

A student may be provisionally admitted into the Graduate Tax Program, the Graduate Program in Intellectual Property, the Graduate Program in Corporate Law & Finance, the Graduate Program in Insurance Law and the Self-Directed LL.M.

#### **What are the admission requirements to the joint degree (J.D./LL.M.) program?**

You must be a Cooley J.D. student who:

- has completed 45 credits;
- is in the top one-half of your class (preferably). **If *not***, you are required to submit a ***statement of academic ability*** not reflected in your law school performance to date.

#### **How do I apply?**

Students must complete an application for provisional admission to the J.D./LL.M. program and submit it to the Office of Graduate and Extended Programs. Generally, students apply for the joint program early in the **term before** they expect to reach 45 credits to assure a space in the joint degree program. The application deadline for Michaelmas (fall) Term is July 15; Hilary (winter) Term is November 15; and, Trinity (summer) Term is March 15.

**NOTE: Currently the JD/LLM program is NOT being offered at the Tampa Bay campus. Therefore, LLM Classes offered at the Tampa Bay campus may be taken for JD credit only**

The J.D./LL.M. application may be obtained from the Enrollment and Student Services office at any campus location, the Office of Graduate and Extended Programs in the Cooley Center (8<sup>th</sup> Floor) OR Auburn Hills Campus (room 273), or at [www.cooley.edu/jointdegree/admissions](http://www.cooley.edu/jointdegree/admissions).

#### **Why is it a benefit to be in the joint program?**

The joint program allows a J.D. student to earn LL.M. credits which will count toward the J.D. degree.

To illustrate: 90 credits are required for the J.D. degree and 24 credits are required for the LL.M. degree, if the degrees were earned separately. The joint degree program allows the student to count up to **six** LL.M. credits toward the J.D. degree.

Once the student is fully admitted into the LL.M. program, 18 LL.M. credits must be earned to be awarded the degree (24 - 6 = 18). The net is six credit hours of saved time and tuition.



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#### **What is provisional admission? How do I get fully admitted into the LL.M. program?**

Provisional admission means that the student is not *fully* admitted to the LL.M. program because the J.D. degree has not yet been awarded.

Students must graduate with their J.D. degree BEFORE they can be fully admitted to the LL.M. program. The Admissions Committee must verify a student has demonstrated, to date, they are capable of achieving a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 required for graduation from the LL.M. program.

Therefore, the J.D. student **must apply** for FULL LL.M. status in their *final term* as a J.D., by submitting an *Intent to Continue* form (located at [www.cooley.edu/jointdegree/admissions](http://www.cooley.edu/jointdegree/admissions)).

Once accepted into the LL.M. program and the enrollment fee paid, you are permitted to register for LL.M. courses. For more information, contact [LLM@cooley.edu](mailto:LLM@cooley.edu).

#### **How much is tuition?**

J.D. students pay their J.D. tuition rate for LL.M. courses. The LL.M. tuition rate, currently **\$800** per credit, will apply once the student is awarded the J.D. degree and is fully admitted into the graduate program.

#### **When and where are the LL.M. classes offered?**

The classes are typically offered on the weekend, during weeknights or in an accelerated format. The Graduate Tax Program offers special sections beginning after the bar exams. Courses originate from different campuses or online so pay particular attention to the section and register accordingly.

Joint degree students may register for required LL.M. courses at any Cooley campus.

*NOTE:* A J.D./LL.M. student may take no more than a total of 15 credits via Distance Education [including ONLINE courses] toward their J.D. Degree, pursuant to ABA Standard 306.

#### **What is involved in scheduling these courses?**

Joint degree program students must consult with the academic director of the appropriate LL.M. program during the scheduling and registration process to make sure that all program and ABA rules are being followed. *A provisionally admitted J.D. student would be expected to complete a required LL.M. course before taking any LL.M. elective course, unless this requirement is waived by the program director.*



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**Can I receive LL.M. credit for a course offered in the J.D. program?**

Students are permitted to enroll in a maximum of four credits of electives offered through Cooley's traditional J.D. Program (including program-approved J.D. electives). A J.D. elective offered through Cooley's traditional J.D. Program is known as a "J.D. Plus class" when a student is taking it for LL.M. credit. Permission must be obtained from the professor of the course prior to the first class.

While completing a J.D. elective (known as J.D. plus class), the student must complete the J.D. class requirements, along with an added Graduate Program requirement. The added Graduate Program requirement accommodates the expectations of the LL.M. student's program. Typically, this "plus" portion of the class consists of an added 10-15 double spaced paper requirement providing the student with the opportunity to combine the subject of the elective with the student's graduate program area of study. In appropriate situations, the student may complete a topic-related project in fulfillment of the "plus" requirement.

**What is the grading scale?**

Grades earned in LL.M. classes will be based on the LL.M. grade scale and will be reflected on the LL.M. transcript. These grades will also be reflected on the JD/LLM student's J.D. transcript according to the conversion chart shown below:

<b>LL.M. Grade Earned</b>	<b>Reflected in LL.M. Transcript as:</b>		<b>Reflected in J.D. Transcript as:</b>	
	<i>Grade</i>	<i>GPA</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>GPA</i>
<b>A</b>	A	4	A	4
<b>A-</b>	A-	3.67	A-	3.5
<b>B+</b>	B+	3.33	B+	3.5
<b>B</b>	B	3	B	3
<b>B-</b>	B-	2.67	B-	2.5
<b>C+</b>	C+	2.33	C+	2.5
<b>C</b>	C	2	C	2
<b>C-</b>	NC	0	C-	1.5
<b>D</b>	NC	0	D	1.0
<b>F</b>	NC	0	F	0



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#### **What effect does the joint degree program have on the J.D. concentrations?**

Many joint degree students are working on a particular J.D. concentration. J.D./LL.M. students should meet with the academic director of their LL.M. program to discuss how the requirements of the joint degree program and a J.D. concentration can be met.

#### **How long can you take to earn the LL.M. degree?**

Students can take up to three years after to complete the academic requirements needed for the LL.M. degree effective the term admitted as a full-time LL.M. student.

#### **Can the LL.M. degree be earned on a part-time or full-time basis?**

Yes. Once fully admitted to the graduate program, a student is considered full-time when enrolled in six credit hours and half-time with three credit hours. Students fully admitted and enrolled in the graduate program cannot register for more than 14 credits during a term. The LL.M. can be completed within one calendar year, but the full-time student could be faced with time conflicts between courses offered. Not all courses in the curriculum will be offered every term.

#### **What courses are available?**

Courses are offered on a rotating basis throughout the calendar year. Course length ranges from two days to between three and fifteen weeks. **Not all courses are offered every term.** The schedule for each term is generally available on the Graduate Program's website roughly two months before the term begins. Students needing to make longer term arrangements should contact the Graduate Programs office by phone or email at [LLM@cooley.edu](mailto:LLM@cooley.edu).

#### **What about financial aid?**

You are strongly encouraged to contact the Financial Aid office to find out whether it is available or how it may be affected. The Financial Aid office may be contacted by email at [finaid@cooley.edu](mailto:finaid@cooley.edu) or by telephone at (517) 371-5140, ext. 2248.

#### **How do I receive additional information about the LL.M. degree programs?**

*Information can be obtained;*

- online at [www.cooley.edu/gradprograms](http://www.cooley.edu/gradprograms)
- by e-mail at [LLM@cooley.edu](mailto:LLM@cooley.edu)
- by telephone at (517) 371-5140, ext. 2703 or ext. 7783
- in person at the Graduate Programs Office Lansing 8<sup>th</sup> floor or Auburn Hills rm. 273