

A Flexible Option

The joint J.D./LL.M. in Bankruptcy degree program is designed to be as flexible as possible. The program is open to both St. John's students and J.D. candidates at any ABA-accredited law school. While we strongly recommend that you apply to and be admitted into the J.D./LL.M. program before taking any LL.M. in Bankruptcy courses, LL.M. courses completed before you apply may count toward your LL.M. degree if you are later admitted into the LL.M. program. Indeed, as long as you are admitted into the LL.M. program within two years after graduating from the J.D. program, any LL.M. courses you completed as a J.D. student will count toward the requirements for your LL.M. in Bankruptcy degree. Thus, you may apply before you take any LL.M. courses, while you are taking LL.M. courses, or within two years after your J.D. graduation. However, the program is selective and admission is not guaranteed regardless of how many LL.M. courses you completed as a J.D. student. Thus, you must be accepted into the LL.M. program before taking any LL.M. courses if you want to be certain that they will count toward the LL.M. in Bankruptcy degree.



Students From Other Schools

Under ABA rules, our LL.M. in Bankruptcy courses may be applied as transfer credits to satisfy the J.D. requirements of other ABA-accredited law schools. You may obtain the full benefit of the joint degree program by spending your final semester of law school as a visiting student at St. John's, taking bankruptcy courses for J.D. credit while completing half of your LL.M. degree requirements. (Alternatively, if you attend a nearby law school, you may enroll on a visiting student basis in one or more specific LL.M. in Bankruptcy courses while taking other J.D. courses at your home school.) Your home school is not required to accept transfer credits. Thus, before enrolling at St. John's you must obtain a letter from your Dean stating that our credits will be accepted for transfer for your J.D. degree. You will receive your J.D. degree from your home school, but will already have completed much of the work on your St. John's LL.M. in Bankruptcy degree.

J.D./LL.M. Admission Standards

The J.D./LL.M. option is available to St. John's law students and to students attending other ABA-accredited law schools (subject to the consent of the home school's Dean). Our program is small and we are looking for strong students who have the character and intelligence needed to flourish in a rigorous academic program. Acceptance will be based on your academic record, recommendations, published and unpublished written work, interest in bankruptcy and other relevant factors.

Application Process

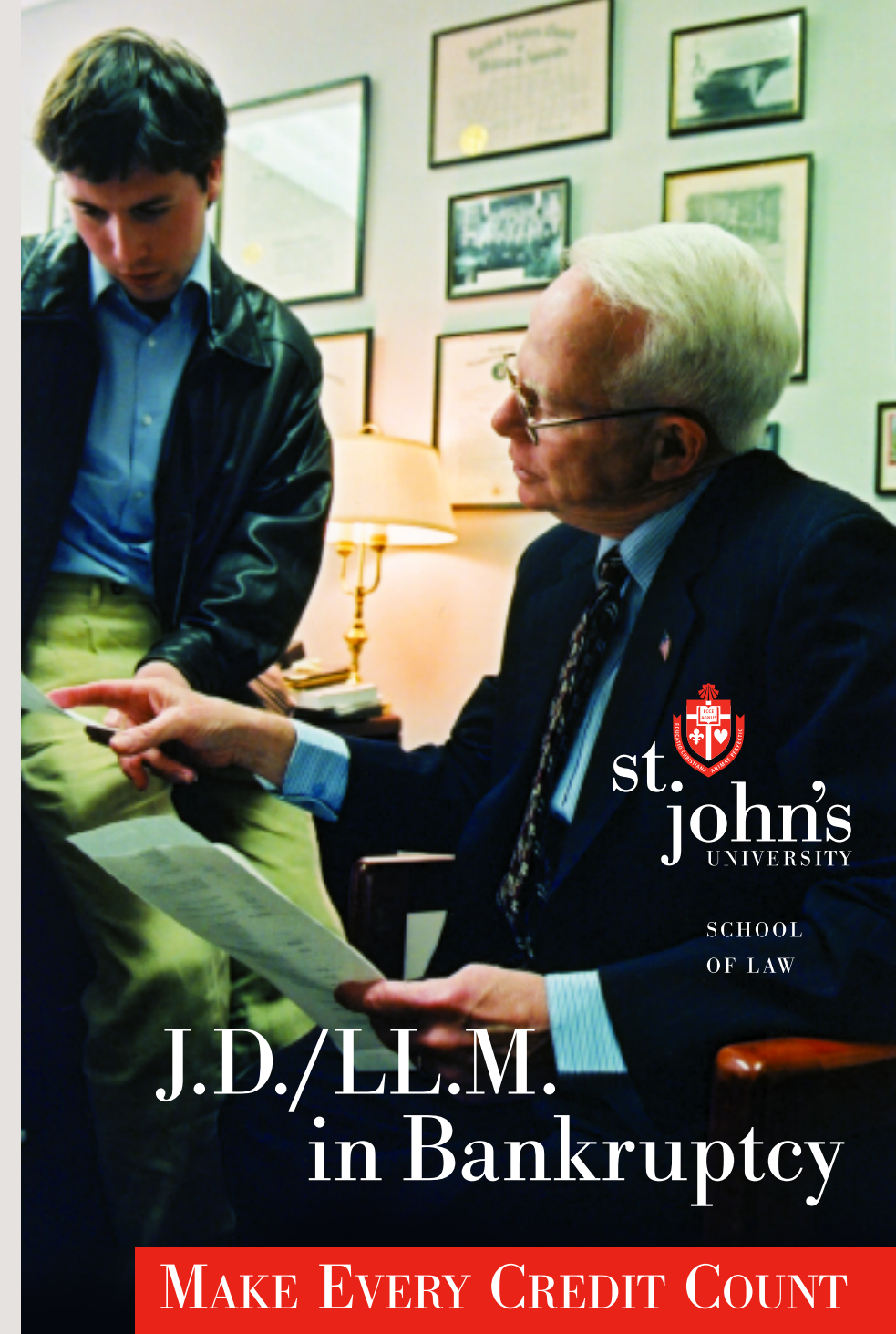
You may apply for admission to the joint degree program at any time after you have completed 54 J.D. credit hours (the equivalent of two years of J.D. coursework), including at least one introductory bankruptcy course (the St. John's Creditors' Rights course or an equivalent course at another law school). Applications may be obtained from the LL.M. office or the program website (listed below). There is no deadline and your application will be processed as soon as it is complete. However, if you attend a school other than St. John's, please apply well in advance of the semester you wish to matriculate so that there will be time to obtain necessary approvals from your Dean and make any necessary student loan and housing arrangements. If you are not a St. John's student, you must also submit a letter from your Dean stating that our credits will be accepted for transfer for your J.D. degree.

Contact Us

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st. john's
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL
OF LAW

J.D./LL.M.
in Bankruptcy

MAKE EVERY CREDIT COUNT

A World-Class Bankruptcy Program

Our standard is excellence. We offer the nation's only LL.M. in Bankruptcy program and we accept only about a dozen highly motivated students a year. Our intensive and comprehensive curriculum spans the gamut of bankruptcy practice. We offer more than two dozen specialized master's level bankruptcy courses that are taught by a world-class faculty comprised of leading academics, judges and practitioners. Our program is highly individualized and our classes are small, with most classes smaller than a dozen students. Our 30-credit LL.M. program combines 24 credits of practical course work with six credits of work on a publishable scholarly thesis. Our graduates are successful and are employed by leading firms and courts.

The J.D./LL.M. Option

As a student in the J.D./LL.M. joint degree program, you may complete both your J.D. degree and your LL.M. in Bankruptcy degree in as little as seven semesters. The joint degree program can reduce by half both the time and expense of obtaining your LL.M. in Bankruptcy degree.

How does it work? The LL.M. in Bankruptcy courses you take as a J.D. student will count toward the credits needed for your J.D. degree. In addition, up to 15 of those credits can also count toward the 30 credits needed for your LL.M. in Bankruptcy degree. You will receive your J.D. degree upon completion of the J.D. degree requirements and your LL.M. in Bankruptcy degree upon the completion of the additional LL.M. degree requirements. (You must complete your J.D. degree and be formally admitted into the LL.M. program in order to receive the LL.M. degree.)

What Do I Take?

The joint degree program is flexible so you can take as few or as many LL.M. courses as you like—and you can take them whenever you like. The only limitations are that you must have the appropriate pre-requisites (typically Creditors' Rights) and that no more than 15 credits can count toward the LL.M. degree (although you may take more than 15 LL.M. credits as a J.D. student).

What is the Best Schedule?

Your schedule depends on whether you want to complete both degrees in seven semesters of full-time study, or you want to take a lighter load and finish in eight or more semesters. Ours is a small program, so you should meet personally with the Director to design a schedule tailored to your interests, needs and career goals.

If you are in no hurry to graduate then your scheduling options are very flexible. We suggest that you take as many of the required LL.M. courses as possible while you are a J.D. student. This will ensure that you are well prepared for your elective courses and thesis work, and it will give you maximum scheduling flexibility for your post-J.D. coursework. If you complete 15 LL.M. credits as a J.D. student under this option, you will need to take only nine more elective class credits and complete your thesis (for six non-class credits). This is an excellent option if you are interested in a judicial clerkship (many begin in the fall) or if you plan to start a job while you complete the LL.M. degree on a part-time basis.

If you wish to graduate in only seven semesters, then you must take all of the required LL.M. courses (and any electives you want) that are offered during your final semester of law school. We generally offer each course only once a year and in the same semester each year. For example, if you wish to graduate in seven semesters, with your seventh semester being the fall term, then you must complete all the spring semester required courses by the end of your sixth semester. Although it is not essential, you may also wish to complete the first part of your required Advanced Research Seminar (thesis preparation) by the end of your final J.D. semester.

What About the Bar Exam?

Take the bar examination as soon as possible after completing your J.D. degree. Focus on passing the exam and do not try to write your thesis or take additional summer school classes when you should be studying for the bar. You will be much more attractive to employers if you are admitted to the bar before you complete your LL.M. in Bankruptcy.

Special Course Considerations

Our curriculum is rich and interdisciplinary. In addition to more than two dozen specialized LL.M. in Bankruptcy courses, the full range of J.D. courses plus many M.B.A. courses are available as electives, subject to the Director's approval. Special rules apply to J.D. and M.B.A. elective courses taken by joint degree students. Contact the Director if you want to apply these credits to your LL.M. degree requirements.

The Advanced Research Seminar (thesis preparation) presents a special challenge if taken during the J.D. phase of the joint degree program. Students rarely complete a thesis early, but you must at least produce a draft that can be graded during the semester if you intend to apply any thesis credit to your J.D. degree.

Financial Aid

The joint degree option has the effect of a half-tuition LL.M. scholarship since you may double-count up to half of the credits needed for the LL.M. in Bankruptcy degree. In addition, several LL.M. scholarships are available for exceptional students. However, LL.M. scholarship aid will be applied only to the credit hours you take in the LL.M. program after completion of your J.D. degree (and thus is not available for the J.D. portion of the joint-degree program). If you attend a school other than St. John's University, we can arrange a consortium agreement (if your home school agrees) so that your student loans will be available for credits taken at St. John's before you receive your J.D. degree. Various student loan and work-study programs are available for your post-J.D. work in the LL.M. program.