

The Master of Laws/Juris Doctor Joint Degree

The LL.M./J.D. program allows for a select group of St. John's LL.M. graduates to continue on to receive the J.D. degree, with the LL.M. year counting as free electives towards the J.D. A full-time student in the program completes both degrees in a total of three years. (The LL.M. is awarded after the first year; the conferral of the J.D. degree occurs two years after that, once the student has completed all of the requirements of the J.D. program.) The program provides students with a deeper understanding of American law and opens up the option of taking the bar exam in any U.S. state.

Students who participate are transfer students and are **not** required to take the LSAT or GRE.

Admissions Criteria

A student in the TLP or USLS LL.M. program applies for admission to the J.D. during the final semester of his or her LL.M. studies. Students are typically on pace to complete their LL.M. degree with a minimum GPA of 3.6. All applicants will be reviewed by the J.D. Admissions Committee, and a decision will be made after the application is complete and all final grades are received. As part of the application, students must submit:

- St. John's transcript from the LL.M. program
- Two letters of recommendation, one of which is written by a faculty member not affiliated with the LL.M. programs
- Personal Statement outlining why the applicant wishes to pursue the J.D. degree
- Resume
- Letter from Dean Kelly stating that you are in good standing and which credits would be eligible to transfer to the J.D. program

Application Process

Applicants will be submitted to the J.D. Admissions Committee for their review and decision. The Admissions Committee will specifically consider, among other things, the candidate's potential to pass a bar examination in a U.S. jurisdiction, in particular the New York Bar examination if the student contemplates practicing in New York. The J.D. Admissions Committee will review the transfer applications immediately after grades are posted in June (or January) and inform applicants of their final admission or denial at that time.

In order to facilitate the Admissions Committee's LL.M./J.D. assessment of the potential for applicants to succeed in the J.D. program and to ultimately pass a bar examination, professors will assign "shadow" J.D. curve grades to all potential applicants to the LL.M./J.D. program. This will consist of J.D. professors calculating and providing to the Registrar grades for eligible students on both the J.D. curve (using the raw scores) and the LL.M. curve. For courses with LL.M.-only enrollment, the Dean for Graduate Studies will certify to the J.D. Admissions Committee whether the grade received is sufficient for the awarding of transfer credit.

Transfer of Credit

Once an applicant has been successfully admitted into the LL.M./J.D. Program, he or she may transfer a minimum of 24 and a maximum of 30 credits earned during the LL.M. program. Only grades of C+ or higher on the J.D. curve will be eligible for transfer credit. (Their “shadow” JD-curve grades will indicate whether the students received a grade of C+ or higher required for full course credit.) As with any transfer credits, all LL.M. credits will be transferred as **pass/fail only**. The number of accepted transfer credits—along with a student’s willingness to take Summer classes—will impact the date of graduation from the J.D. program.

Coursework

Students in the LL.M./J.D. Program must take all required J.D. courses and meet all other J.D. graduation requirements. Students may not repeat any courses during their J.D. program for which they have received transfer credit. In addition, all LL.M./J.D. Program students will be required to take Applied Legal Analysis unless the Associate Academic Dean waives this requirement for good cause shown. They are also encouraged to take American Legal History and Foundations of Law.

Students in the J.D. portion of the program may not repeat courses taken as LL.M. students. Required J.D. courses that were taken during the LL.M. program will be substituted with free electives.

For Further Information

Questions about the LL.M./J.D. may be directed to Sarah Kelly) 8 0 or Alicia Meehan, the Assistant Dean for Admissions and Recruitment, meehana@stjohns.edu or 718-990-2310.

LL.M./J.D. Transfer Application Checklist

Applying for transfer from the LL.M. Program to the J.D. Program at the School of Law requires the following:

- A St. John's University School of Law **transfer application**, available online;
- Including a **statement** of the applicant's reasons for seeking transfer admission (usually two pages, double-spaced);
- An unofficial **transcript** from St. John's Law;
- A **letter** from the Dean for Graduate Studies certifying that the applicant is in good standing at St. John's Law;
- A **resume**, in reverse chronological order, including all employment, volunteer and extracurricular activities along with all educational institutions attended. Include an explanation for any gap of time (three months or more) not explained on your resume; and
- A minimum of 2 (maximum of 3) **letters of recommendation** from St. John's Law faculty are required, one of which must be from a faculty member not affiliated with the LL.M. programs.

Please note:

- There is **no application fee** to apply for transfer admission.
- Those matriculating as a J.D. transfer student must submit an official undergraduate transcript from their undergraduate institution by September 1, if one is not already on file in the Graduate Studies Office.