

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW

**MASTER OF  
JURISPRUDENCE  
& CERTIFICATE  
STUDENT  
HANDBOOK**

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Academic Year 2022 – 2023

St. Mary's University, as a Catholic Marianist University, fosters the formation of people in faith and educates leaders for the common good through community, integrated liberal arts and professional education, and academic excellence.

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THIS HANDBOOK IS NOT A CONTRACT.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE HANDBOOK ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE J.D. AND M.JUR. STUDENT HANDBOOKS  
AND IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE TEXT OF THE HANDBOOKS  
ARE AVAILABLE ON GATEWAY.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

By publishing the *Master of Jurisprudence Student Handbook*, St. Mary's University School of Law attempts to bring together from various sources rules, policies, and procedures of interest to enrolled Master of Jurisprudence (M.Jur.) and Certificate students. Some of the statements included in the Handbook may change during the academic year. Other rules, policies, or procedures may be added in the future as required. Important changes will be posted on the law school website (law.stmarytx.edu) and published in the *Witan*, the law school's internal newsletter.

To the extent that the Student Handbook addresses rules, policies, and procedures within the law school, it is authoritative. It is not, however, the exclusive source of guidance. Students wishing additional information regarding a particular matter not addressed within the Handbook should request clarification or a referral from the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs.

All M.Jur. and certificate students are subject to the rules, policies, and procedures contained herein and by the rules of the J.D. student handbook on any issue for which the M.Jur. and Certificate Handbook is silent or includes external references. For portions of the J.D. student handbook that have been incorporated by reference, the provisions should be read to apply to M.Jur. and Certificate students. However, these provisions should not be interpreted as transferring or transitioning a student enrolled in the M.Jur. or Certificate program into the J.D. program. Faculty members must comply with the stated academic standards for evaluation of students. It is the responsibility of students and faculty members affected by these rules, policies, and procedures to become familiar with them and to adhere to them closely.

Because certain rights, privileges, and remedies, and the ways in which these may be exercised or forfeited, are included in the Handbook, students are directed to read carefully the materials contained herein. The Handbook is available on the StMU website and in the online orientation modules. With regard to any provision of the Handbook, fair notice to the student is conclusively presumed from its publication and, except where expressly noted to the contrary, no further notice is required.

## II. MASTERS OF JURISPRUDENCE DEGREE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### A. Credit Hours and GPA Requirements

A candidate for the degree of Master of Jurisprudence must earn a minimum of thirty (30) credit hours in order to graduate. The candidate is eligible to graduate if the candidate's cumulative grade point average is 2.0 or better. Special and/or additional requirements on credit hours may apply to students in joint or dual degree programs.

**B. M.Jur. Three-Year Limitation**

The thirty (30) credit hours must be earned within a three-year period that begins with matriculation. The three-year limitation is strictly enforced, but a student may appeal to the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs for an extension, and in exceptional circumstances, such appeal may be granted. A student who leaves the program prior to completion, and who wishes to re-join the program after the 3-year window must re-apply, and any credits earned will be subject to the limitations in Section III. I. regarding transfer grades. Students seeking only a Certificate are generally bound by these same timelines.

**C. Graduation/Commencement Application**

M.Jur. and Certificate candidates who qualify for graduation must apply on Gateway by the following dates to ensure timely certification by the School of Law:

October 1 for December completion

March 1 for May completion

June 1 for August completion

An M.Jur. candidate may petition to walk early at the December or May ceremony if they will lack no more than four (4) credit hours to fulfill their thirty (30) credit hour requirement. Petition forms can be obtained from Gateway and submitted for approval by the Assistant Dean of Graduate Law Programs by the graduation application deadline listed above.

Students who withdraw from a class or fail to obtain a passing grade in a class during their final semester must submit the early walk petition within forty-eight (48) hours from the time the grade is posted or after class withdrawal.

Pure Certificate students do not participate in the Master of Jurisprudence Commencement.

**D. Pass/Fail Hours Limitation**

A student may not count toward graduation more than eight (8) pass/fail hours earned at St. Mary's School of Law. Any graded course in which a student receives a pass (e.g., in the case of a successful grade appeal) will not be counted in determining the eight (8) hours maximum limit of pass/fail credit hours. Ungraded credit hours accepted for students who transfer into the M.Jur. Program (*see* Section III.H.) are subject to the same limitations that apply to the home campus. Ungraded transient hours (*see* Section III.G.) are subject to the same limitations that apply to hours taken on the home campus.

A student may not elect to take a course as pass/fail unless the faculty as a whole has expressly approved such an election or the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs and the course's teaching faculty member have approved such an election. Such an election should be made prior to the first meeting of class. Independent study credit may be earned on a pass/fail basis only with the approval of the supervising faculty member. A course designated as pass/fail may not be taken for a grade.

In extraordinary situations, the Office for Academic Affairs may authorize pass/fail grades, rather than letter grades.

There is no provision for pass/fail hours in the Certificate framework. Requests for such will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs in consultation with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

**E. Independent Study**

A student may arrange a one-, two-, or three-credit independent study.

1. Maximum Independent-Study Hours

An M.Jur. student may count no more than three (3) hours of independent study toward the thirty (30) credit hours required for graduation by completing a research paper and/or such other work as the supervising faculty member may require.

There is no provision for independent-study hours in the Certificate framework. Requests for such will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs in consultation with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

2. Significant Writing Requirement

Not all independent study projects require completion of a substantial research paper, but significant written work is required.

3. Faculty Sponsorship

Faculty eligible to supervise an independent study include professors of law, associate professors of law, assistant professors of law, clinical professors of law, and visiting professors. Instructors of law and adjunct faculty members may not supervise independent studies. Faculty titles are listed on the faculty pages of the website). The sponsoring professor and the student must agree about the length of the research paper or of the other written work, whether the paper will be graded or evaluated only on a pass/fail basis, whether any work in addition to the paper is required, and what semester the student will enroll for the independent study.

No faculty member is obliged to supervise an independent study and no faculty member may supervise more than three (3) hours of independent study during the fall or spring semester or during a single summer session. Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs in consultation with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in their discretion, may allow supervision of more than three (3) hours.

A student and the supervising faculty member must agree at the time of enrollment whether the independent study will be graded or pass/fail. The designation of the course as graded or ungraded may be changed at any time during the semester, but not after the final paper or other written project has been submitted to the faculty member for evaluation.

A student wishing to arrange an independent study should obtain the appropriate form from the law school website ([law.stmarytx.edu](http://law.stmarytx.edu)), take it to the supervising faculty member for his or her signature, and return the form during the registration process.



Independent studies for three (3) credit hours require prior request and approval from the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs in consultation with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

#### **F. Full-Time Status and Part-Time Status**

##### **1. Minimum and Maximum Credit Hours per Semester for Full-Time Status**

Full-time enrollment requires at least ten (10) credit hours in a semester or three (3) credit hours in a summer session. A student must obtain the written approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs to enroll for more than seventeen (17) credit hours during a semester or for more than six (6) credit hours during a summer session or ten (10) credit hours during the summer term (which includes both summer sessions). International students maintaining visa status must obtain the approval of the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs to enroll in fewer than the minimum number of credit hours to maintain full-time status. Please contact the Office of International Student and Scholar Services for further information.

##### **2. Part-Time Status**

A student who wishes to take a part-time course of study will have up to three (3) years to complete the M.Jur. degree or Certificate.

#### **G. Required Courses for the M.Jur.**

1. Fundamentals of the American Legal System (2 credit hours)
2. Legal Research and Writing (2 credit hours)
3. Two of the following first-year J.D. courses that are determined by the Assistant Dean of Graduate Law Programs to be most closely related to the track chosen by the candidate (3-4 credit hours):
  - a. Federal Civil Procedure
  - b. Contracts
  - c. Criminal Law
  - d. Property
  - e. Torts
  - f. Constitutional Law

## **H. Available M.Jur. Concentrations**

The faculty has approved a number of M.Jur. concentrations. A student who wishes to obtain an M.Jur. concentration must complete coursework in the chosen concentration. The requirements of each approved concentration are posted on the St. Mary's School of Law website. Below are the concentrations approved by the St. Mary's School of Law faculty.

1. Commercial Law (online)
2. Compliance, Business Law and Risk (online)
3. Criminal Justice (online)
4. Education Law (online)
5. Employment and Human Resource Law (online)
6. Health Care Law
7. Health Care Compliance Law (online)
8. International & Comparative Law
9. Military & National Security Law
10. Environmental Law
11. Natural Resources Law
12. Tax Law
13. Business and Entrepreneurship Law (online)
14. Business Risk and Intelligence (online)
15. Territorial Law (online)
16. Cyber Security Law (online)

An M.Jur. student may choose one of the proposed concentrations or design his or her own track. Though no designation of such concentration or tract will be reflected on the diploma, candidates may find it useful to focus their studies in areas most related to their chosen profession. The remaining hours needed to complete the 30 credits required for the M.Jur. degree may be earned by taking any electives approved by the Assistant Dean of Graduate Law Programs. If a student does not plan to focus on a particular area of concentration, then he or she can take any elective courses to complete the degree.

## **I. Available Certificates**

The faculty has approved a number of Certificates. A student who wishes to obtain a Certificate must complete coursework in the chosen program. The requirements of each approved Certificate are posted on the St. Mary's School of Law website. Below are the Certificates approved by the St. Mary's School of Law faculty.

1. Compliance, Business Law & Risk
2. Health Care Compliance
3. General Legal Studies

The following concentrations of study are available under the General Legal Studies Certificate:

1. Administrative Law
2. Business & Entrepreneurship Law
3. Cyber Law & Data Security
4. Health Law
5. International & Comparative Law
6. Education Law
7. Employment & Human Resource Law
8. Legal Studies
9. Oil & Gas Law
10. Procurement Law
11. Tax Law
12. Territorial Law

A Certificate student may choose one of the proposed Certificates or design his or her own track via the General Legal Studies option.

#### **J. Auditing and Withdrawing**

See Section II.N. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.

#### **J. Applicant Deferral Policy**

Upon the completion of all application materials, it is expected that an accepted student will matriculate in the semester indicated on the application form. However, if an applicant is accepted into the program, they may request a deferral to start at a later date for up to one year. For instance, an applicant that has been accepted into the Master of Jurisprudence Program and indicates a start date of Fall 2022, may request to start instead in the Spring of 2019 or the Fall of 2019. The deferral decision is at the discretion of the Associate Dean of the program.

Should an applicant seek to defer beyond one year, the applicant must re-apply. If the applicant's file is still in the possession of the Program, and is still current, the applicant may simply request that the materials still on file

be considered. However, the mere fact that the applicant has been admitted before does not mean that the applicant will be re-admitted. The re-application will be considered in light of the strength of the applicant relative to other applicants, the available space in the program, and the likelihood that the re-applicant will actually matriculate.

#### **K. Applicant Leave of Absence Policy**

Matriculated students are expected to work continuously toward their degree, in the fall and spring. Should a matriculated student, who is in good standing, require a leave of absence, the student may apply to the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs for such a leave. The request should document the reasons a leave of absence is requested, the anticipated time required under the leave of absence, and any supporting documentation that may assist the Assistant Dean of Graduate Law Program in the decision-making process.

Should a leave of absence be granted, the student's file shall be suspended until such time as the student returns. Generally, a leave of absence should be no more than one year. In extraordinary circumstances, a student may request a longer leave of absence, but under no circumstances shall a leave of absence last longer than two years.

Should a student who has been granted a leave of absence fail to return to the program at the expiration of the leave of absence, the student shall be deemed to have voluntarily withdrawn from the program. Thereafter, to continue the student's studies, the student must re-apply to the Program. If the student's file is still in the possession of the Program, and is still current, the student may simply request that the materials still on file be considered. However, the mere fact that the student has been admitted before does not mean that the student will be re-admitted. The student's re-application will be considered in light of the strength of the application relative to other applicants, the available space in the program, and the likelihood that the student will actually continue his or her studies.

### **III. GRADES AND GRADING**

Because evaluation through grading has a significant effect on students, many of the rules are designed to protect students from unfairness. On the other hand, it is widely agreed that professors must have the freedom to exercise independent judgment in making difficult decisions relating to teaching and testing. The rules

here reflect a balance between professorial discretion and the urge to restrict that discretion on behalf of students.

The deadline for submission of grades by faculty members is dependent on the semester. For the fall semester, grades are due by 5:00 p.m. three (3) business days after the University reopens after the Christmas break. For the spring semester, graduating grades are due by 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before graduation, while all other grades are due three (3) weeks after the last exam for that term. For summer sessions, all grades are due three (3) weeks after the last exam for that term.

### **A. The Letter Grading Scale**

“Graded courses” are evaluated according to a ten-level system using letter grades. The letter grades are assigned numerical values on a four-point scale for the purpose of calculating grade point averages. The letter-grading system and its numerical scale are:

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| A = 4.00  | C+ = 2.33 |
| A- = 3.67 | C = 2.00  |
| B+ = 3.33 | C- = 1.67 |
| B = 3.00  | D = 1.00  |
| B- = 2.67 | F = 0.00  |

If a student receives a grade of D or higher, the credit hours assigned to the course are earned. The only failing grade is F, and receipt of this grade causes a student to lose the credit hours otherwise available for the course. Even though no hours are earned, a failing grade is used in calculating the student's grade point average and is included in the student's transcript.

### **B. Anonymous and Non-Anonymous Grading Policy**

#### **1. Anonymous Grading**

Each student is given a four-digit number every semester, including each summer session. The four-digit examination number is available to students on Gateway. The examination number normally should be the only student identification placed on examination responses.<sup>1</sup> For spring semester exams, a student

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<sup>1</sup> The anonymous grading policy broadly applies to written evaluation instruments, including papers, midterms, quizzes, finals, and other documents that count toward a student's grade. There are some exceptions to the anonymous grading policy, such as the evaluation of skills in a trial advocacy course, a

should not indicate he or she intends to graduate. That information is already provided to professors through their Instructor Grade Reports (IGRs).

2. Non-Anonymous Grading

Students in online courses do not require exam pins and are not graded anonymously. Students are required to establish their identity and to use a webcam while taking midterm and final exams.

C. Median Grades

The law faculty has adopted the rules described below that circumscribe the grading discretion of a professor in a course in which there are M.Jur. and Certificate students. These rules do not apply to a graded independent study and the faculty member is free to assign the letter grade earned by the student.

1. General Rule

M.Jur. and Certificate students must be graded as a separate cohort from other students. If there are more than twelve (12) M.Jur. and Certificate students in a course, they are to be graded with a B median grade. If there are 12 or fewer M.Jur. and Certificate students in a course, no mandatory median grade shall apply. In evaluating the M.Jur. or Certificate students' exam performance, the grading professor is to bear in mind that the students are not enrolled in, nor will they have completed, the full first-year J.D. curriculum.

Grades of M.Jur. students enrolled in a course or seminar are not included in computing the median grade or compliance with percentage limitations for J.D. students as outlined in Section IV.D. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Student Handbook for JD students.

2. Multiple Sections of the Same Course

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required special oral presentation in a classroom course, and a research paper written under close faculty supervision as part of a registered independent study or seminar. Professors should resolve doubts about the applicability of the anonymous grading policy in favor of anonymity.

A professor who teaches two sections of a course and uses the same examination for both may combine the final grades of both sections to satisfy the applicable required median. In other words, the two sections may constitute a single course for application of the following rules, or the professor may choose to treat the two sections as individual courses.

#### **D. Class Attendance**

*See* Section III.F.1.-2. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.

##### **1. Withdrawal for Excessive Absences**

A student who misses one-third (1/3) or more of the number of scheduled classes in any course in which the candidate is enrolled may result in administrative withdrawal from the class subject to the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. However, if the person teaching the course believes the M.Jur. candidate has good cause for some or all of those absences, the teacher of the course may request an exception from this rule from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, who shall have the sole discretion to determine if good cause exists.

##### **2. Online Course Withdrawal for Excessive Absences**

For all online courses attendance will be conducted through online quizzes which will be available after each online video/audio lecture. Students must correctly answer at least 75% of the questions (there will be between 4-5) to get credit for attendance. Students will have two attempts to reach this score. The quizzes will only be available the week of the assigned materials. Students must "attend" 90% of the quizzes or they may be administratively dropped from the course subject to the discretion of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. However, if the person teaching the course believes the M.Jur. candidate has good cause for some or all of those absences, the teacher of the course may request an exception from this rule from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, who shall have the sole discretion to determine if good cause exists.

**E. Grade-Point Averaging**

See Section III.G. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.

**F. Distinguished Academic Achievement**

Upon graduation, M.Jur. students with a cumulative grade point average of:

- 3.8 or higher are graduated Summa cum laude,
- 3.5 or higher are graduated Magna cum laude,
- 3.3 or higher are graduated Cum laude.

The appropriate designation is included on a student's diploma and is announced during the graduation ceremony.

There are no designations on Certificates.

**G. Appeal of Grades**

See Section III.I. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.

**H. Transient Credit**

To receive credit in transient status, a student must receive a grade of "C" or higher (or a "Pass") in the transient-status course. Grades earned at other law schools while a student is in transient status are not used in calculating the student's cumulative grade-point average. A transient-status course is listed on the student's transcript with a grade of "CR" (credit).

Students in good academic standing may request transient status for a total of 6 hours at a host institution (exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis). If approved (course descriptions and syllabi are required for review), and if the student earns a "C" or higher the transient coursework will appear on the student's transcript with a grade of "CR". Semesters spent at host institutions are included in the total amount of time allowed to complete the degree.

St. Mary's will not accept transient hours earned in a course that the student has already taken at St. Mary's. A transient student may not take a course



required by St. Mary's at another school without the permission of the Assistant Dean of Graduate Law Programs.

Students must obtain approval for transient status prior to presenting courses taken elsewhere for credit at St. Mary's. The requisite form is available from the Director of Student Records.

Pure Certificate students must earn all of their credit hours from St. Mary's School of Law.

### **I. Transfer Grades**

Credit earned while attending a J.D. Program at St. Mary's University School of Law or another law school, or other graduate program prior to matriculating into the M.Jur. or Certificate program that did not result in a degree or resulted in earned hours in excess of said degree requirements, may be counted toward the M.Jur. degree or a Certificate at St. Mary's University School of Law. The quality points and hours are not used in calculating the student's cumulative grade-point average, only earned hours will transfer. If approved, the transfer credit is listed on the student's transcript with the grade of "CR" (credit). Transfer credit carrying a grade of C or higher may be counted toward the M.Jur. degree. Credit hours earned in transfer courses count toward the thirty (30) credit hours needed to graduate (12-15 for Certificates), but do not count against the limit on "ungraded elective credit hours" (that is, the pass/fail hours limitation), if the student received a letter grade or a numerical grade (rather than a "Pass") in the transfer course. Credits earned in another graduate or graduate law program are subject to the approval of the Assistant Dean of Graduate Law Programs. A maximum of 6 hours of transfer credit are allowed from host institutions; up to 15 hours can be recognized for St. Mary's students transferring from the J.D. program to the M.Jur. program. Credit will generally not be given for courses completed over three years prior to the transfer application or which are not appropriately related to the study of law or the concentration being sought.

### **J. Retaking Courses**

See Section III.K. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.

## **K. Grades of Incomplete**

*See* Section III.L. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.

## **IV. EXAMINATIONS**

### **A. Examinations, Papers, and Evaluations of Skills**

In many courses, student performance is evaluated through the use of a single final examination scheduled during a period set aside for this purpose at the end of each semester or summer session. In some courses, however, a professor may provide students with the option of writing a paper in lieu of taking a final examination, or may require a paper or other projects in addition to the final examination. The professor may choose to evaluate students through tests but may give both a mid-term and a final examination, or several tests, in lieu of or in addition to a final examination.

As a general practice, individual final examinations last the same number of hours as are assigned as credit hours to the course. In a two-credit hour course, for example, the professor ordinarily will allow two hours in which to complete the final examination. However, some professors give three-hour exams in two-credit courses, and others may give two-hour exams in three-credit courses. The faculty has not established a rule to control the time required by a professor for the taking of his or her examination. A student should contact the professor to determine the duration of the examination in a course.

Seminars are among the exceptions to the general practice. In a seminar, the professor assigns grades by evaluating a research paper prepared during the semester.

In administering exams to M.Jur. and Certificate students, professors may use the same exam that is being used to evaluate the J.D. students; however, if the same exam is used, the professor may, in his or her discretion, allocate additional time for the student to complete the exam. This should be no more than time and a half. Thus, if a J.D. student is given 2 hours to complete the exam, an M.Jur. or Certificate student taking the same exam may, at the discretion of the professor, have up to 3 hours to complete the exam. Alternatively, the professor may administer a different exam to the M.Jur. and Certificate students than is administered to the J.D. students with a completion time that the professor deems sufficient, subject to the

above general convention that final examinations typically last the same number of hours as are assigned as credit hours to the course. In either event, the M.Jur. and Certificate students are to be graded subject to the standards set forth above in Section III. Professors also allowed to weight the questions differently for M.Jur. and Certificate students than a J.D. student. For example, the essays may be worth 2/3 for the J.D. students and multiple choice 1/3, but the professor could weigh the same essay as 1/4 for the M.Jur. and Certificate students and 3/4 for the multiple choice.

M.Jur. and Certificate students who are not native English speakers are entitled to time and a half for exams with prior request and approval from the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs in consultation with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

## **B. Examinations Continued**

*See Section IV.B.-E. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.*

# **V. ACADEMIC ISSUES**

## **A. Academic Support Resources**

A student who is experiencing academic difficulties should seek assistance before troubles become overwhelming. Students may contact faculty members or the Assistant for graduate Law Programs for advice or for a referral to someone who can provide assistance. The Law Success Program have aided students in overcoming test-taking deficiencies and anxieties. The Law School's Offices of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs will also work closely with students experiencing academic difficulties.

## **B. Academic Exclusion**

If a student's grade-point average for the first semester, comprising at least 10-credit hours (4-credit hours for a pure Certificate student), is less than a 2.0, the student will be academically excluded from law school and will be given a full refund of all tuition and fees paid for the current semester in which he or she may have enrolled before notice of exclusion. Any student whose grade-point average is less than 2.0 after the first semester, but who has taken less than 10-credit hours may be excluded at the discretion of the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs in consultation with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Although an appeal of academic exclusion is allowed a strong presumption exists against altering the effect of the faculty's grading decisions.

A student wishing to appeal exclusion must file a written statement with the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs within fourteen (14) days after the date of the exclusion letter sent to that student. The Assistant Dean may, for good cause, grant an extension of time. The appeal of academic exclusion shall be determined by the Dean of the Law School. The Dean, at the Dean's discretion, may consult with the Assistant Dean for Law Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in making these decisions. Upon a showing of compelling circumstances, a student who is academically excluded may be given one additional probationary semester in order to bring his or her cumulative grade-point average up to the minimum level for continued enrollment. The Dean of the Law School may allow a student an additional semester, but must make a written report of such a decision to the law faculty. The Dean of the Law School may decide to begin the additional semester immediately after the academic exclusion of a student or after a period not to exceed one year from the date of exclusion. All decisions by the Dean of the Law School on these matters are final and non-appealable.

### **C. Academic Support and Advising**

At all times during enrollment at St. Mary's, M.Jur. and Certificate students with a cumulative grade point average below 2.5 may be required to participate in academic advising and other programs or services offered by the Office of Law Success as determined by the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs. M.Jur. students at or above a 2.5 may also be required to participate in academic advising at the discretion of the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs.

### **D. Graduation - Early Walk**

An M.Jur. candidate may petition to walk early at graduation if he or she lacks no more than one class (not to exceed three (3) credit hours) to fulfill his or her thirty (30) hour credit requirement. Petition forms should be obtained from the Director of Student Records and submitted for approval by the Assistant Dean of Graduate Law Programs no less than thirty (30) days before the date of graduation. Students who fail to obtain a passing grade in a class their final semester must submit the petition within forty-eight (48) hours from time the grade was posted.

Pure Certificate students do not participate in the Master of Jurisprudence Commencement.

## **VI. TUITION AND FEES**

See Section VI.A.-D. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.

## **VII. TRANSFER AND TRANSIENT STATUS**

There is a difference between transfer and transient status. A student who transfers to another school will be certified as a graduate of that school. A student who seeks transient (or visiting) status at another school remains a St. Mary's student.

### **A. Transfer to another M.Jur. Program**

The credit hours earned by a student at St. Mary's University may be transferred to another school so long as and to the extent the transferee school will accept them. Whether a student can transfer to another school depends solely on the rules of that school. Because a transfer student will become the potential graduate of the transferee school, that school will apply its own admission requirements.

A notice of intent to transfer must be signed by the student seeking transfer and delivered to the Director of Student Records before July 15 of each year. This must be received by July 15 or the request cannot be processed. The student seeking to transfer must meet with the Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, in person, by telephone, or by e-mail for an exit interview. The Director will prepare the letter of good standing, which is required for transfer applications. This letter will be signed by the Associate Dean in charge of Graduate Programs and forwarded to the transferee school. The transferring student also will be required to obtain an official transcript from the University's Registrar. A student whose cumulative grade point average is below 2.0 is not in good standing and therefore cannot obtain a letter of good standing.

### **B. Students Excluded from the St. Mary's Law J.D. Program**

Students who have been excluded from a J.D. program may apply to transfer into the M.Jur. program. A strong presumption against such a transfer exists, but in extraordinary circumstances a student may be

permitted to transfer in to the M.Jur. program. A previously excluded student must submit an M.Jur. application form, and provide a reference from a law professor (full, associate or assistant professor) who both taught the student and can speak to the student's suitability for the program. The student must also submit a letter explaining their academic performance and why the student feels that they would be suitable for the program. Upon review of these materials, and after consideration of the student's LSAT score and academic performance, both in law school and at previous institutions, the Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs may admit the student into the M.Jur. program..

Regarding grades earned in courses that are counted toward the M.Jur. degree, *see* Section III.I.

### **C. Transient Status**

A St. Mary's student may take courses at any other law school, but the credit hours earned will be accepted by St. Mary's in fulfillment of its graduation requirements only under certain circumstances. The American Bar Association (ABA) prohibits the granting of academic credit for courses taken at a law school that is not accredited by the ABA. Also, transient hours are accepted by St. Mary's only when the student earns a passing grade in the course, according to the grading scale of the other law school. St. Mary's will not accept transient hours earned in a course that the student has already taken at St. Mary's. A transient student may not take a course required by St. Mary's at another school without the permission of the Associate Dean in charge of Graduate Programs.

Regarding grades earned while in transient status, *see* Section III.I.

Students must obtain approval for transient status prior to presenting courses taken elsewhere for credit at St. Mary's. The requisite form is available from the Director of Student Records.

Pure Certificate students must earn all of their credit hours from St. Mary's School of Law.

## **VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

*See* Section IX.A.-K. and L. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.

**IX. HARASSMENT**

*See* Section X.A.-C. of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.

**X. CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

(Adopted March 26, 1986 and amended April 26, 1990)

*See* Section XI of the St. Mary's University School of Law Handbook for J.D. Students.