



Online Juris Master

Frequently Asked Questions

Why choose Emory Law?

Emory Law is a top-ranked law school offering a practical, disciplined approach to the study of law. We are known for:

- *faculty who are experts in their respective areas of law and dynamic teachers in the classroom*
- *a rigorous curriculum attuned to the needs of the legal profession*
- *countless opportunities for experiential learning through externships, clinics, and simulation course*
- *an environment of support and cooperation that encourages challenging the status quo*

Are courses for the JM degree taught by the same professors who teach courses for the Juris Doctor degree?

The same professors and industry professionals teach all JM courses. More than 60 full-time faculty, along with our adjunct faculty, teach more than 250 courses at Emory Law. Their focus on research means they are not only teaching you the law, they are also actively participating in shaping laws around the world.

What is the difference between a Juris Doctor (JD), a Juris Master (JM), and a paralegal degree?

A JD degree is a 90-credit-hour degree, also known as a Doctor of Jurisprudence, which prepares students to sit for the Bar Exam and practice law.

A JM degree is a 30-credit-hour master's degree in law. It is intended for individuals who want to learn the laws that govern their profession. JM recipients are not eligible to practice law.

No legal standards exist for paralegal education and training requirements. It is not a master's degree. A paralegal cannot practice law.

Can I practice law with a JM degree?

No, you cannot practice law with a JM degree.

Who is the JM program intended for?

The JM is intended for professionals or individuals who want to become more specialized in their fields and enhance their knowledge of the law. There are more than 20 concentrations available, with health law and business law available in the online format. Our students include HR directors, compliance officers, and aspiring healthcare administrators.

How do the on-campus and online formats of the JM differ?

The on-campus JM offers the greatest amount of course flexibility. This format can be completed in nine months with full-time study, or up to four years when completed part-time. In addition to more than a dozen course concentrations, you have the ability to create your own customized course of study.

The online JM is offered in two concentrations: Health Care Law, Policy, and Regulation; and Business Law and Regulation. This format can be completed in eighteen months or up to four years. Each course is delivered in an asynchronous format, in a series of seven-week modules.

How long will it take me to complete the online JM program?

18 months.

What concentrations are offered in the online JM?

Health Care Law, Policy, and Regulation; and Business Law and Regulation.

What is the size and structure of the online JM courses?

Class sizes are deliberately kept small to facilitate interaction with your professor and peers. Asynchronous courses allow students to “attend class” according to their schedule and complete weekly assignments within a structured timeframe.

What are the technical requirements of the online format?

All online JM students are required to have high-speed internet access and a computer running a modern web browser. An iPad or similar device does not provide the needed functionality for the online JM program. We recommend you purchase a new computer for your JM studies. Note that you may periodically need to install plug-ins or specialized browsers, so make sure you have administrator permission to download software on your computer.

*Because almost all of your online activity will take place within the Canvas Learning Management System, a browser-based environment, it’s important that your computer and browser combination work well within Canvas. **Click here for guidance on the type of computer system that works best with Canvas***

*Please use a computer that runs the Mac OS or Windows 10 operating systems. **Click here for additional guidance regarding browsers***

As an Emory student, you will have access to Office 365. This will give you access to download and install Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and related products. You will also have access to Microsoft Outlook Office 365 email. Finally, the University provides McAfee anti-virus software to students.

Can I start and complete an online course whenever I want?

No. While online format courses are offered in an asynchronous manner, weekly assignments and sometimes daily check-ins are required.

What is Orientation?

The online Orientation is a mandatory, intense 3-week, 7-module class designed to simulate a real online course. There are several assignments due every few days. This class is taken prior to the required Kick-Off Residency. The Orientation is offered August 1 – 23 for a fall start and December 1 – 23 for a spring start.

Are the Residencies required?

Yes. Students must attend all three Residencies to pass the program. Residencies are required, 0-credit classes.

Residency #1: Kick-Off Residency

Students must attend and complete this Residency prior to starting class. Offered August and January.

Residency #2: Dispute Resolution Residency

Offered every August.

Residency #3: Capstone Residency

Offered every spring. Students must be within 9 credits of graduation to attend this Residency.

How much time per week can I expect to spend on my online courses?

Students can expect a minimum of 15-20 hours each week.

How will I receive official communications from Emory Law and my online course professor?

All students are assigned an Emory email account, which is the official means of communications at Emory Law. You are expected to check your Emory email account daily.

How will I know which courses to take?

You will be assigned an academic advisor who will help you select your courses.

How do I register for courses?

For your first semester, you will be enrolled in courses automatically. For future semesters, you will receive course registration instructions from the Emory Law Registrar's office.

What kinds of support and services are available to JM students?

You will be assigned an academic advisor who will provide student support. Additionally, the law librarians are a valuable resource. For those who have the ability to come to campus, you may make use of the Dean's Teaching Fellows and the Study Smarter Series, two programs delivered by the Office of Academic Engagement and Success.

What kinds of outcomes can I expect after earning a JM degree?

Some people use the JM degree to deepen their knowledge of the law in their chosen field, become more specialized, and acquire practical knowledge to become more valuable to their current employers.

Those same skills that offer people the opportunity to advance in their current careers, offer others the opportunity to pivot in their career, and pursue new or more attractive opportunities.

"My decision to pursue the degree at Emory Law came mostly from the fact that healthcare is a very highly regulated area of practice. There are a lot of laws and regulations on a federal and state level that affect my ability to deliver healthcare and my ability to practice...I think that getting this legal education really helps me be a better doctor. I was able to take classes about health law like food and drug regulation, regulation of healthcare providers, healthcare compliance."

– Wendy Wright, MD, associate professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Emory University School of Medicine and associate chief of Neurology and medical director of the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit at Emory University Hospital Midtown and a 2016 JM graduate.

"I've been a stay-at-home dad for the past few years. I thought going back to school made a lot of sense for me, because it allows me to pivot into something new. To me, this is a perfect way to reintroduce myself to the business world...I've sold chemicals. I've sold real estate. So, taking law classes that related

to contracts, business associations, all those classes directly relate to the work I did in sales.”
– Michael Reese, Juris Master Student, Emory University School of Law.

How much does the online JM cost?

The online format is \$2,354 per credit hour, or \$70,620 for the 30-credit-hour degree plus fees. This is the 2018-19 tuition cost; subject to change.

Are online JM students eligible for financial aid and scholarships?

Yes.

Will my degree or diploma state that I earned it online?

No, your degree will not differentiate between online or on-campus.

Do you have any financial aid programs available for veterans or members of the military?

The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program is a provision of the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. If you are interested in participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program, please contact Farah Dharamshi at farah.dharamshi@emory.edu to learn more. Click [here](#) for more information on Veterans' Education Benefits.

Does Emory Law accept transfer credits from other schools?

Emory University does not accept transfer credits from other schools.

Will any online JM credits earned transfer to the Juris Doctor (JD)?

Per the ABA, courses completed during the juris master degree are not able to be transferred for credit towards the juris doctor degree.

What are the admissions deadlines?

For a fall semester start, early decision applications are due April 15, and general admission applications are due June 30.

For a spring semester start, early decision applications are due September 30, and general admission applications are due November 15.

Is the GRE, LSAT, or GMAT required?

A graduate entrance exam—GRE, GMAT, LSAT or MCAT—is required if an applicant does not hold a graduate degree when they apply for acceptance to the juris master program. Applicants without a graduate degree, but with significant professional experience, may apply for consideration for a graduate entrance exam waiver.

Do I need to take an English Language Proficiency Test?

The TOEFL is required for applicants whose primary language is not English.

Who do I contact with additional questions?

jmadmission@emory.edu