



Maximum J.D. Credit Hours

The maximum number of credit hours for full and part-time students is set to ensure that a typical student is able to devote the necessary hours of study to achieve the learning goals of the program. For maximum learning in law school, it is essential that students have sufficient time outside of the classroom for study, self-assessment, reflection, and self-care. Accordingly, requests will be considered with those goals in mind as is appropriate for the student's particular program. Typically, permission to take more than the maximum number of credit hours may be granted when a student seeks to take more than the maximum number of credit hours in a semester for the purpose of taking advantage of unique learning opportunities otherwise unavailable without the additional credits.

A. Full-time J.D. Students: A full-time student may not enroll in more than 17 credit hours in a fall or spring semester. During the on-campus summer session, a full-time student may not enroll in more than 8 credit hours. However, with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academics, a full-time student who has completed the first-year curriculum may enroll in 18 total credit hours in a fall or spring semester, or in 9 total credit hours during an on-campus summer session.

B. Part-time Students: A part-time student may not enroll in more than 11 credit hours in a fall or spring semester. During the on-campus summer session, a part-time student may not enroll in more than 7 credit hours. However, with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academics, a part-time student who has completed the curriculum required through the second fall semester may enroll in 12 total credit hours in a fall or spring semester, or in 8 total credit hours during an on-campus summer session. Permission to exceed 11 credit hours in a fall or spring semester or 7 credit hours in an on-campus summer session will only be granted one time during a student's tenure at Stetson, except that the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may, in extraordinary situations, grant permission to exceed the designated credit hours in multiple semesters for students matriculating prior to the Fall of 2018.

Cross-references: Credit Overloads During Required Curriculum; Minimum Number of Classroom Credits Required for Graduation; J.D./M.B.A. Dual-Degree Program; Summer-Abroad Programs; Credits Taken at the Tampa Law Center; Auditing Courses.

Explanations and interpretations:

1. A student must complete 88 total credit hours to earn the J.D. degree.
2. American Bar Association Standard 304(e) states that a "law school shall not permit a student to be enrolled at any time in coursework that, if successfully completed, would exceed 20 percent of the total coursework required by that school for graduation."

Revised by the faculty February 6, 2002, March 5, 2003, January 21, 2009, April 14, 2010, October __, 2019. Administrative revision effective May 4, 2011; February 27, 2019; October 20, 2019.