



Residency Requirement for J.D. and LL.M. Students

As a condition for graduation, a full-time J.D. student is required to complete six semesters of full-time residency. A full-time LL.M. student is required to complete two semesters of full-time residency. Students in the part-time LL.M. program must enroll in classes for at least three semesters. The residency requirement is critical to development of the Stetson Lawyer because it ensures that a student has fully prepared for membership in the legal profession. The residency requirement encourages students to devote sustained attention over time to developing a professional identity; learning the knowledge, skills, and values of lawyering; and participating in co-curricular and professional development activities that prepare students for membership in the legal profession.

One semester of residency may be satisfied by taking courses in two summer sessions.

To maintain full-time residency status during fall and spring semesters, at all times after the expiration of the add-drop period, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of ten (10) semester hours of credit.

To receive the one-semester residency credit for two summer sessions, at all times after the expiration of the add-drop period, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of five (5) hours of credit in each summer session.

The purposes of the residency requirement for part-time J.D. students are effectively accomplished by the maximum credit hours requirement as explained in Section B of that policy. Part-time students who transfer into the full-time J.D. program must enroll in classes for a total of at least six semesters, not including summer sessions.

Courses taken as part of the J.D.-M.B.A. joint-degree program do count for purposes of determining residency.

Students contemplating taking any foreign summer abroad course or courses at a school other than Stetson are encouraged to meet with the Associate Dean of Academics to discuss residency issues.

Cross-references: Maximum J.D. Credit Hours Policy; students should also consult the Study-Abroad Programs at Other Law Schools.

Faculty policy amended on February 15, 2006 and March 5, 2003; cross-reference updated March 3, 2009. Amended on February 24, 2021.