

## **The LLM to JD Credit Transfer Option**

The Credit Transfer Option (CTO) is a process to permit our LLM students to apply to transfer to the JD program. Qualified LLM students will apply at the end of their first semester to participate in the CTO process based on:

- Superior performance in their first semester classes **AND**
- Achievement of a High Pass in Legal Discourse and Writing

LLM students admitted to the CTO process will be expected to perform in class like a JD student, including strong in-class participation, and will be graded on the same scale as the JD students for their spring courses. This is an important point as graduate students are otherwise graded on the Graduate School grading scale, which is different from the JD scale. Your academic performance in the JD classes that you take in the spring semester will determine what credits will transfer if you are admitted to the JD program.

Selection to participate in the CTO process does not guarantee admission to the JD program. Students will still need to follow the application procedures for admission to the JD program, but will not be required to submit LSAT scores.

If admitted to the JD program, credits for non-LLM-specific courses taken during the second semester are counted towards the credits required for the JD degree. Admission to the JD program is separate from admission to the CTO process. Thus, even if you are admitted to the CTO process, you are not automatically admitted to the JD program. All other requirements for the JD degree (except LSAT scores) would remain the same. Under appropriate circumstances, this could reduce the total time for achieving both an LLM and JD degree to 3 years instead of 4 years. Classes taken in the second semester and graded on the JD grading scale will count towards both the JD and the LLM degree requirements. Students will also be considered for advanced standing\* in the JD program based on their bachelor's in law degree and professional accomplishments.

### **Requirements for Applying for the CTO Process**

Students must be top academic performers who have delivered superior performance in a full schedule of classes and achieved a High Pass in Legal Discourse and Writing.

### **Application Process**

If you meet all requirements, you may nominate yourself as a participant in the CTO process.

You will need to submit 1) A brief statement regarding your reason(s) for applying to the CTO process and your career goals, 2) a personal statement, 3) two letters of recommendation, and in some cases 4) a formal interview with the Director of Admissions.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I opt out later?**

Yes, you may opt out any time before the last day of classes of your second semester.

### **What about taking the LSAT?**

Students who participate in the CTO process will not be required to submit an LSAT score.

### **What is meant by the term “full load” of classes in the spring semester?**

A “full load” is a minimum of 8 credit hours of JD classes in addition to any LLM-specific courses. Only JD classes will be eligible to transfer. LLM-specific courses will not transfer.

### **What are “LLM-Specific” Courses?**

LLM-specific courses are those that only non-JD students are allowed to take.

### **Do I have to take required classes (like Torts) again as a JD student if I already took them in my first semester in the LLM program?**

You must complete the entire JD curriculum while being graded on the JD scale. If you took courses required for the JD degree during your first semester, then you would have been graded on the Graduate School scale instead and you would, therefore, be required to retake those courses.

**What happens if I am admitted to the CTO process but not admitted to the JD program?** A student who is participating in the CTO process will still graduate with an LLM degree assuming the requirements for the degree are met, even if his or her application to the JD program is not successful.

### **May I still apply to the JD program even if I am not admitted to the CTO process?**

All students are welcome to apply to the JD program by going through the usual processes established by the JD admissions office. Interested students should contact the JD admissions office directly ([lawadmis@indiana.edu](mailto:lawadmis@indiana.edu)) to inquire about the JD admissions process. Please note: The LSAT will be required if you do not participate in the CTO process.

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### **\*Advanced Standing**

Students who have completed the equivalent of an undergraduate or graduate degree in law from an accredited foreign university will be considered for advanced standing in the JD program. Successful advanced standing applicants can have one semester to one full year of the usual three year JD degree requirements waived based on previous academic coursework and professional accomplishments.

During the first year of the JD program, advanced standing students will take the required first-year JD curriculum. The following year, advanced standing students will be able to choose their own courses to fulfill the remaining credit and graduation requirements for the JD degree. Our advanced standing students have access to all the opportunities offered to our regular JD students, including the opportunity to take the bar exam anywhere in the US.

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For more information about the CTO and Advanced Standing, please check the website: <https://www.law.indiana.edu/admission/graduate-apply/three-ways.shtml>.