



## **Collaboration between University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and University of Windsor Faculty of Law for the Canadian & American Dual JD Program**

### **NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP**

The Canadian & American Dual JD Program is a combined program of study between University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and University of Windsor Faculty of Law arising from the theme of Canadian-American comparative law and jurisprudence. This is the only transnational program of its kind in Canada or the United States in which students can earn two law degrees in three years. Detroit Mercy Law is empowered by the laws of the State of Michigan to award the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.), which is accredited by the American Bar Association and recognized by all State Bar Associations of the United States. Windsor Law is empowered by virtue of Canadian statutory authority to award the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.), which is recognized by the Law Society of Ontario and by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada.

In this collaboration, Detroit Mercy Law and Windsor Law have agreed to work together to implement all applicable laws, regulations, bylaws and procedure by which each is bound, including the rules, procedures and requirements of all accreditation and professional organizations to which the programs of their respective Law Schools are subject.

### **STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

During the 2019-2020 academic year, 255 students were enrolled in the Canadian & American Dual JD Program. All 255 students were enrolled in at least one course at Windsor Law during this period of time.

### **PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING METHODS**

We evaluate individual student attainment of performance requirements based on grades received for course work at each law school. Windsor and Detroit Mercy Law use different grading systems (Windsor grades on a percentage scale (0-100%) and Detroit Mercy Law grades on a 4.0 scale). For each course taken at Windsor Law, the grade is converted from the Windsor Law scale to the Detroit Mercy Law scale by the Detroit Mercy Law Registrar's office. A student's converted grade must meet the Detroit Mercy Law grading norms to receive credit for the course. Similarly, numeric grades received for courses taken at Detroit Mercy Law must be converted to Windsor Law's percentage scale by the Academic Coordinator at Windsor Law. All grades converted to Windsor Law's percentage scale must comply with Windsor Law's grading policies, as outlined in the Faculty of Law's *Regulations on Academic Status*.

Students who matriculated prior to Fall 2019 are required to complete 104 credits in three years between the two law schools: 44 credit hours at Windsor Law, and 60 credit hours at Detroit Mercy Law.

Students who matriculated Fall 2019 or later are required to complete 105 credits in three years between the two law schools: 45 credit hours at Windsor Law, and 60 credit hours at Detroit Mercy Law.

To be eligible for the degree of Juris Doctor from both institutions, students must graduate with a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.2 at Detroit Mercy Law and meet the passing average requirement of 60% at Windsor Law. The Juris Doctor degrees are awarded jointly by both institutions,

meaning that a student will not be eligible to earn either degree until the program requirements at both institutions are met. A student must graduate in no more than 72 months after matriculation.

### CONTACT AT WINDSOR LAW

The Director of the Canadian & American Dual JD Program is Christina Loebach. She may be reached at Windsor Law as follows:

Office of the Canadian & American Dual JD Program  
University of Windsor Faculty of Law  
Room G112  
401 Sunset Avenue  
Windsor, Ontario, Canada  
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cloebach@uwindsor.ca

### ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

#### **Windsor Law**

The country of Canada has a strong legislative framework that guarantees the equal rights of people with disabilities. In addition, a range of federal programs support the lives of Canadians with disabilities. Federal legislation is in place to protect people with disabilities from discrimination, including the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and *Canadian Human Rights Act*.

The City of Windsor adheres to the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* and to accessibility standards as established by the Province of Ontario. The purpose of these standards is to identify and remove barriers to improve accessibility and to prevent the creation of new barriers.

At Windsor Law, the main entrance to the Faculty of Law building is not accessible. The first alternative entrance is located northwest of the main entrance, west of the bike racks. This accessible entrance leads to an elevator. Grab bars are available, and there is the audio of a bell upon arriving at the selected floor. All elevator buttons are raised and in braille. This elevator services the following floors:

- L:** Room G102, G103 Judge's Chambers, universal washroom
- 1:** Moot Court 1100.

The second accessible entrance is located on University Avenue by the loading docks. The University Avenue provides access to a second elevator. This second elevator services the following floors: Lobby, Basement, First Floor, and Second Floor. This entrance is optimal for individuals who are being dropped off as sufficient space is available for parking a vehicle.

The ground floor and the second floor of the Paul Martin Law Library are not accessible. Students with mobility concerns should contact the information desk at the library to obtain a key card, to be used to access the elevator. The library elevator provides services to both floors of the Law Library.

#### **Detroit Mercy Law**

In the United States, the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (ADA) prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, State and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. Several federal agencies, including the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, issue guidelines to ensure that buildings, facilities and transit vehicles are accessible to people with disabilities. The City of Detroit

adheres to the ADA, and will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities.

The main entrance at Detroit Mercy Law has accessibility features, including a ramp leading from the sidewalk and a push button to open doors. The bookstore and student lounges are located on the first floor of the School of Law building, and are wheelchair accessible. The building's cafeteria is also wheelchair accessible, with a ramp at its entrance.

The School of Law building contains two (2) elevators. The first elevator is located near the washrooms on every floor, and provides access to classrooms and faculty offices. The second elevator is in the law library, and provides access to all library floors.

The School of Law building contains restrooms that accommodate persons with disabilities. There is braille on all door signage for every classroom, elevator, and restroom facility.

### CANCELLATIONS

Either Detroit Mercy Law or Windsor Law may, upon a minimum of twelve (12) months' written notice to the other, terminate further obligations under the Canadian & American Dual JD Program. No such termination, however, will affect the obligations of either university with respect to students who have commenced the program but have not completed the same at the time of such notice.

### STUDENT HOUSING OPTIONS

Students in the Canadian & American Dual JD Program may choose to live in either Windsor or Detroit during their law school studies.

#### **Windsor Law**

The University of Windsor has numerous residence halls in traditional, suite and semi-suite styles conveniently located throughout campus. For the 2020-2021 academic year, residence fees for the Fall and Winter terms total between \$6,359 – \$8,396 Canadian dollars (approximately \$4,826 – \$6,372 in U.S. funds).

Off-campus housing is available for students both near campus and in downtown Windsor. The commute time to the Faculty of Law building from downtown Windsor is approximately 10 minutes. Shared accommodations are the most affordable option, with rooms for rent in houses near the University campus ranging between \$450 – \$750 Canadian dollars (approximately \$341 – \$569 in U.S. funds) per month. The cost of renting an apartment may range between \$700 – \$1400 Canadian dollars (approximately \$531 – \$1062 in U.S. funds) per month, depending upon the number of roommates and amenities provided.

#### **Detroit Mercy Law**

The University of Detroit Mercy offers three residence halls in both traditional and suite styles on the University's McNichols campus. The commute time to the School of Law building from the McNichols campus is approximately 30 minutes, depending on the time of day and direction. For the 2020-2021 academic year, residence fees total between \$3,760 – \$6,391 (U.S. funds) per semester.

Off-campus housing is available for students both near the School of Law and in downtown Detroit. It is suggested that students who will live off campus in the United States budget approximately \$15,888 (U.S. funds) annually for room, board, transportation, and personal expenses. For students who will be living with parents or relatives, an annual budget of \$8,780 (U.S. funds) for related living expenses is recommended.

## REFUND POLICIES

### **Windsor Law**

At Windsor Law, tuition charges are refundable depending on the drop date. The Full Tuition drop date for the Fall 2020 semester is October 7, 2020. Any courses dropped after October 7 will be charged 100% of the base tuition charges (0% refund). The final date to Opt Out of incidental charges is October 7, 2019. After October 7, incidental charges cannot be reversed.

The Full Tuition drop date for the Winter 2021 semester has not yet been published.

To make a financial appeal, students are required to send all supporting documentation and a narrative description of their situation to [finappeal@uwindsor.ca](mailto:finappeal@uwindsor.ca).

Students who request refunds are subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

- Credit balances that result from a scholarship will not be paid out until after the incidental drop date mentioned above
- Payments received by the University of Windsor directly from a foreign country will only be refunded to a registered student
- A maximum refund of \$2,000 will be granted
- Only one (1) refund will be paid out per semester
- All refund requests that exceed \$2,000 will be wired back to the originating bank account, subject to a wire charge of \$25 (4 – 6 week processing time)
- Payments received by the University of Windsor in cash or directly from a Canadian bank account will be refunded without these restrictions, but are still subject to review
- Refunds are not issued for amounts less than \$2.

Daily interest charges apply to outstanding balances after the payment deadline at 14% per annum, calculated daily, compounded monthly. Interest is calculated by  $(14\% \times \text{Outstanding Balance} \times \text{Number of Days Outstanding}) / 365$ . If you are subject to interest charges, they will appear on your account on the first day of the month following the interest assessment.

### **Detroit Mercy Law**

At Detroit Mercy Law, students are required to officially withdraw from a class according to proper procedure once they have registered for that class. Official academic withdrawal is the only way academic and financial obligations for a registered class can be modified. The proper procedure is for the student to complete an official academic withdrawal in writing to the law school Registrar's Office or drop in TitanPass during the online drop period. Once the online drop period has passed, any changes in registration must be done in writing to the law school's Registrar's Office.

Once the student has registered for classes, their student account is charged for the tuition and the student is financially responsible for payment or payment arrangement. Tuition is refunded according to the following schedule once classes have been officially dropped in the Registrar's Office:

- Classes from 1 day to 7 weeks in length
  - 100 percent (100%) refund on Day 1
  - No refund beginning Day 2
- Classes more than 7 weeks long
  - 100 percent (100%) refund through Day 7
  - 50 percent (50%) refund Day 8 to Day 14

- No refund beginning Day 15

The refund of tuition charges will be available on a credit-hour basis according to the University Refund Schedule. Refunds will first be applied to any financial aid received by the student and then to the student's indebtedness to the University.