

Board Meeting
March 14, 2019

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF JURISPRUDENCE, UIC JOHN MARSHALL
LAW SCHOOL, CHICAGO

Action: Establish the Master of Jurisprudence, UIC John Marshall Law School

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate and UIC John Marshall Law School recommends the establishment of the Master of Jurisprudence.

The Master of Jurisprudence (MJ) prepares individuals to work in a wide variety of law-related or professional fields for which a Juris Doctor is not required, enables them to perform at a higher level within their current occupation, and provides advanced study opportunities in law and policy for students seeking to continue their studies at the graduate level. Students with undergraduate degrees in any discipline may apply. Candidates pursuing the MJ must complete a concentration in one of seven areas: employee benefits, estate planning, intellectual property law, international business and trade law, privacy and technology law, real estate law, and tax law. For example, a student with an undergraduate degree in engineering might pursue the concentration in intellectual property law, seeking to work as a patent agent before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The degree requires 30 hours, including two core courses in legal analysis and a substantive law overview. The remaining coursework is comprised of required and elective courses unique to each concentration. Students must maintain an overall grade point average of 2.50/4.00. The MJ can be completed full- or part-time, and is offered as both an online and on-campus program. Depending on the concentration, students may be able to complete the entire degree online. In Fall 2019, an estimated 25 students (new and continuing) will be enrolled.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.