



Policy Title
Allowable Matriculation Period Policy

Policy Number
SULC-1-036

Responsible Unit: Office of Academic Affairs	Effective Date: February 24, 2025
Responsible Official: Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs	Last Reviewed Date: February 24, 2025
Policy Classification: Academic Affairs	Last Revised Date: February 24, 2025
	Origination Date: June 21, 2021

I. Policy Overview

The purpose of this policy is to establish a formal policy that describes the appropriate number of months in which a student must complete law school matriculation. This policy was created to comply with Standard 311(b) of the American Bar Association, which provides “[a] law school shall require that the course of study for the J.D. degree be completed no earlier than 24 months and, except in extraordinary circumstances, no later than 84 months after a student has commenced law study at the law school or a law school from which the school has accepted transfer credit.”

II. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all students, faculty, and staff of the Southern University Law Center (SULC).

III. Policy Compliance

This policy will inform SULC administration, faculty and students of the minimum and maximum number of months a student is permitted to work towards the completion of a law degree and have that law degree conferred.

IV. Policy Definitions

Extraordinary circumstances are defined as those circumstances that lead to the interruption of a student’s legal education and may include, but not be limited to, illness, family exigency, or military service.

V. Policy and Applicable Procedures

- A. SULC's program of legal education leads to the conferring of a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree and can generally be completed by a full-time student in three years and a part-time student in four years.
- B. No student may earn their J.D. degree in less than 24 months after they have started their matriculation, irrespective of whether the student commenced their study at SULC.
- C. If a student has not earned their J.D. degree within 84 months of starting their matriculation, the student's academic studies will cease. The credits earned within the 84 months cannot be used to earn a J.D. degree, unless extraordinary circumstances exist. The 84-month period stated in this policy covers the time in which course work was completed at SULC and any institution from which SULC has accepted transfer credit.
- D. In all cases, the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs will make the determination as to whether extraordinary circumstances exist. If extraordinary circumstances do exist, the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs shall place in the student's file a signed statement explaining the extraordinary circumstances leading to the Law Center permitting an exception to this limitation.
- E. Once a student has completed the requirements to earn the Juris Doctor degree the student will not be permitted to enroll in additional courses for any reason.

VI. Policy History and Review


This policy was created and became effective on June 21, 2021. The policy was updated, on February 24, 2025, to indicate that students who completed the program of study would not be permitted to enroll in additional courses. The policy is subject to a five-year policy review cycle and shall be reviewed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and any changes will be submitted to the faculty for consideration.

VII. Publication of Policy

This policy is published on the Southern University Law Center website at www.sulc.edu.

VIII. Policy Approval

This policy was approved by:



Alvin Washington
Interim Chancellor

February 24, 2025
Date