Washington University School of Law Tuition Policy

September 10, 2009

Tuition for all programs is published during the spring semester for the upcoming fall and the following year’s spring semester and summer school, and shall be subject to the following:

1. No students, whether full-time or part-time, may earn a JD degree from Washington University School of Law until they have paid the equivalent of six semesters of full-time tuition at the regular full-time semester rate. Students entering as second-year transfers need to pay the equivalent of just four semesters of full-time tuition. For joint-degree students, the semester-tuition minimum is five; for LLM students, it is two. Students will be charged the full semester rate for their last regularly scheduled semester even if they require less than the full-time class load to graduate. Eight hours is full-time load for LLM in U.S. Law students and twelve hours is the full time load for all other programs. Effective September 1, 2009, summer school or other special-program tuition does not get credited towards the semester-tuition minimum for any degree student. The semester-tuition amounts indicated above are intended as a minimum, not a maximum. Thus, students who pay the minimum semester-tuition rate for their degree but fail to earn sufficient credits to graduate on time are still required to pay for any additional credits they need to complete their degree beyond the semesters for which they have already paid.

2. Students who take 12 or more hours (8 or more for LLM in U.S. Law) in the fall or spring semester will pay the current regular published semester tuition. Subject to meeting the tuition requirements set out in the previous paragraph, students enrolled in fewer hours per semester will pay the published hourly tuition rate. Part-time LLM in U.S. Law students taking 7 or fewer hours pay a greater hourly rate than all other programs since only 20 total hours are required for the degree.

3. All individuals taking classes for credit or audit will pay the published full-time or part-time tuition rate. One exception to this policy is that JD, MJS, LLM, and JSD Alumni will be allowed to audit one class for free. Alumni who have audited one class at any time following graduation will be required to pay the full hourly tuition rate if they wish to audit another class. Also, the free audit is not available while they are enrolled in a subsequent degree program.

4. Full-time JD Students, who have paid 6 semesters of full tuition, and LLM students, who have paid for two semesters, but do not have the required credits to graduate for unforeseen reasons beyond their control may petition to take the number of hours to graduate at reduced tuition. (Joint JD degree students could petition after paying for 5 full semesters. Transfer JD students could petition after paying for 4 semesters, provided they received transfer credit equivalent to the normal Washington University Law 1L course load.) Under normal circumstances request for reduced tuition will only be granted if the student had paid tuition and received no credit due to authorized leaves of absence. Any petition for reduced tuition will be submitted to the Associate Dean of Administration.

5. JSD students pay full tuition for each of their first two semesters and a continuing student fee in any semester thereafter. They may audit or take for credit up to 12 hours in each of their first two semesters. In subsequent semesters they will be required to pay the standard hourly tuition rate for all classes that they audit or take for credit. Normally students will not be charged both the continuing student fee and tuition in the same semester.

6. The continuing student fee applies to all students that do not pay tuition. The amount of the continuing student fee is published each year. For 2009-2010, it is $1,000 per semester; for 2010-2011, it will be $1,250 per semester; and for 2011-2012, it will be $1,500 per semester.
The continuing student fee will thereafter increase at the annual percentage rate that tuition increases in subsequent years.

7. Foreign graduates engaged in post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), may retain access to the law school and their computer accounts by paying the continuing student fee noted above for the period July though December and twice the semester fee for the period July through June. If at this time a student is paying tuition to audit one or more classes after one free audit, the continuation fee will be waived for each semester the student is paying tuition.

8. Distinguished Visiting Scholars are invited guests of the School of Law and pay no fees. These scholars are clearly distinct from our foreign visiting scholar program where participants are charged a fee. The Distinguished Visiting Scholars are administered by Dean’s office. The paying visiting scholars are administered by the International program.