

Statement Regarding Distance Education & Compliance with ABA Standards

As an ABA-accredited law school, the College of Law is subject to the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools. In accordance with ABA Standards, Loyola students may not earn more than one third of the credit hours required for the J.D. degree through distance education courses, and they may not earn more than ten credit hours during the first third of their education. At Loyola, 90 credit hours are required to earn the J.D. degree, thus a student may not earn more than 30 credit hours through distance education courses. Per ABA definition 7, a “Distance education course’ means one in which students are separated from the faculty member or each other for more than one-third of the instruction and the instruction involves the use of technology to support regular and substantive interaction among students and between the students and the faculty member, either synchronously or asynchronously.”

For the following semesters, Loyola has operated with an ABA variance from this rule regarding distance education when the distance education was necessitated by circumstances arising from the COVID pandemic: spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020, spring 2021, fall 2021, and spring 2022.