

# MASTER OF MARITIME BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS (MBAA) AND JURIS DOCTOR (JDLW) COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM

## Program Requirements

### Master of Maritime Business Administration and Logistics

#### Program Requirements

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#### Student's Advisory Committee

##### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

**Non-Thesis Students:** All MBAA non-thesis students' advisory committees will consist of the departmental graduate advisor for the MBAA program or the department head for the Maritime Business Administration department. The departmental graduate advisor or the department head has the responsibility of approving the proposed degree plan for all non-thesis MBAA students.

**Thesis Students:** After receiving admission to graduate studies and enrolling for coursework, the student will consult with the head of his or her major or administrative department concerning appointment of the chair of his or her advisory committee. The student's advisory committee for the master's degree will consist of no fewer than three members of the graduate faculty, representative of the student's fields of study and research. The chair or the co-chair of the advisory committee must be from the student's major department (or intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), and at least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student's major department.

The chair, in consultation with the student, will select the remainder of the advisory committee. The student will interview each prospective committee member to determine whether he or she is willing to serve. Only graduate faculty members located on Texas A&M University campuses may serve as chair of a student's advisory committee. Other graduate faculty members located off campus may serve as a member or co-chair (but not chair) with a member as the chair. The chair of the committee, who usually has immediate supervision of the student's research and thesis, has the responsibility for calling required meetings

of the committee and for calling meetings at any other time considered desirable.

If the chair of a student's advisory committee voluntarily leaves the University and the student is near completion of the degree and wants the chair to continue to serve in this role, the student is responsible for securing a current member of the University Graduate Faculty, from the student's academic program and located near the Texas A&M University campus site, to serve as the co-chair of the committee. The Department Head may request in writing to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School that a faculty member who is on an approved leave of absence or has voluntarily separated from the university, be allowed to continue to serve in the role of chair of a student's advisory committee without a co-chair for up to one year. The students should be near completion of the degree. Extensions beyond the one year period can be granted with additional approval of the Dean.

If the chair of the student's advisory committee is unavailable for an extended time in any academic period during which the student is involved in activities relating to an internship, thesis or professional paper, and is registered for courses such as 684, 691, 692, or 693, the student may request, in writing, that the department head appoint an alternate advisory committee chair during the interim period.

The duties of the committee include responsibility for the proposed degree plan, the research proposal, the thesis and the final examination. In addition, the committee as a group and as individual members are responsible for advising the student on academic matters, and, in the case of academic deficiency, initiating recommendations to the Graduate and Professional School.

The committee members' approval on the degree plan indicate their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student. Although individual committee members may be replaced by petition for valid reasons, a committee cannot resign *en masse*.

## Degree Plan

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

Each graduate student must submit an official degree plan to the Graduate and Professional School for approval. The degree plan formally declares his/her degree objective, the membership of the advisory committee, and the specific courses that she/he will be required to complete as part of the degree program. She/he will develop their proposed degree plan in consultation with their designated advisory committee. The Head of the Department of Maritime Business Administration must approve all degree plans. Completed degree plans must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School according to the following regulation with the student meeting which ever of these deadlines falls earliest:

- Following the deadline imposed by the student's college or interdisciplinary degree program.
- No later than 90 days prior to the date of the final oral examination or thesis defense – thesis students only.
- According to deadlines published in the Graduate and Professional School calendar each semester for graduation that semester. The calendar may be found at <https://grad.tamu.edu/>.

Specific rules and limitations on coursework and committee membership can be found in the Texas A&M University Graduate and Professional

Catalog. Once a degree plan is approved by the Graduate and Professional School, changes in coursework or committee membership may be requested by petition to the Graduate and Professional School. Changes of major, degree or department must be requested by submitting a petition and/or a new degree plan/coursework petition. Additional flexibility to replace required courses with courses targeted to their area of research is available to thesis option students upon recommendation and approval by their committee and the department head.

## Credit Requirement

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

A minimum of 36 semester credit hours of approved courses and research hours are required for Thesis Option (Research Track) MBAA students. A minimum of 36 semester credit hours of approved coursework is required for the Non-Thesis Option (Professional Track) MBAA students.

The 36-hour Thesis Option (Research Track) curriculum is structured with 21 hours of required courses and 15 hours of electives. Students may use up to 6 hours of their elective coursework as MARA 691 research hours. Students should consult with the Graduate Advisor or their advisory committee regarding required and elective coursework.

The 36-hour Non-Thesis Option (Professional Track) curriculum is structured with 21 hours of required courses and 15 hours of elective coursework. Students should consult with the Graduate Advisor or their advisory committee regarding required and elective coursework.

The combined degree program includes a total of 126 hours without duplication of credits. The Department of Maritime Business Administration will accept up to 9 hours of credit in professional law courses toward the MBAA degree. The School of Law will accept up to 15 hours of credits in maritime business administration graduate courses toward the JD degree. However, in combination, a student may not apply more than 15 hours to both degrees. All courses in the MBAA degree program are offered as distance education courses. Students in the JD program may take up to 30 hours of distance education credits towards the JD degree.

## Transfer of Credit

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

Students may transfer a maximum of 12 hours of courses or one-third of the total hours of the degree plan, whichever number is greater, from an approved institution upon the advice of their advisory committee. Courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution or approved international institution with a final grade of B or better might be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the student was in degree-seeking status at Texas A&M University at Galveston or at the institution at which the courses were taken, and if the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for students in degree-seeking status at the host institution.

Coursework in which no formal grades are given or in which grades other than letter grades (A, B, C, etc.) are given (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.) is not accepted for transfer credit. Courses appearing on the degree plan with grades of D, F or U may not be absolved by transfer work. Credit for thesis research or the equivalent is not transferable. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours or equated to semester credit hours. Students must have an official transcript sent directly from the university in which the transfer coursework was taken to the Texas A&M

at Galveston Office of Admissions and Records. Courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPA.

## Limitations on the Use of Transfer, Extension and Certain Other Courses

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

If otherwise acceptable, certain courses may be used toward meeting credit-hour requirements for the master's degree under the following limitations.

- The total of any combination of A and B below may not exceed the greater of either 12 hours or one third (1/3) of the total hours on the degree plan. The following restrictions apply:
  - Courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution, or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater, will be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the student was in degree-seeking status at Texas A&M University, or the student was in degree-seeking status at the institution at which the courses were taken; and if the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for students in degree-seeking status at the host institution. Courses previously used for another degree are not acceptable for degree plan credit.
  - A maximum of 12 credit hours of 489 and/or 689 (Special Topics).
- A maximum of 8 hours of 691 (Research), 4 hours of 684 (Professional Internship), or 9 hours of 485 and/or 685 (Directed Studies), and up to 3 hours of 690 (Theory of Research) or 695 (Frontiers in Research). Any combination of 684, 685, 690, 691 and 695 may not exceed one-fourth (1/4) of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan.
- A zero credit 684 or 685 course is only allowed for non-thesis option master's students. A zero credit 681 course can be used for either thesis or non-thesis option master's students. Other courses, including 691 (Research) hours, are not eligible for zero credit.
- A maximum of 2 hours of 481/681 (Seminar).
- A maximum of 9 hours of advanced undergraduate courses (300- or 400-level).
- No credit may be obtained by correspondence study. (Courses in the student's degree plan which may be delivered in whole or in part by electronic means are not considered "correspondence study.")
- For graduate courses of three weeks' duration or less, up to 1 hour of credit may be obtained for each five-day week of coursework. Each week of coursework must include at least 15 contact hours.
- Extension courses are not acceptable for credit.
- For non-distance degree programs, no more than 50 percent of the non-research coursework required for the program may be completed through distance education courses.
- To receive a graduate degree from Texas A&M University, students must earn one-third or more of the credits through the institution's own direct instruction. This limitation also applies to joint degree programs.

Exceptions will only be permitted in unusual cases and when petitioned by the student's advisory committee and approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

## Thesis Option

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

The thesis option is designed to allow the student to demonstrate research capabilities through developing an independent and thorough investigation of a particular problem of interest. This would also prepare the student for further graduate studies. An acceptable thesis is required for the Master of Science degree for a student who selects the thesis option program. The finished work must reflect a comprehensive understanding of the pertinent literature and express in clear English, the problem(s) for study, the method, significance and results of the student's original research. Thesis formatting must be acceptable to the Graduate and Professional School as outlined in the Guidelines for Theses, Dissertations, and Records of Study.

After successful defense (or exemption) and approval by the student's advisory committee and the head of the student's major department (or chair of intercollegiate faculty, if appropriate), the student must submit the thesis in electronic format as a single PDF file to <https://etd.tamu.edu/>. Additionally, a thesis approval form with original signatures must be received by the Graduate and Professional School through the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS). Both the PDF file and the completed approval form must be received by the deadline.

Deadline dates for submitting the thesis are announced each semester or summer term in the "Graduate and Professional School Calendar" (see Time Limit statement). These dates also can be accessed via the Graduate and Professional School website.

Each student who submits a manuscript for review is assessed a one-time thesis/dissertation processing fee through Student Business Services for the thesis/dissertation services provided. After commencement, theses and dissertations are digitally stored and made available through the Texas A&M Libraries.

A thesis that is deemed unacceptable by the Graduate and Professional School because of excessive corrections will be returned to the student's department head (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable). The manuscript must be resubmitted as a new document, and the entire review process must begin again. All original submittal deadlines must be met during the resubmittal process to graduate.

No credit hours of 684 (Professional Internship) may be used for the thesis option for the Master of Maritime Business Administration and Logistics degree. A maximum of 8 credit hours of 691 (Research) or 485 and/or 685 (Directed Studies), and up to 3 credit hours of 690 (Theory of Research) or 695 (Frontiers in Research) may be used toward the thesis option of the Master of Maritime Business Administration and Logistics degree. In addition, any combination of 685, 690, 691, and 695 may not exceed 12 credit hours.

The 36-hour thesis-option curriculum is structured with 21 hours of required courses and 15 hours of optional elective courses of which at least 6 hours are in 691 courses. Additional flexibility to replace required courses targeted to their area of research is available to thesis-option students upon recommendation and approval by their committees and the Head of the Department of Maritime Business Administration.

### **Thesis Proposal On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs**

For the thesis option, the student must prepare a thesis proposal for approval by the advisory committee and the head of the Department of Maritime Business Administration. This proposal must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School at least 15 working days prior to the submission of the request for the final examination. There are

compliance issues that must be addressed if graduate students are performing research involving human subjects, animals, infectious biohazards and recombinant DNA. Students involved in these types of research should check with the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety at (979) 458-1467. Call (979) 458-1467 to address questions about all research compliance responsibilities. Additional information can also be obtained on the website <https://vpr.tamu.edu/research-compliance-and-biosafety/>.

### **Final Examination/Thesis Defense On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs**

A student must pass a final examination by dates announced each semester or summer term in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar (<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/dates-and-deadlines/dates-and-deadlines/>). To be eligible to take the final examination, a student's GPA must be at least 3.000 for courses on the degree plan and for all courses completed at Texas A&M which are eligible to be applied to a graduate degree, and there must be no unabsolved grades of D, F or U for any course listed on the degree plan. To absolve a deficient grade, the student must repeat the course at Texas A&M University and achieve a grade of C or better. All coursework on the degree plan must have been completed with the exception of those hours for which the student is registered. For thesis-option students, an approved thesis proposal must be on file in the Graduate and Professional School according to published deadlines prior to the final examination or submission of the request for exemption from the final examination.

A request to schedule the final examination must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School *via* ARCS a minimum of 10 working days in advance of the scheduled date for the examination. The Graduate and Professional School must be notified in writing of any cancellations. A student may be given only one opportunity to repeat the final examination for the master's degree and that must be within a time period that does not extend beyond the end of the next regular semester (Summer terms are excluded).

For thesis option students, the final examination covers the thesis and all work taken on the degree plan and at the option of the committee may be written or oral or both. The final examination may not be administered before the thesis is available to all members of the student's advisory committee in substantially final form, and all members have had adequate time to review the document. The examination is conducted by the student's advisory committee as finally constituted. A thesis option student must be registered at the University in the semester or summer term in which the final examination is taken. Persons other than members of the graduate faculty may, with mutual consent of the candidate and the major professor, attend final examinations for advanced degrees. Upon completion of the questioning of the candidate, all visitors must excuse themselves from the proceedings. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her exam. A department, or interdisciplinary degree program, may have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department or interdisciplinary degree program.

The Report of the Final Examination Form must be submitted with original signatures of only the committee members approved by the Graduate and Professional School. Only one committee member substitution is allowed with the approval of the Graduate and Professional School. If the program requires the advisory committee to include at least one external member – with an appointment to a department other than the student's major department – and the

substitution is for the sole external member of the advisory committee, then the substitute must also be external to the student's major department. In extenuating circumstances, with approval of the Graduate and Professional School, an exception to this requirement may be granted.

## Non-Thesis Option

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

A final examination is not required for the non-thesis option.

## Juris Doctor

### Program Requirements

The JD degree is conferred on students who satisfactorily complete a minimum of 90 credit hours with a cumulative grade point of 2.33 or better. In addition, each student must complete an upper-level rigorous writing requirement, a six-hour experiential requirement, and a 30-hour *pro bono* requirement. Students must complete their degree requirements within 72 months of starting law school.

### Degree Plan

The combined degree program includes a total of 126 hours without duplication of credits. The Department of Maritime Business Administration will accept up to 9 hours of credit in professional law courses toward the MBAA degree. The School of Law will accept up to 15 hours of credits in maritime business administration graduate courses toward the JD degree. However, in combination, a student may not apply more than 15 hours to both degrees. All courses in the MBAA degree program are offered as distance education courses. Students in the JD program may take up to 30 hours of distance education credits towards the JD degree.

Below is the degree plan for the JD/MBAA combination degree program.

First Year		Semester Credit Hours
<b>Fall</b>		
LAW 7001	Analysis, Research, and Writing I	3
LAW 7005	Civil Procedure	4
LAW 7042	Torts	4
LAW 7110	Professional Identity	.5
LAW 7418	Legislation and Regulation	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>14.5</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
LAW 7007	Alternative Dispute Resolution Survey	1
LAW 7002	Analysis, Research, and Writing II	3
LAW 7017	Contracts	4
LAW 7021	Criminal Law	3
LAW 7032	Property	4
LAW 7110	Professional Identity	.5
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>15.5</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
LAW 7010	Constitutional Law	4
LAW 7091	Professional Responsibility	3
Upper level electives <sup>1,2,3</sup>		23
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

### Third Year

#### Fall

MARA 612	Strategic Human Resource Management	3
MARA 627	Marketing of Maritime Services	3
MBAA Electives <sup>3</sup>		6
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>12</b>

#### Spring

MARA 610	Maritime Strategic Management	3
MARA 623	Maritime Economics Theory and Applications	3
MARA 625	Maritime Law and Policy	3
MARA 641	Maritime Financial Management	3
MARA 664	Maritime Production, Operations and Logistics Management	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

### Fourth Year

Upper level electives <sup>1,2,3</sup>		24
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>Total Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>111</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students must successfully complete a minimum of six credit hours in one or more upper-level experiential courses. As part of the six credit hours, the student must successfully complete an approved externship or a clinic that involves advising or representing one or more actual clients or serving as a third-party neutral. An experiential course must be a simulation course, a law clinic, or a field placement.

<sup>2</sup> One LARW III course is required.

<sup>3</sup> Courses satisfying learning objectives for both degrees can count toward the completion of both degrees provided that (1) the Department of Maritime Business Administration will accept up to 9 hours of credit in professional law courses toward the MBAA degree; (2) the School of Law will accept up to 15 hours of credits in maritime business administration graduate courses toward the JD degree; and (3) in combination, a student may not apply more than 15 hours to both degrees. The initial list of courses that will count towards both the JD degree and the MBAA degree include LAW 7056, LAW 7339, LAW 7707S, LAW 7835 (if satisfies MBAA requirements for practical experience) and other LAW electives with MBAA Advisor approval; MARA 625, MARA 604, MARA 645, MARA 672, and MARA 675 (if it satisfies JD requirements for practice experience).