

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Student Services Office

Graduation FAQ

Fall 2026 & Spring 2027

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Academic Standards for Graduation (Students Self Checklist)

1. Do I have enough total credit hours to graduate?

Student Rules and Regulations, Article IV: https://www.tsulaw.edu/student_affairs/2026-2027-TMSL-Student-Rules-and-Regulations.pdf. TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE: 90

2. The upper-level writing requirement for graduation

Student Rules and Regulations, Article IV: https://www.tsulaw.edu/student_affairs/2026-2027-TMSL-Student-Rules-and-Regulations.pdf. All students are required to complete a writing requirement, either a 2 or 3 credit hours of seminar that meets the writing requirement, or Independent Research (3 credit hours). Please refer to the fall 2026 and spring 2027 class schedules for courses meeting the upper-level writing requirement.

3. Experiential Education Requirement for Graduation

Student Rules and Regulations, Article IV: https://www.tsulaw.edu/student_affairs/2026-2027-TMSL-Student-Rules-and-Regulations.pdf. All students must enroll in and complete a minimum of six (6) required hours of experiential learning. Please refer to the Law School class schedule for courses satisfying the experiential education requirements, <http://www.tsulaw.edu/academics/index.html>.

4. Have I taken all required courses on the curriculum?

Compare the curriculum with the transcript. The curriculum is posted on the Law School Registrar webpage <http://www.tsulaw.edu/academics/index.html> and in the Student Rules and Regulations, Article IV, Section 1: https://www.tsulaw.edu/student_affairs/2026-2027-TMSL-Student-Rules-and-Regulations.pdf. Students can view or print their own unofficial transcripts or Degree Works report from MyTSU Portal.

5. Do I need to take Law 725 Domestic Relations?

Students with a cumulative GPA below 3.0 at the end of the spring semester of their first year are required to take Law 725 Domestic Relations.

6. Do I meet the graduation GPA requirement?

Student Rules and Regulations Article V, Section 4: https://www.tsulaw.edu/student_affairs/2026-2027-TMSL-Student-Rules-and-Regulations.pdf. No student will be eligible for graduation with an overall cumulative law school (academic) average of less than 2.00 for all law courses.

7. Transfer credit hours from other ABA-approved Law Schools

For Rule of transfer credit hours from other ABA-approved Law Schools, please review Student Rules and Regulations, Article IV, Section 3: https://www.tsulaw.edu/student_affairs/2026-2027-TMSL-Student-Rules-and-Regulations.pdf. Courses Taken at Other Law School.

8. Transfer credit hours from other TSU colleges

For interdisciplinary courses taken at other TSU Colleges, please review Student Rules and Regulations, Article IV, Section 3: https://www.tsulaw.edu/student_affairs/2026-2027-TMSL-Student-Rules-and-Regulations.pdf. Courses Taken at Other Law School.

9. Residence Requirement –The last 30 semester hours must be completed at TMSL.

Student Rules and Regulations, Article V, Section 3C:
https://www.tsulaw.edu/student_affairs/2026-2027-TMSL-Student-Rules-and-Regulations.pdf.

10. Time in Study

Student Rules and Regulations, Article V, Section 3:
https://www.tsulaw.edu/student_affairs/2026-2027-TMSL-Student-Rules-and-Regulations.pdf.

Graduation Administrative Issues FAQ

1. Graduation Application

The graduation application is required to be submitted online through MyTSU Portal.

- Fall 2026 Graduation Application Dates: **July 1 to September 30, 2026.**
- Spring 2027 Graduation Application Dates: **December 1, 2026 to February 26, 2027**
- Summer 2027 Graduation Application: **TBA** (Will be available at the beginning of the summer semester)

If you have any problem with your graduation application, please contact Associate Dean Ratra at miamy.ratra@tsu.edu or by phone at 713-313-7909.

2. Name Change

If you changed your name after you were admitted to the Law School and before graduation, please fill out the Personal Identification Changes form on the TSU Registrar Office webpage, <https://www.tsu.edu/registrar/forms>. Please submit the form to the TSU Registrar Office at registrar@tsu.edu and copy the Law School Registrar, Ms. Pearly Pendenque at pearly.pendenque@tmslaw.tsu.edu .

If you changed your name after you graduate from Law School, please make sure that you provide the State Bar Law Examiner Office with the name that is on the Law School record (name on the transcript). Otherwise, it may cause a delay or problem to verify records when the Bar Law Examiner Office contacts the Law School for any certification.

3. Exit Counseling with the Financial Aid Office

After the online graduation application is open, TSU Financial Aid Office (Default Management Team) will notify students to set up appointments to complete Financial Aid Exit Counseling sessions and/or requirements. Notification of available dates and time of exit counseling sessions will be directly sent to graduates by the Financial Aid Office.

4. Hooding Ceremony and Commencement

- Commencement

Commencement is hosted by the University twice a year, in December and May. The date of commencement is published on both TSU Academic Calendar and TMSL Academic Calendar. <https://www.tsulaw.edu/academics/Fall-2026-and-Spring-2027-Academic-Calendar.pdf>.

During the Commencement, graduates from all colleges will celebrate together.

On the Commencement booklet, TSU Graduation Office will list graduates' undergraduate degree and the institution's name. Please submit the information through the link <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/2ijgxLJt2n> or scan the QR code to submit the information. The Law School will also collect the Hooding attendance confirmation and the number of guests attending the Hooding Ceremony through this survey.



- Hooding Ceremony

Hooding Ceremony is hosted by the Law School. Traditionally there is only one hooding ceremony in May for students graduating in December, May, and August. Hooding ceremony date is usually published on the TMSL spring semester academic calendar.

- Hooder

Traditionally, 3L Class students vote for three faculty members to hood the graduates. The 3L Class board coordinates this vote.

If a student petition to have an immediate family member who graduated from TMSL (grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, siblings, or spouse) to hood him/her, he/she needs to submit the Request for TMSL Graduate Family Hooder form in advance to the Student Affairs Office. The form will be posted to 3L students at the beginning of spring 2027.

➤ Regalia

The Law School does not supply regalia to students for the hooding ceremony. Students can order their caps, gowns, and cords either through the TSU bookstore or online. For those who would like to order through TSU Bookstore, once the Herff Jones web order link is available, Law School Student Services will forward the link to students.

➤ Cord for student organizations

Students are permitted to wear a cord with a color assigned to the student organization. A list of cord colors for student organizations will be provided by the Student Affairs Office. If student organizations would like to order the cord through TSU bookstore, please email Associate Dean Ratra at miamy.ratra@tsu.edu a graduating member list by **October 30 for December** graduates or **March 20 for May** graduates. Student Organization members can also order cords through any online platform.

➤ Accommodation requests for guests with mobile disabilities

Students must submit the Accommodation Request for Disabled Visitors form to the Student Affairs Office in advance. No wheelchairs are provided by the law school. Persons who need a wheelchair must bring their own. The Accommodation Request for Disabled Visitors form will be sent to 3L students at the beginning of spring 2027.

➤ Name Pronunciation for Hooding Ceremony

Graduates are required to RSVP to attend the Hooding ceremony. The RSVP survey link will be sent to students in January or February by the Student Affairs Office for the May Hooding Ceremony. Every RSVP attending graduate will receive a card with his/her name and name pronunciation printed on it when attending the ceremony. The graduate will give the card to the faculty or staff who announce the name during the ceremony.

5. Official Transcript and Diploma

The Law School does not issue an official transcript or a diploma. Students need to follow the policy and procedure on the TSU Registrar webpage to order their official transcript.

Official Transcript request: <http://www.tsu.edu/registrar/transcript-request.html> .

The diploma will be printed and mailed to graduates by the TSU Registrar Office. TSU Registrar Office will directly inform students when the diploma is ready to pick up or be mailed out. If you have any questions regarding the diploma, please contact TSU Graduation at TSU_Graduation@tsu.edu .

6. Degree Audit by the Law School Registrar's Office

The Law School Registrar will start to do a degree audit after all 3L grades are submitted by faculty. Once the degree audit is completed, the Registrar will post the degree award date in the system which will be reported on the student transcript.

7. The End of Term Waiting Period and Degree Conferral

Law School Faculty have around 30 days to submit grades after the final exam.

After all final semester grades are posted, the Law School Registrar will audit the degree completion and confer the degree.

8. Bar Examiner Certification

When a graduate applies to take a Bar exam in any state, the State Bar Law Examiner office will contact the Law School Registrar Office or Dean's Office directly to request the Law School to verify the graduate's degree date or character and fitness.

Please be reminded that if you change your name after graduation, you need to provide the State Bar Examiner Office with the name that is on the Law School record (name on the transcript). Otherwise, it may cause a delay or a problem in verifying your record when the Bar Law Examiner Office contacts the Law School for any certification.

9. 3L Composite Photo

Currently, the graduation photo services are provided by Candid Campus Photography, Inc. Traditionally, the date and time of photo taking are coordinated by 3L Class Board with the Candid Campus. The Candid Campus Photography link to make the appointment will be provided by the company later through the 3L Class Board when it is available. Regalia for a headshot is provided by Candid Campus.

Graduation Administrative Process (Student Self Checklist)

1. Submit your online Graduation Application on the MyTSU Portal. The instructions on how to submit an online graduation application will be emailed to students.
2. Pay the graduation fee
After the deadline for the online graduation application, TSU Registrar Office will provide a list to the Student Account Office to charge the graduation fee. Once the fee is posted on your account, please pay the fee.
3. Financial Aid Clearance.
TSU Financial Aid Office (Default Management Team) will notify students to set up appointments to complete the required Financial Aid Exit Counseling session. Notification of available dates and times of exit counseling sessions will be sent to graduates after the online graduation application is open.

4. Order cap and gown for hooding and commencement ceremony.

The hood for J.D. Regalia is purple in color.

Different vendors' supply may use different materials and have color differences. The following are examples.



It is the student's responsibility to order the cap and gown for the hooding and/or commencement ceremony. Students can order the cap and gown through TSU Bookstore, any other shop, or an online store. If the order is through TSU Bookstore, TSU Bookstore will forward Herff Jones order web link to TMSL Student Affairs Office when the Herff Jones website is set up and ready for students to place a rental order. The deadline to place an order will be decided by Herff Jones. TMSL Student Affairs will inform students when the Herff Jones website is ready. Students have the option to ship the regalia set to their own address or TSU Bookstore. If Herff Jones ships the cap and gown to TSU Bookstore, students will be informed when to pick up the cap and gown.

5. Take the graduation composite photo.
3L Class Board coordinates with the photo vendor to decide the date and time of taking the photo and inform students.
6. Attend the hooding and/or commencement ceremony.

TMSL Student Affairs Office will inform students of the Hooding ceremony information. TSU Registrar Office coordinates and informs students of the commencement ceremony details.

7. Student Accounting Clearance

Please check your student account to see if you have any outstanding balances.

8. Order official transcript.

The official transcript must be ordered through TSU Registrar Office. The instruction is on the TSU Registrar webpage <http://www.tsu.edu/registrar/transcript-request.html> .

9. Diploma

The diploma will be printed and mailed to graduates by the TSU Registrar Office. TSU Registrar Office will inform students when the diploma is ready to be mailed out. If you have any questions regarding the diploma, please contact TSU Graduation at TSU_Graduation@tsu.edu .