The Law School Goes on a Twelve-month Basis

Marquette University
THE LAW SCHOOL GOES ON A TWELVE-MONTH BASIS

Since the entry of the United States into war, a growing concern has been evident among Marquette law students as to how they may complete their professional study and yet fulfill the duty which they owe to their country. The faculty of the Law School has appreciated this concern and has given increased thought to the problem. Numerous plans, all designed to help students to progress in their legal education before entering the armed service, have been carefully considered. At a faculty meeting on January 16, 1942, it was finally decided, with the approval of the administration of the University, that the best method to meet the present situation would be to place the Law School on a twelve-month basis.

The general details of the new arrangement are as follows. The present semester will close, under the generally advanced calendar of the University, with the final examinations during the last weeks in May. On June 8, 1942, a new semester will start. Freshman students may begin their study of law in this semester. The full law faculty will be in attendance for this, as for any other regular semester. The usual full schedule of subjects will be offered, and the regular number of class hours will be required. The semester will close in mid-September. The opening of the following semester has been tentatively set for October 5, 1942. This will be followed by the regular semester beginning in February, 1943. In other words, under the plan there will be three full semesters over the period of a calendar year, instead of two semesters as in the past.

Under the twelve-month teaching plan, students in the present Junior class in the Law School can complete their work for a degree in January, 1943, instead of June, 1943. The present Freshman students can receive their degrees in September, 1943, instead of June, 1944. Freshmen entering next June under the plan can complete their work in June, 1944, rather than in June, 1945.

The plan is a war emergency measure. There will be no lowering of standards or of graduation requirements. The faculty is attempting by this means to aid law students in accordance with the general policy expressed at the December meeting of the Association of American Law Schools at Chicago. It is hoped that as a result of the plan students will be able to complete all or a greater part of their preparation for professional life before they must embark on the more immediately important task of defending the institutions under which we all wish to continue to live.