

INDIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE MASTER'S CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Indiana Judicial College Master's Certificate program created in 2002 is an advanced judicial education opportunity offered by the Indiana Judicial Center (now known as the Indiana Office of Court Services) as an extension of the Indiana Judicial College Program. Professor William A. Kerr, former Executive Director of the Indiana Judicial Center, created the Judicial College program in the early 1970's to promote continuing judicial education and to offer recognition for the participants. Although there have been some minor modifications since the program was created, the basic structure remains the same in that a judicial officer receives a certificate as a graduate of the Indiana Judicial College upon completion of 120 hours of designated judicial education courses. The required 120 hours may be earned within a six-year judicial term although many participants take more than six years to graduate from the judicial college.

The Master's Certificate program is designed to provide academic structure and an opportunity for further recognition for judicial officers who continue to serve on the bench after graduating from the Judicial College. Any judicial officer who has graduated from the Judicial College may participate in the Master's Certificate program by submitting a Notice of Participation form to the Indiana Judicial Center. Each participant will be responsible for properly submitting the Notice of Participation and certifying the number of hours completed for Masters credit on the forms provided by the Indiana Judicial Center.

The Master's Certificate requires the completion of an additional 120 hours of designated Judicial College credit courses along with certain other requirements. No retroactive credit is allowed for courses previously completed except for some of the additional requirements as set forth below; Master's credit cannot be earned until a person has received a certificate of graduation from the Judicial College and has submitted a Notice of Participation form.

In addition to the 120 hours of continuing judicial education hours, Master's Certificate participants must successfully complete the Graduate Program for Indiana Judges which may (but is not required to) occur before admission into the Master's Certificate program. Graduates of the Judicial College who are ineligible or legitimately unable to attend the Graduate Program may be given an alternative requirement by the Judicial Center.

All participants are required to submit a paper on a legal topic of choice. The submission may be the written documentation prepared for a presentation at a continuing judicial or legal education program or it may be an article, paper or other writing prepared for another purpose so long as it is prepared after admission into the Master's Certificate program.

Questions should be submitted to Vicki Davis or Julie McDonald, Indiana Office of Court Services.