

Juris Doctor, JD

Requirements

The Juris Doctor (JD) requires a minimum of 88 s.h. to earn the degree. To be eligible for a JD degree, students must meet the credit hour requirements, meet the length of study requirements, achieve a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.10, take and complete all required courses, satisfy the writing requirements, and satisfy the experiential course requirement.

First-Year Curriculum

The first-year curriculum emphasizes development of analytical skills, a sense of the role of legal institutions in society, and essential writing skills. Each course in the first-year curriculum shares these emphases and conveys substantive knowledge about a particular area of the law.

First-year students take the following courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
First Year, Fall		
LAW:8017	Contracts	4
LAW:8026	Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning	1
LAW:8032	Legal Analysis Writing and Research I	2
LAW:8037	Property	4
LAW:8046	Torts	4
First Year, Spring		
LAW:8006	Civil Procedure	4
LAW:8010	Constitutional Law I	3
LAW:8022	Criminal Law	3
LAW:8033	Legal Analysis Writing and Research II	3
Elective		3

The two-semester sequence LAW:8032 and LAW:8033, Legal Analysis Writing and Research (LAWR), is designed to equip students with effective skills in legal analysis, writing and oral communication (oral advocacy), and research.

Second- and Third-Year Curriculum

Second- and third-year courses cover the range of specialties within the legal profession, allowing students to explore and follow their professional interests in a particular career specialization, to write for one of the school's four student-run scholarly journals, to pursue combined degrees in law-related graduate programs, or to simply obtain the widest possible exposure to the legal landscape.

All second- and third-year students must complete the following coursework.

Course #	Title	Hours
LAW:8280	Constitutional Law II	3
LAW:8791	Professional Responsibility	3
Experiential course requirement		
Four writing units beyond the writing requirements of the first year		