

Degree Requirements

THE DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE (JD) DEGREE

OVERVIEW OF JD REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS OF 2017

For students entering in the fall of 2012 and thereafter, the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence are:

- ✓ Successful completion of all first-year required courses plus an additional 82 quarter units of elective coursework (a combined total of 111 quarter units);
 - Up to 31 elective units may come from pre-approved non-law courses.
 - Any units of externships, directed research, directed writing, practica, policy labs, senior thesis, research track, and moot court (Kirkwood competition) reduce the number of non-law units on a one-for-one basis.
- ✓ Nine quarters of residency;
- ✓ Satisfaction of the ethics requirement;
- ✓ Satisfaction of the writing requirement;
- ✓ Satisfaction of the professional skills instruction requirement.
- ✓ Timely filing of an application for graduation.

REQUIRED CURRICULUM: FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM

Each law student is required to complete the following courses during his or her first year at the Law School:

<u>Autumn Quarter</u>	<u>Winter Quarter</u>	<u>Spring Quarter</u>
Civil Procedure	Constitutional Law I	Federal Litigation
Contracts	Property I	Electives (7 – 12 units)
Criminal Law	Federal Litigation	
Torts	Electives (0 – 5* units)	
Legal Research & Writing		

During the autumn quarter, a first-year student may take only those courses on the required list.

*During the winter quarter, students may take only courses that have been pre-approved for 1Ls. Students are limited to four units of elective courses (or five units if they choose to enroll in Evidence with Professor George Fisher (Law 290 – 5 units)).

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

To graduate, a JD student must be “in residence” as a law student for at least nine quarters and no more than eleven quarters. More time may be granted only to accommodate a documented disability.

For purposes of the JD degree, the term “in residence” means that a student: (1) takes at least 9 quarter units of credit that can be counted toward the degree each quarter; (2) by the date all grades for the quarter are due, passes at least 8 units each quarter; (3) pays full tuition to the law school; and, (4) does not work more than 20 hours per week during the term. A student must be in residence during the quarter in which the final degree is conferred or during the quarter immediately preceding degree conferral.

ETHICS REQUIREMENT

JD students must complete at least one advanced course that contains one or more units of ethics instruction. Only a course approved by the Curriculum Committee and explicitly classified as an ethics course before the quarter begins satisfies this requirement.

WRITING REQUIREMENT

In addition to first-year Legal Research and Writing and Federal Litigation, all students must complete two courses of at least two units each in which a principal part of the assigned work is a paper or other written product. One course must be an R course and the other must be a PW course. Only courses approved by the Curriculum Committee and explicitly classified as an R or PW course before the term begins can satisfy this requirement.

- A course designated as an “R” course is defined as one in which the written product is substantial and is based on open-ended research by the student.
- A course designated as a “PW” course is defined as one in which the students engage in the sort of professional writing common to practicing lawyers, e.g., writing briefs, drafting contracts, etc.
- A Directed Research paper may count as the equivalent of an “R” course with the approval of the supervising faculty member.
- A Directed Writing project may count as the equivalent of a “PW” course with the approval of the supervising faculty member.
- Satisfactory completion of a Senior Thesis or Research Track counts as the equivalent of an “R” course.

SUBSTANTIAL INSTRUCTION IN PROFESSIONAL SKILLS REQUIREMENT

All students must complete at least one course that includes substantial instruction in the professional skills generally regarded as necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession. Only a course approved by the Curriculum Committee and explicitly classified as such a course before the quarter begins satisfies this requirement.