LAW, JSD

for the Doctor of the Science of Law

dean of the college: Vikram David Amar
associate dean for graduate and international programs: Margaret Etienne
correspondence and admission information: Christine Renshaw,
Office of Graduate and International Legal Studies

college website: https://law.illinois.edu
college faculty: Law Faculty (https://law.illinois.edu/faculty-
research/faculty-profiles/)
college address: 244 Law Building, 504 East Pennsylvania Avenue,
Champaign, IL 61820
phone: (217) 333-6066
e-mail: law-gradprograms@illinois.edu

The Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.) degree provides students
who primarily intend to pursue an academic career an opportunity for
extended study, research, and scholarly writing. Those admitted to the
program must have demonstrated analytic and research ability, possess
outstanding academic credentials, and have completed the LL.M. or other
law degree from the University of Illinois or other accredited American
law school. In exceptional cases, consideration will be given to applicants
who have completed programs of study in common law countries. All
candidates must provide evidence of excellent reading and writing
skills in English. The J.S.D. program normally takes a minimum of three
years. Two years must be completed in residence at the College of Law
and must include two semesters of course work. J.S.D. candidates are
assigned a primary faculty advisor with expertise in the student’s
research area and an additional three faculty members, who form the
student’s doctoral committee. Each student must pass a qualifying
examination demonstrating general proficiency in the student’s field of study and a preliminary examination on the research proposal.
The student's faculty committee then will assess the student's thesis
research and writing progress, make recommendations, and conduct
an oral examination on the final draft of the dissertation. The final
dissertation will then be completed and deposited with the Graduate
College.

Graduate Degree Programs in the College of Law

Master of Laws, LLM (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/law/
master-laws-llm/)
concentrations:
Corporate Law, Commercial Law, & Trade (http://
catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/law/master-laws-llm/corporate-
commercial-trade/)
Criminal Law (http://catalog.illinois.edu/
graduate/law/master-laws-llm/criminal/)
Intellectual Property & Technology Law (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/law/
master-laws-llm/intellectual-property-technology/)
International & Comparative Law (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/law/
master-laws-llm/international-comparative/)
Justice, Democracy, & Legal Rights (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/
graduate-majors/law/justice-democracy-legal-rights-
concentration/)
Regulation, Sustainability, & Compliance (http://
catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/law/regulation-
sustainability-compliance-concentration/)
US Legal Practice Skills (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/law/master-laws-llm/
legal-practice-skills/)

Master of Studies in Law (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/law/
master-studies-msl/)

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Law, JD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/professional-programs/
jd_law/)

Joint Degrees with the Law, JD:
Chemistry, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las_law/
joint-degree/chemistry-ms-law-jd/)
Computer Science, MCS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering_law/
joint-degree/computer-science-mcs-law-jd/)
Human Resources and Industrial Relations, MHRIR (http://
catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/law_ler/joint-degree/human-
resources-industrial-relations-mhrir-law-jd/)
Journalism, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/law_media/journalism-
ms-law-juris-doctor/)
Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/aces_law/
joint-degree/natural-resources-environmental-sciences-
ms-law-jd/)
Political Science, Civic Leadership, MA (http://
catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las_law/joint-degree/political-
science-ma-civic-leadership-law-jd/)

Admission
The Graduate College admission requirements (http://
www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/) and English language
proficiency requirements (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/
instructions/04c/) apply. In addition for the LL.M. program, the Test
of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) requirement is 80 internet-
based. Students are not required to take the general Graduate Record
Examination (GRE). Students are admitted on an individual basis
according to a review of their prior accomplishments with an emphasis
on academic achievement. Admission is generally made for the fall
semester only.

Financial Aid
Applicants to the College of Law graduate programs are welcome to
apply for scholarship assistance. Scholarships typically are awarded to
applicants with a combination of excellent academic and professional
credentials and proven financial need. Awards usually provide part of
tuition and do not cover living expenses. There are always more qualified
applicants than there are funds available. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to explore alternative sources of funding.

For the Doctor of the Science of Law

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAW 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research</td>
<td>0-16 per semester</td>
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Total Hours 96

Other Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A J.D. or LL.M. is required for admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation Deposit Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours of residence credit</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA:</td>
<td>2.75</td>
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1 For additional details and requirements refer to the College of Law’s graduate degree requirements (http://www.law.illinois.edu/admissions/llm-program-overview/) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).