JURIS DOCTOR

Overview

for the degree of Juris Doctor

The 3-year JD program at Illinois Law provides students with a first-rate legal education. The curriculum is both timely and robust, exposing students to a healthy blend of doctrinal law, theoretical perspectives, and real-world skills.

JD Program (https://law.illinois.edu/academics/degree-programs/jd-program/)

Degree Requirements

for the degree of Juris Doctor

Code	Title	Hours
LAW 601	Contracts	4
LAW 602	Property	4
LAW 603	Torts	4
LAW 604	Criminal Law	4
LAW 606	Constitutional Law I	4
LAW 607	Civil Procedure	4
LAW 609	Legal Writing & Analysis	2
LAW 610	Introduction to Advocacy	3
LAW 627	Legal Research	1
LAW 792	Current Legal Problems (Fundamentals of Legal Practice)	1
Professional Responsibility Requirement courses:		**2-3**
LAW 680	Professional Responsibility	
Please consult the Registration Guide each semester for other courses approved by the College of Law.		
Experiential Credit Requirement		**6**
Courses fulfilling the Experiential Credit requirement vary with section offerings. Please consult Course Counseling Handbook or Registration Guide for more information.		
Upper-Level Writing Requirement		
This requirement may only be satisfied after the student successfully completes the first-year legal writing curriculum (Legal Research, Legal Writing & Analysis, and Introduction to Advocacy). Please consult the Academic Policy Handbook for more information.		

Credit Hour Limits

Requirement	Description
Experiential and Upper Level Writing courses may not double count in requirements	
Regularly Scheduled Credit Hours. Please consult the Course Counseling Handbook for more information.	64
Maximum Externship Credit Hours	9
Maximum Credit Hours allowed in a semester	18
Maximum hours offered by the College of Law not on the UIUC campus	16
Maximum Study Abroad/ International Credit	30

Other Graduation Requirements

Requirement	Description
No pending I or DFR grades	
Minimum months to graduation	24
Maximum months to graduation	84
Minimum CGPA	2.33
Minimum Total Hours to Graduate	90

Learning Outcomes

for the degree of Juris Doctor

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of American substantive and procedural law. This requires:
   a. The foundational rules governing liability for civil and criminal wrongdoing.
   b. The foundational rules that regulate the transaction of business among individuals and the ownership of property.
   c. The constitutional rules that shape the American legal system.
   d. The procedural rules that govern court adjudication.
   e. Several advanced areas of substantive or procedural law or both.
2. Use legal reasoning and legal analysis in advising and representing clients. This requires:
   a. The ability to identify, formulate, and apply legal rules.
   b. The ability to read and analyze judicial opinions.
   c. The ability to parse and interpret statutes, regulations, contracts, and other similar legal texts.
   d. The ability to construct legal arguments and evaluate critically one's own and others' legal arguments.
   e. The ability to identify and evaluate the practical consequences of various legal rules and to formulate policy arguments for and against those rules.
3. Bring practical legal skills to bear in resolving clients' legal problems. This requires:
   a. The ability to write clearly and effectively in a wide range of legal contexts and for various audiences, including courts, clients, and opposing counsel.
   b. The ability to articulate one's thoughts verbally in a clear and effective manner.
   c. Knowledge of and ability to use tools of legal research.
   d. The ability to identify and gather factual information relevant to the application of legal rules.
   e. The ability to work collaboratively with others, including others with opposing interests.
   f. Knowledge and understanding of practical aspects of the legal profession and market for legal services.

4. Conduct himself or herself professionally and in keeping with the highest standards of civic virtue. This requires:
   a. Knowledge and appreciation of the ethical rules governing legal practice.
   b. The ability to learn and grow professionally through self-reflection and continuing education.
   c. An understanding of the lawyer's distinctive role in society and of the lawyer's concomitant responsibility to contribute to society through public service and pro bono representation.
   d. The self-awareness and empathy necessary to understand and be understood across various social, economic, cultural, political, national, racial, gender, and ethnic backgrounds.

Contact Information

for the degree of Juris Doctor

College of Law

Dean of the College: Jamelle Sharpe
Associate Dean for Graduate and International Programs: Margareth Etienne

Correspondence and Admission Information:
Office of Admissions & Financial Aid- law-admissions@illinois.edu

College of Law website (https://law.illinois.edu/)
College of Law faculty (https://law.illinois.edu/faculty-research/faculty-profiles/)
244 Law Building, 504 East Pennsylvania Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 333-6066
law-gradprograms@illinois.edu