

# JURIS DOCTOR (JD)

## Academic Credits

### Minimum

All candidates for the Juris Doctor degree must successfully complete a minimum of eighty-six (86) credits.

### In-Class (or Direct Faculty Instruction) Requirement

At least sixty-four (64) of the eighty-six (86) credit hours must be in courses that require attendance in regularly scheduled classroom sessions or direct faculty instruction.

Regularly scheduled classroom session or direct faculty instruction credit hours may not include:

1. course work taken outside the school of law (at both other institutions of higher education and other schools within the University of Connecticut);
2. work in the field component of field placement clinics and any clinical fieldwork supervised by a person whose primary professional employment is not with the School of Law; including the Semester in DC and New York Pro Bono Scholars Program;
3. individual field placements;
4. field placements outside the United States either as part of a study abroad program or independently;
5. special research projects;
6. law review/journal credits; and
7. moot court/mock trial competitions.

Regularly scheduled classroom session or direct faculty instruction credit hours may include:

1. traditional lecture or seminar courses, and in-house clinics – including Advanced Fieldwork credits;
2. distance education courses; and
3. participation in approved study abroad programs.

These lists are not exhaustive.

## Duration of Study

### Minimum Study

The Faculty of the School of Law have set a minimum of five (5) regular semesters for full time students and a minimum of seven (7) regular semesters for part time students.

### Maximum Study

The Faculty of the School of Law have set a maximum duration of study of five (5) years for full time students and six (6) years for part time students. Extension of these time periods to the limits is at the discretion of the Faculty Petitions Committee and are considered only in extraordinary circumstances.

## Pace of Study

To demonstrate satisfactory academic progress, candidates for the Juris Doctor degree must maintain a minimum pace of study. This pace will vary according to a student's year/division.

## 1L Full Time Students

Satisfactory Academic Progress is defined as 22 credit hours during a period of two consecutive required academic semesters.

## Upper Level Full Time Students

Satisfactory Academic Progress is defined as 20 credit hours during a period of two consecutive required academic semesters.

## All Part Time Students

Satisfactory Academic Progress is defined as 16 credit hours during a period of two consecutive required academic semesters.

## Attempted Credit Requirement

All students must earn 75% of their cumulative attempted credits.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Completion rate is equal to the number of completed credit hours divided by the number of attempted credits. Completed credit hours will include all credit hours for which a student has earned a final letter grade of (A-D, and P). Credit-hours that are transferred (grade of T) into the University and successfully articulated towards the completion of an educational program or part of a Dual Degree or approved Study Abroad program will be counted as both earned and attempted hours for the purpose of this standard. Courses that are listed as Failure (F), Incomplete (I) or No Grade Received (N) will be counted as attempted but not earned.

## Leave of Absence

Pace of study is not calculated during semesters in which a student is on an approved leave of absence.

## Grade Point Average

All candidates for the Juris Doctor degree must have a cumulative grade point of 2.30 for all work undertaken at the law school. In computing the average, no consideration is given to grades received for work completed at other schools, including other law schools, even though transfer credit has been given for such work.

## Required Courses<sup>1</sup>

All candidates for the Juris Doctor degree must successfully complete all required course work.

<sup>1</sup> Students may not use a course to satisfy more than one degree requirement.

## 1L Curriculum Courses

The scheduling and placement of students in required courses is done by the Registrar and students are required to complete all required courses in the division in which they begin their law studies. For students in the full-time day division, 1L Curriculum courses are to be completed in the first three semesters of study. For students in the part-time evening division, these courses are to be completed within the first two years of study.

Students who fail to successfully complete the first semester of study (either in its entirety or an individual course or courses) may continue to the second semester of study. However, students may not be enrolled in courses beyond the first semester that require successful completion of the first semester course as a pre-requisite to another course unless

waiver of this pre-requisite is approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, in consultation with the instructor of the later course.

### Statutory/Regulatory Course Elective

All candidates for the Juris Doctor degree must successfully complete a course designated as satisfying the statutory/regulatory course elective.

The curriculum allows, and indeed requires, all students in the day division program to take a statutory/regulatory ("stat/reg") elective during the spring semester of their first year. Evening division students may take this elective during either semester of their second year.

### Professional Responsibility Requirement

All candidates for the Juris Doctor degree must successfully complete the course: Legal Profession (Law 7565), 3 credits. This is a course in professional responsibility that includes substantial instruction in rules of professional conduct and the values and responsibilities of the legal profession and its members.

### Practice-Based Learning Requirement

All candidates for the Juris Doctor degree must satisfy a Practice-Based Learning Requirement by successfully completing either a clinic, a field placement course, an individual field placement, or another course designated by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or their designee as satisfying this requirement that includes a substantial component in which students participate in teams or as a group in one or more practice-based learning projects. To satisfy this requirement through an Individual Field Placement, students must engage in at least 168 hours of fieldwork and be enrolled concurrently in the Individual Field Placement Seminar. J.D. students are required to have completed 2 regular semesters before participation in an individual field placement.

### Upper-Level Writing Requirement

All candidates for the Juris Doctor degree are also required to satisfy the upper-level writing requirement.

Students fulfill the upper-level writing requirement (ULWR) by researching and writing (1) a substantial paper of an intensive, analytical character, or (2) one or more papers that contain rigorous predictive, objective legal analysis or a persuasive legal argument based on real or hypothetical facts.

In order to satisfy the ULWR, the papers must be of high quality. Students are expected to produce as many drafts as necessary to produce papers meeting this standard, but in all cases are required to submit an initial draft and to make at least one round of revisions after receiving individualized feedback from their faculty supervisor. Except in extraordinary circumstances, the faculty supervisor must be a full-time faculty member.

Prior to submitting a first draft, students must attend a research review class/session that is (1) conducted by a Research Librarian as a general ULWR-research refresher session open to all students, or (2) conducted as a subject-focused research review session by the faculty member who is supervising the ULWR or a Research Librarian in the context of a course in which the ULWR is being completed. Students who are concurrently enrolled in, or have completed one of the legal research classes (LAW 7840 Legal Writing, Advanced, LAW 7902 Legal Research, Advanced, or LAW 7935 Practice Ready Research) are not required to attend a research review class/session.

Students may fulfill the upper class writing requirement by researching and writing a substantial paper of an intensive, analytical character by any of the following methods:

- a special research project of not less than two credit hours supervised by a faculty member;
- a paper for a seminar designated by the faculty member as requiring writing that would satisfy the requirement;
- a substantial paper in an exam course in which the faculty member permits no more than five students to submit papers for course credit in lieu of the exam and which otherwise must meet the standards of the ULWR.

Students may alternatively satisfy the ULWR by researching and writing one or more papers that contain rigorous predictive, objective legal analysis or a persuasive legal argument based on the facts of the sort that students will be expected to produce in practice. Faculty members are responsible for designing the research and writing assignments.

Students may satisfy this requirement by any of the following methods:

- a special research project of not less than two credit hours supervised by a member of the full-time faculty;
- a paper or papers for a seminar designated by the faculty member as requiring writing that would satisfy the ULWR;
- a paper or papers in an exam course in which the faculty member permits no more than five students to submit papers for course credit in lieu of the exam;
- a brief or predictive memorandum written in a live-client clinic. If the writing is co-written, it must include substantial substantive contributions by each student seeking ULWR credit;
- completion of an advanced legal writing course that requires writing that would satisfy the ULWR.

Satisfaction of the ULWR must be by work done on graded basis (i.e., not on a pass/fail basis). The completion of the ULWR will be verified by the faculty member at the time of grade submission or thereafter. The general expectation is that the final paper or papers will total at least 2500 words (excluding footnotes) per credit awarded.

Because of the multiple draft requirement, students should begin work on a project designed to satisfy the ULWR no later than the beginning of their next to last semester of study. (That is, if a student plans to graduate in May, they should begin work on the project not later than the beginning of the fall semester.)

Students must have completed a Method of Satisfying the Upper-level Writing Requirement form on file at the Office of Registrar Prior to graduation. A form submission deadline has been established each term for upper-level writing requirements that are completed through the completion of a paper in a seminar and in lieu of an exam.

### Bias, Racism, and Cross-Cultural Competency Learning Requirement

All candidates for the Juris Doctor degree must successfully complete a course designated as satisfying the bias, racism, and cross-cultural competency learning requirement. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may so designate courses that engage substantially with bias, racism, or cross-cultural competency whether through depth of treatment, frequency of engagement, or amount of course and readings devoted to these issues.

## Three-Year Day Division Program

### 1L Curriculum Courses

Course	Title	Credits
<b>All courses are required</b>		
LAW 7500	Civil Procedure	4
LAW 7505	Contracts	4
LAW 7510	Criminal Law	3
LAW 7518	Legal Practice: Research and Writing	3
LAW 7519	Legal Practice: Advocacy	2
LAW 7520	Legal Practice: Skills Capstone	2
LAW 7525	Property	4
LAW 7530	Torts	3
LAW 7540	Constitutional Law, An Introduction	4

### Statutory/Regulatory Elective Courses

Course	Title	Credits
3 Credits are required. Not all courses are offered every semester.		
LAW 7300	Perspectives on Civilian Law: From the United States to Latin America via Europe	3
LAW 7369	Connecticut Administrative Law	3
LAW 7554	Compliance: The Legal Perspective	3
LAW 7600	Administrative Law	3
LAW 7650	Environmental Law	3
LAW 7654	Law and Institutions of the European Union, Introduction to	3
LAW 7655	Employment Discrimination Law	3
LAW 7661	Federal Income Tax	3
LAW 7675	Principles of Insurance	3
LAW 7715	Intellectual Property	3
LAW 7728	Multistate Taxation in the New Millennium	3
LAW 7766	Labor Law: The Union Organizing Campaign and the National Labor Relations Act	3
LAW 7805	International Environmental Law	3
LAW 7810	Federal Indian Law	2-3
LAW 7872	Comparative Law and Rights	3
LAW 7878	International Human Rights	3
LAW 7987	Legislation and Regulation	3

### Professional Responsibility Requirement

Course	Title	Credits
LAW 7565	Legal Profession	3

## Four-Year Evening Division Program

### 1L Curriculum Courses

Course	Title	Credits
<b>All courses are required</b>		
LAW 7501	Civil Procedure I	2
LAW 7502	Civil Procedure II	2
LAW 7503	Contracts I	2
LAW 7504	Contracts II	2
LAW 7510	Criminal Law	3
LAW 7518	Legal Practice: Research and Writing	2

LAW 7519	Legal Practice: Advocacy	3
LAW 7520	Legal Practice: Skills Capstone	3
LAW 7526	Property I	2
LAW 7530	Torts	3
LAW 7541	Constitutional Law I	2
LAW 7542	Constitutional Law II	2
LAW 7555	Property II	2

### Statutory/Regulatory Elective Courses

Course	Title	Credits
3 Credits are required. Not all courses are offered every semester.		
LAW 7300	Perspectives on Civilian Law: From the United States to Latin America via Europe	3
LAW 7369	Connecticut Administrative Law	3
LAW 7554	Compliance: The Legal Perspective	3
LAW 7600	Administrative Law	3
LAW 7650	Environmental Law	3
LAW 7654	Law and Institutions of the European Union, Introduction to	3
LAW 7655	Employment Discrimination Law	3
LAW 7661	Federal Income Tax	3
LAW 7675	Principles of Insurance	3
LAW 7715	Intellectual Property	3
LAW 7728	Multistate Taxation in the New Millennium	3
LAW 7766	Labor Law: The Union Organizing Campaign and the National Labor Relations Act	3
LAW 7805	International Environmental Law	3
LAW 7810	Federal Indian Law	2-3
LAW 7872	Comparative Law and Rights	3
LAW 7878	International Human Rights	3
LAW 7987	Legislation and Regulation	3

### Professional Responsibility Requirement

Course	Title	Credits
LAW 7565	Legal Profession	3

#### Learning Objectives

- 1. Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law:** Graduates will be able to explain and employ basic rules and concepts in core legal areas and in any chosen area of specialization.
- 2. Legal analysis and reasoning:** Graduates will be able to analyze, synthesize, and apply legal principles drawn from judicial, statutory, administrative, and other sources. Graduates will be able to formulate and critique legal arguments, identify and evaluate counter-arguments, and think critically about existing legal rules and possible alternatives.
- 3. Legal research and fact investigation:** Graduates will be able to conduct accurate and efficient legal research by locating relevant legal and non-legal sources and assessing the relevance, currency, and authoritative nature of those sources. They will be able to identify potentially relevant facts, develop fact-gathering strategies, and organize and evaluate the information gathered.
- 4. Problem-solving and client counseling:** Graduates will be able to identify and clarify the nature of problems they confront as legal professionals; generate and evaluate alternative solutions;

and implement an effective plan of action. In working with clients, graduates will be able to identify their clients' objectives and concerns; interview and counsel clients in a sensitive and appropriate manner; develop potential strategies to meet the client's goals; and help clients reach informed decisions.

5. **Written and oral communication:** Graduates will be able to present information, analysis, arguments, and advice in a clear, concise, well-organized, and professional manner that is appropriate to the audience and the circumstances. They will be able to draft documents essential to most areas of legal practice, including briefs and other persuasive documents; objective memoranda; and contracts or agreements. They will be able to negotiate effectively in dispute and transactional settings. They will be able to listen and respond effectively to clients, colleagues, adjudicators, opposing lawyers, and others with whom they have professional interactions. They will understand and be sensitive to the impact of cultural differences on communication.
6. **Ethics and professionalism:** Graduates will be prepared to become members of a profession with special responsibilities for the promotion of justice. They will know and be able to apply the rules of professional conduct for attorneys, and will be able to evaluate the broader ethical impact of their actions. Graduates will understand and exemplify core professional values, including those relating to honesty, fiduciary obligations to clients, public and pro bono service, and improving the administration of justice. They will be able to collaborate effectively as part of a team, and engage in self-critique to improve their professional skills and judgment.