

# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JURIS DOCTOR (JD) DEGREE

## SCHEDULING OPTIONS

We offer full-time and part-time scheduling options.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

1. Students must complete **90 credit hours** to graduate (84 credit hours for students in the JD/MA, JD/MBA, or JD/MPA paired degrees program).
2. Students must complete the **fixed required courses**. These courses and their required sequencing are given below.
3. In addition to the fixed required courses, students must complete at some time in law school **all of the following**:
  - (a) ***Corporations***;
  - (b) ***Legislation and Regulation***,
  - (c) The **Core Courses** listed below, subject to the GPA exception explained below;
  - (d) The **upper-class writing requirement** (see below), which students must satisfy **before** their last semester in law school;
  - (e) **Either a clinic or an externship** for academic credit (see below);<sup>1</sup>
  - (f) At least six credit hours of courses identified as **experiential courses** on the course schedules of the School of Law;<sup>2</sup> and
  - (g) **Advanced Bar Studies I and II**, unless the student has a GPA at or above 3.25 at the time of registration for Advanced Bar Studies I.

#### 4. **Core Courses:**

For students who entered in May 2023 or later, the Core Courses are as follows:

Agency and Unincorporated Business Associations  
Criminal Procedure  
Wills, Trusts, and Estates

For students who will graduate in May 2025 or earlier, the Core Courses also include Secured Transactions.

Students with a cumulative GPA at or above 2.900 after both their second and third semester (or in the case of part-time students, after both their third and fourth semester) are exempt from this requirement.

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<sup>1</sup> Credits earned in a clinic or externship count toward the experiential requirement in (f).

<sup>2</sup> Experiential hours include clinics and externships.

## 5. Upper-Class Writing Requirement

The Upper-Class Writing Requirement (UCWR) is satisfied by a rigorous writing experience after the first year of law school (ABA Standard 303(a)(2)), the completion of which is certified by a member of the faculty. Please refer to the separate document, *Guidelines for the Upper-Class Writing Requirement*, for requirements applicable to all methods of satisfying the UCWR other than by a seminar or course.

Each student must successfully complete the UCWR before his or her final semester of law school.

At or before the time the student registers for his or her final semester of law school, the student must deliver to the Law Registrar's Office a form certifying the student's satisfaction of the UCWR. The form will contain a statement signed by a faculty member that certifies either that (1) the student has satisfactorily *completed* the UCWR under that faculty member's supervision; or (2) the student has made *substantial progress* toward completion of the UCWR under that faculty member's supervision. "Substantial progress" means, at a minimum, submission of a detailed written outline or research summary.

**The Upper-Class Writing Requirement may be satisfied in any of the following ways:**

**Seminar.** A student may fulfill the writing requirement by satisfactory completion of a seminar, if the instructor so certifies. Most students elect this option, receiving a letter grade and two hours of academic credit. A seminar requires a substantial written product or products as determined by the instructor. Satisfaction of the writing requirement is separate from satisfaction of the seminar requirements, and the instructor may require several rewrites of the seminar paper before certifying completion of the writing requirement. Seminars are shown separately in the School of Law's course schedules.

**Designated Courses.** A student may fulfill the writing requirement by satisfactory completion of a course designated by the faculty as eligible for the writing requirement, if the instructor so certifies. Satisfaction of the writing requirement is separate from satisfaction of the course requirements, and the instructor may require several rewrites of the written work product of the course before certifying completion of the writing requirement. The student receives a letter grade and the hours of academic credit specified for the course. These courses are designated in the School of Law's course schedules.

**Law Review.** A student who is a member of the Oklahoma City University Law Review may satisfy the writing requirement by preparing a Note of publishable quality, as certified by a supervising faculty member. The student receives a letter grade and two hours of academic credit.

**Moot Court Teams.** A student may satisfy the writing requirement by: (1) satisfactory participation in the preparation of a brief as a member of an interscholastic moot court team approved for the writing requirement; **and** (2) additional written work assigned by the full-

time law faculty sponsor of the team. Teams approved for the writing requirement are listed in the Course Description for 9711 or 9712 Interscholastic Moot Court Teams.

***Directed Research.*** A student may satisfy the writing requirement by completing the course number 9092 *Directed Research* to the satisfaction of the instructor. This course requires completion of a major paper. The requirements for this course are listed in the course description.

***Supervised Paper:*** A student may satisfy the writing requirement by completing the course number 9091 *Supervised Paper* to the satisfaction of the instructor. This course requires completion of a substantial paper. The requirements for the course are listed in the course description.

## **6. Additional Rules for the Clinic or Externship Requirement**

***Enrolling in More Than One Clinic or Externship.*** Any student who has already completed the requirement of a clinic or externship is subject to the following limitations on enrolling in additional clinics or externships:

(i) If a student has completed **a clinic**, the person's enrollment in another clinic (other than the advanced version of the clinic that the student has already completed) or an externship program is subject to cancellation until one week prior to the start of the semester to permit another student to satisfy the graduation requirement; and

(ii) If a student has completed **an externship program**, the person's enrollment in a clinic or another externship is subject to cancellation until one week prior to the start of the semester to permit another student to satisfy the graduation requirement.

***An Alternative to the Requirement.*** Students who hold a Licensed Legal Intern license and who have completed either (i) Pretrial Litigation, (ii) Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation Advocacy, or (iii) Trial Practice may satisfy the requirement of a clinic or externship by instead working a minimum of 100 hours in a single semester or summer under the supervision of an attorney. Students must receive **prior** approval from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **before beginning work**. Qualifying students will not receive academic credit but will satisfy the graduation requirement. Qualifying students must turn in time records in a form satisfactory to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; such time records should be redacted by the student to avoid disclosure of confidential client information and should be signed by the employer.

Students pursuing the Alternative will be required to attend 8 hours of training during the first week of classes, in addition to their scheduled class time. Students who have received the 8 hours of training from a prior semester may seek an attendance exception from the Director of Experiential Learning.

The student may work under the supervision of an attorney in any of the following law-related settings: law firms, corporate legal departments, the legal departments of administrative agencies, the offices of prosecutors and public defenders, and the legal and policy staffs of a state legislature. The student may be compensated for such work or may perform such work as a volunteer. This alternative may not be counted toward the degree requirement of at least six credit hours of experiential courses.

## 7. Experiential Courses

Experiential courses are those clinic, externships, and simulation courses that meet the requirements of ABA Standard 304. Courses that meet those requirements are identified as experiential courses on the law school’s course schedule. A clinic or externship that satisfies degree requirement 3(e) above may also be counted toward this requirement. See Experiential Courses in the Academic Standards and Regulations.

## 8. The Fixed Required Courses for Each Scheduling Option

### *Full-Time Scheduling*

<b><i><u>First Year, Fall Semester (14 credit hours)</u></i></b>	<b><i>Credit Hours</i></b>
Legal Analysis	1
Civil Practice and Procedure I	3
Contracts I	3
Legal Research and Writing I	3
Torts	4
<b><i><u>First Year, Spring Semester (15 credit hours)</u></i></b>	
Legal Analysis	0
Civil Practice and Procedure II	3
Contracts II	3
Criminal Law	3
Legal Research and Writing II	2
Property	4
<b><i><u>Second Year, Fall Semester (14–16 credit hours)</u></i></b>	
Constitutional Law I	3
Evidence	3
Legal Profession	3

Two additional courses (One-credit courses do not satisfy this requirement)	4-6
<b><u>Second Year, Spring Semester (14-16 credit hours)</u></b>	
Constitutional Law II	3
All other courses elective	Up to 13 hours
<b><u>Third Year</u></b>	
Advanced Bar Studies	3

***Part-Time Scheduling***

<b><u>First Year, Fall Semester (11 credit hours)</u></b>	<b><i>Credit Hours</i></b>
Legal Analysis	1
Contracts I	3
Legal Research and Writing I	3
Torts	4
<b><u>First Year, Spring Semester (9 credit hours)</u></b>	
Legal Analysis	0
Contracts II	3
Legal Research and Writing II	2
Property	4
<b><u>Second Year, Fall Semester (9 credit hours)</u></b>	
Civil Procedure I	3
Constitutional Law I	3
Legal Profession	3
<b><u>Second Year, Spring Semester (9 credit hours)</u></b>	
Civil Procedure II	3
Constitutional Law II	3
Criminal Law	3
<b><u>Third Year, Fall Semester (9-10 credit hours)</u></b>	
Evidence	3
All other courses elective	4-6
<b><u>Future Semesters</u></b>	
All courses elective	
<b><u>Final Two Semesters</u></b>	
Advanced Bar Studies	3