



Requirements for Degree and Maximum Time to Complete J.D. Degree

- A. Graduation Requirements for J.D. Students:** To earn the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree, a student must
- successfully complete a minimum of 88 semester hours of course work;
 - satisfy those requirements stated under the “Required Curriculum” policy;
 - satisfy the provisions of the “Residency Requirement,” if a full-time student;
 - satisfy the provisions of the “Minimum Number of Classroom Credits Required for Graduation” policy;
 - complete the pro-bono requirement;
 - achieve a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.25;
 - absent extraordinary circumstances, not have a pending honor code, conduct code, or criminal case; and
 - not be subject to the rules of academic exclusion as stated under “Academic Probation and Exclusion.” A student subject to academic exclusion who meets all other requirements for graduation may be excluded, unless the Faculty elects to grant the student a degree after considering the circumstances.
- C. Character and Fitness:** Degrees are ordinarily conferred upon students who meet the prescribed academic requirements. The College reserves the right, however, to withhold a degree whenever it appears that the character or conduct of a student or the quality of the work completed will prevent acceptable representation of the College or will compromise the legal profession. Each student who meets the established graduation requirements will automatically be recommended by the faculty to receive the appropriate degree. Any faculty member who believes that a student who is eligible for graduation should not receive a degree must place the issue on the agenda of a faculty meeting before the date of graduation.
- B. Maximum Time to Earn Degree:** Part-time students and full-time J.D. students must complete the program of study within six years. The Academic Standards Committee may waive this time period in extraordinary circumstances. Any student who leaves

the College may petition to return to complete his or her degree, provided that his or her actual return date is not more than two years from the last date classes were attended. The Academic Standards Committee may waive this time period in extraordinary circumstances.

- C. Part-time Students and Conversion to Full-time Status:** Part-time students typically will complete the J.D. degree over eleven semesters, including summer sessions. Students admitted into the part-time J.D. program must remain in that program for at least 28 credit hours. The Associate Dean for Academics may waive this requirement in extraordinary circumstances. After completing at least 28 credit hours, a part-time J.D. student may seek permission from the Associate Dean to convert to full-time status. When determining whether a part-time student may convert to full-time status, the Associate Dean will consider the student's grades, academic credentials, work schedule, other obligations, and other relevant circumstances.

Cross-references: Students also should consult the policies on Academic Probation and Exclusion, Awarding Diplomas, and Maximum Credit Hours, Minimum Number of Classroom Hours, Pro Bono Requirement, Residency, and Summer Programs.

Amended by the faculty April 19, 2006; September 10, 2003; March 5, 2003; April 3, 2002; February 6, 2002; January 21, 2009
NOTE: the required cumulative grade point average of 2.25 is effective with the Fall 2009 entering class. Students matriculating prior to Fall 2009 must achieve a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.0, and not be subject to the rules of academic exclusion.