

JURIS DOCTOR (J.D.)

Program Requirements

J.D. Requirements

To earn the Dickinson Law J.D. degree, a student must:

- earn at least 88 credits;
- complete with a passing grade all first-year required courses;
- complete with a grade of at least C the course labeled Legal Analysis & Writing I: Objective;
- complete with a grade of at least C the course labeled Legal Analysis & Writing II: Persuasive;
- complete with a grade of at least C one course designated as a Seminar course ("SEMNR");
- complete with a grade of at least C the course in Professional Responsibility;
- complete with a grade of at least C, one course beyond the first-year required courses, designated as having subject matter focused on civil rights, equal protection, or social justice;
- complete with a grade of at least C, or a grade of Credit in Credit/No Credit courses, 12 credits in Experiential Learning from the upper-level curriculum. The student must earn at least 6 of the required 12 credits in an in-house legal clinic ("EXPCL"), an internship ("EXPIN"), or a semester-in-practice ("EXPIN"). The student may earn the remaining experiential learning credits in an in-house legal clinic ("EXPCL"), an internship ("EXPIN"), a semester-in-practice ("EXPIN"), or in courses designated as simulation courses ("EXPSK");
- comply with the Semesters-in-Residence Requirement (<https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/semesters-residence/>); and
- comply with the Academic Standing Rules (<https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/academic-standing-rules/>).

Contingent J.D. Requirements

- Students who rank in the bottom quarter of their law school class after the second semester of law school and who earned a grade below C in any first year course must take and pass at least six substantive doctrinal bar courses in order to graduate. (A "bar course" is a course listed in LionPATH with the prefix "BAR.")

Each student is responsible for fulfilling the above graduation requirements. Students should track their academic record and progress using their assigned faculty adviser, the academic dean, the office of the Law School registrar, and other administrative personnel.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE (<https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/required-courses/>)

J.D. Required Courses

Our first-year curriculum includes not only a set of courses that establishes the core doctrinal, theoretical, and policy foundations of law, but also a series of unique courses that are designed—from the very first day of law school—to fulfill our mission of producing profession-ready lawyers.

Fall 1L Required Courses

- Civil Procedure (4 credits)
- Criminal Law (3 credits)
- Law Practice I: Critical Skills (2 credits)

- Legal Analysis & Writing I: Objective (2 credits)
- Legal Research I (1 credit)
- Race & Equal Protection of the Law (.5 credit)
- Torts (4 credits)

Spring 1L Required Courses

- Constitutional Law (3 credits)
- Contracts (4 credits)
- Law Practice II: Contexts and Competencies (2 credits)
- Legal Analysis & Writing II: Persuasive (2 credits)
- Legal Research II (1 credit)
- Property (4 credits)
- Race and the Equal Protection of the Laws (.5 credit)

Upper-Level Required Courses

- Professional Responsibility (3 credits)
- One writing course designated as a seminar (SEMNR in LionPATH)
- One course beyond the first-year required courses, designated as having subject matter focused on civil rights, equal protection, or social justice.

Experiential Learning Requirement

The capstone of our educational mission to ready you for the workplace is the upper-level experiential learning requirement. To graduate from Dickinson Law, students must earn 12 credits in experiential learning courses, six credits of which must be earned by practicing law in an in-house legal clinic (<https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/in-house-legal-clinics/>), an internship (<https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/externships/>), or a semester-in-practice (<https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/semester-practice-programs/>).

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT REQUIRED COURSES (<https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/required-courses/>)