

# THE DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE (JD) DEGREE

## OVERVIEW OF JD REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS OF 2026

For students entering in the fall of 2019 and thereafter, the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence are:

- ✓ Successful completion of all first-year required courses plus an additional 78 quarter units of elective coursework (a combined total of 111 quarter units);
  - Up to 31 elective units may come from pre-approved Stanford non-law courses.
  - Any units of externships, directed research, directed professional writing, senior thesis, research track, and moot court (Kirkwood competition) reduce the number of non-law units on a one-for-one basis.
- ✓ Nine quarters of residency;
- ✓ Satisfaction of the ethics requirement;
- ✓ Satisfaction of the writing requirement;
- ✓ Satisfaction of the experiential learning requirement.
- ✓ Satisfaction of the learning outcomes requirement;
- ✓ Timely filing of an application for graduation.

## REQUIRED CURRICULUM: FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM

For JD students entering law school in 2019 and thereafter, each JD student must complete the following courses during his or her first year at the Law School:

| <u>Autumn Quarter</u>                              | <u>Winter Quarter</u>                     | <u>Spring Quarter</u>                                   |
|--|---|---|
| Civil Procedure<br>Contracts                       | Constitutional Law I<br>Criminal Law      | Property I<br>Federal Litigation in a Global<br>Context |
| Torts  | Federal Litigation in a Global<br>Context | Electives (3 – 8 units)                                 |
| Legal Research & Writing<br>1L Discussion Seminars | Electives (0 – 5 units)                   |   |

During the Autumn Quarter, a first-year student may take only those courses on the required list.

First-year JD students may take **no more than 5 units of electives in the Winter Quarter**, and they must take at least 3 units but no more than 8 units of electives in the Spring Quarter. Elective courses are limited to those within the Law School, with the exception that first-year JD students may take a physical education course each quarter but it will not count toward residency or graduation.

### **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**

To graduate, a JD student must be “in residence” as a law student for at least nine quarters and no more than eleven quarters. More time may be granted only to accommodate a documented disability.

For purposes of the JD degree, the term “in residence” means that a student: (1) takes at least 9 quarter units of credit that can be counted toward the degree each quarter; (2) by the date all grades for the quarter are due, passes at least 8 units each quarter; (3) pays full tuition to the law school; and, (4) does not work more than 20 hours per week during the term. A student must be in residence during the quarter in which the final degree is conferred or during the quarter immediately preceding degree conferral.

### **ETHICS REQUIREMENT**

JD students must complete at least one advanced course that contains one or more units of ethics instruction. Only a course approved by the Curriculum Committee and explicitly classified as an ethics course before the quarter begins satisfies this requirement.

### **WRITING REQUIREMENT**

In addition to first-year Legal Research and Writing and Federal Litigation, all students must complete another course of at least two units in which a principal part of the assigned work is a paper or other written product (an “R” paper). Only courses approved by the Curriculum Committee and explicitly classified as an R course before the term begins can satisfy this requirement.

- A course designated as an “R” course is defined as one in which the written product is substantial and is based on open-ended research by the student.
- A Directed Research paper may count as the equivalent of an “R” course with the approval of the supervising faculty member.
- Satisfactory completion of a Senior Thesis or Research Track counts as the equivalent of an “R” course.

### **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING REQUIREMENT**

**Students Entering in Autumn 2016 or Thereafter** Students must complete 8 units of coursework designated as fulfilling the Experiential Learning pursuant to ABA Standard 303.

#### **Pathway A – Full-time Clinic:**

Students who complete any of Stanford Law School’s full-time clinics will automatically satisfy the ABA Experiential Learning Requirement.

#### **Pathway B – Self-Design:**

Students who do not enroll in one of Stanford Law School's full-time clinics are deemed "Pathway B" students. Pathway B students must submit to the Registrar's office a Self-Design Plan specifying which courses the student has taken and/or intends to take to satisfy the ABA Experiential Learning requirement.

Courses that count towards the EL requirement are identified on the Registrar's website and in course listings. Students choosing Pathway B to fulfill this requirement should note that not all courses are offered every year and that enrollment for some courses may be limited.

All students who elect Pathway B must include a Professional Writing ("PW") course within their individually tailored plan. A course designated as a "PW" course is defined as one in which the students engage in the sort of professional writing common to practicing lawyers, e.g. writing briefs, drafting contracts, etc. PW courses include only those approved by the Curriculum Committee and explicitly classified as a PW class before the term begins

***Deadlines:***

***Primary Experiential Learning Curricular Planning Form (Rising 2Ls)*** All students must submit a Primary Experiential Learning Curricular Planning Form by the deadline set by the Registrar's office before the start of the student's second year. This form will indicate whether the student intends to satisfy the graduation requirements through one of Stanford's clinics (Pathway A) or through Self-Design (Pathway B).

***Pathway A:***

Students planning to satisfy the Experiential Learning requirement via clinic must indicate whether they have applied and been accepted to a clinic for the 2L year and/or intend to apply for the 3L year. Stanford has capacity for 100 percent of our students to take a full-time clinic, but admission to a particular clinic in a particular quarter is not guaranteed. Students electing Pathway A should ordinarily plan to apply to more than one clinic, and will be required to apply to multiple clinics if they need to gain admission into a clinic during the third year to satisfy the graduation requirement.

***Pathway B:***

If the student plans to elect Pathway B, the student must complete the portion of the form calling for the student's Self-Design Plan. Self-design plans will be reviewed and approved by the Dean of Students. The plan should demonstrate how the student will complete at least 50% of their experiential credits (4 units) by the end of their second year of student.

Plans in which fewer than 4 units will be completed in the 2L year will be approved only upon a showing of good cause necessitating the completion of more than half of the credits in the third year. Students whose plans are rejected by the committee may resubmit the form to correct any identified deficiencies to the Registrar, or may elect to move to Pathway A.

An externship may satisfy the Experiential Learning Requirement. Ordinarily, an externship that otherwise meets the criteria will be approved for experiential learning credit when the field placement provides specialized experience complementary to a student's intended career path and comparable benefits cannot be obtained through other experiential learning coursework at Stanford. Students who plan to satisfy the experiential learning requirement through an externship should consult with the law school's Externship Administrator regarding the externship proposal as early in the process as possible and must secure approval for the externship no later than the deadline for rising 3Ls to file Pathway B curriculum plans.

### ***Secondary Experiential Learning Curricular Planning Form (Rising 3Ls)***

Students who have not completed a clinic by the end of their second year must also submit a Secondary Experiential Learning Curricular Planning Form by the deadline set by the Registrar's office prior to the end of the student's second year.

#### ***Pathway A:***

Students who indicate on the *Secondary Experiential Learning Curricular Planning Form* that they plan to satisfy the ABA experiential learning requirement via a clinic in their 3L year must apply to at least four clinics in the clinic application process that occurs in the spring of their 2L year or, if they apply to fewer clinics, have a clearly articulated back-up plan in Pathway B for completing the experiential learning requirement.

#### ***Pathway B:***

If the student had previously elected Pathway A on the *Experiential Learning Curricular Planning Form* as a rising 2L but has decided to switch to Pathway B, the student must demonstrate good cause for the switch.

For students who had previously elected Pathway B on the *Experiential Learning Curricular Planning Form*, the *Secondary Experiential Learning Curricular Planning Form* must indicate whether the student did in fact complete at least 4 units towards the experiential learning requirement prior to the start of their 3L year or, if they failed to do so (and did not have an approved plan for doing so), why extraordinary circumstances excuse their failure to complete the units on schedule and how they realistically plan to complete the 8 units before graduation.

The Dean of Students will review the forms containing the *Self-Design Plans* to ensure that each student has a coherent and feasible plan for completing the graduation requirements that takes into account, among other things, the fact that some classes may not be offered every year or have limited enrollment. Students whose plans are rejected by the committee may resubmit to correct and identified deficiencies by the date set by the registrar, or may elect to move to Pathway.

Students who plan to satisfy the experiential learning requirement through an externship should consult with the law school's Externship Administrator regarding the externship proposal as early in the process as possible and must secure approval for the externship from the law school's Externship Administrator no later than the deadline for rising 3Ls to file Pathway B curriculum plans.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES REQUIREMENT**

The ABA requires each law school to "establish and publish learning outcomes" designed to "prepare its students, upon graduation, for admission to the bar and for effective, ethical, and responsible participation as members of the profession." ABA Standards 301 (a) & (b). The syllabus for each course may either set forth the course's particular Learning Outcomes or direct students to the online course description, where Learning Outcomes are provided. By completing your degree, Stanford Law School certifies that you have satisfied the ABA's Learning Outcome requirements listed below.

- LO1: Exhibit knowledge and understanding of key concepts in substantive law, procedural law, and legal thought.
- LO2: Demonstrate facility with legal analysis and reasoning. This may include, but will not necessarily include, a combination of skills such as synthesizing cases, identifying and applying

relevant principles, and mastering modes of inquiry (whether scientific, social scientific, or humanistic) that inform and contextualize legal analysis and reasoning.

- LO3: Demonstrate the ability to conduct legal research.
- LO4: Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing.]
- LO5: Demonstrate the ability to communicate orally (such as in group or individual presentations, while delivering advice to a client, or in the course of oral advocacy).]
- LO6: Display familiarity with the law governing lawyers and exhibit an understanding of a lawyer's distinctive ethical responsibilities to clients, the legal system, and the broader public.
- LO7: Display other professional skills needed for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession (such as, interviewing; counseling; negotiation; fact development and analysis; trial practice; contract review and drafting; conflict resolution; leadership behaviors, attitudes, and styles; collaboration and teamwork; execution; and cultural competency).

### **DOUBLE-COUNTING REQUIREMENTS**

If a course satisfies two requirements (such as “R” and “Ethics,”) students may use that course to satisfy both requirements. However, this rule permitting double-counting does not apply to the Experiential Learning requirement. Students wishing to use a course to satisfy the Experiential Learning requirement cannot double-count, and must use that course solely to satisfy the Experiential Learning requirement.