

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - JURIS DOCTOR**

**Required courses:** All full-time first-year students must successfully complete all of the following in the first year:

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
Civil Procedure	Legal Rhetoric II
Legal Rhetoric I	Property
Torts	Constitutional Law
Contracts	Criminal Law
	Elective (1 <sup>st</sup> year)

In the second year they must successfully complete:

Criminal Procedure I	Legal Ethics
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All part-time first-year students must successfully complete all of the following:

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
Torts	Constitutional Law
Contracts	Criminal Law
Legal Rhetoric I	Legal Rhetoric II

In the second year they must successfully complete:

Civil Procedure	Property
Criminal Procedure I	Legal Ethics

**86 semester credits:** Six non-law credits taken at American University and approved in advance, may be applied toward the JD; 80 must be law credits. A maximum of 12 credits of non-class credit, e.g., independent study, journal externship, moot court, non-law credits, may be counted toward the degree. Official transcripts from all institutions at which students took courses for which credit is being transferred must be provided directly to the law school registrar's office.

**Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA):** minimum of 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Only law courses taken at WCL are factored into GPA calculations.

### **Residency:**

**Part-time students:** eight semesters of at least eight earned credits each semester. May combine two or more terms to total required credits, but may not split one extra term to add to two or more semesters. Summer sessions cannot count as semesters, but may be combined with a semester or, in some instances, another summer session for a semester equivalent. In all cases, students should consult the law school registrar.

**Full-time students:** six semesters of at least twelve earned credits each semester. May combine two or more terms to total required credits, but may not split one extra term to add to two or more semesters. Summer sessions cannot count as semesters, but may be combined with a semester or, in some instances, another summer session for a semester equivalent. In all cases, students should consult the law school registrar.

**Upper Level Writing Requirement:** This is an upper-level written work requirement 7000 words in length that may be satisfied by writing a document or series of documents in connection with a law school activity of at least 2 credit hours, including a course, clinic, seminar, independent study, or WCL journal and is supervised by a faculty member who has approved the writing project in advance and approves the final product. A grade of B or better for two credit hours of work must be earned to satisfy the requirement.

**Professional Skills Requirement:** This is a requirement that may be satisfied by successfully completing courses that include substantial instruction in professional skills generally regarded as necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession. Clinic and externship seminar courses satisfy the requirement as well as classes involving skills which include, but are not limited to, trial and appellate advocacy, alternative methods of dispute resolution, counseling, interviewing, negotiating, factual investigation, organization and management of legal work, and drafting. It does not include instruction in substantive law, legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem solving, oral communication, writing in a legal context, or professional responsibility.