

Revised: 3/2024

**Summary of Juris Doctor Requirements**

*Effective Fall 2020 and After*

This checklist is a summary only. For official requirements and details, consult the *Student Handbook* and the personalized **DegreeWorks** audit tool [available via the Signon portal](https://signon.stjohns.edu/login/login.htm?fromURI=%2Fapp%2FUserHome).

Students may take no more than sixteen (16) credits during the Fall or Spring semester, inclusive of pre-session courses.

Full-time students are required to take a minimum of 12 credits per semester; part-time students must take between 8-11 credits per semester.

After completion of the full 1L sequence, students must take an average of 14-15 credits per semester to complete the J.D. degree within three (3) years.

For registration priority purposes, students are assigned a time ticket based on the number of credits completed to date. Students should review their time ticket in UIS ahead of registration.

**Important Registration Notes:**

* Students may take no more than one (1) pre-session course per semester
* Upper-level students are strongly encouraged to enroll in no more than two (2) Core Elective courses per semester
* Clinics (in-house and partner clinics) satisfy both the Applied Skills and Advanced Practice Writing Requirements
* Students may not enroll in both the Externship Program and a Clinic in the same semester
* Students may not withdraw from a Clinic once formally admitted
* Once admitted from the wait list for a course, students will be notified and have twenty-four (24) hours to accept the open course seat

**CHECKLIST**

* **89 credits total** (58 additional credits to complete after completion of the 1L year)

# Minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.1

* **Required Courses: 1L Year**
  + Introduction to Law (2 cr.) (Fall pre-session)
  + Civil Procedure (4 cr.)
  + Contracts (4 cr.)
  + Torts (4 cr.)
  + Legal Writing I (2 cr.)
  + Professional Development-Fall (0 cr).).))
  + Lawyering\* (2 cr.) (Spring pre-session)
  + Property (4 cr.)
  + Criminal Law (3 cr.)
  + Constitutional Law (4 cr.)
  + Legal Writing II (2 cr.)
  + Professional Development-Spring (0 cr.)
* **Required Courses: 2L Year**
  + Legal Research (1 cr.) (Fall semester)
  + Professional Responsibility (3 cr.)
  + (*Some students only, if notified*) Advanced Analytical Skills (AAS) (2 cr.)
  + (*Some students only, if notified*) Advanced Contracts (3 cr.)
* **Required Courses: 3L Year**
  + (*Some students only, if notified*) Applied Legal Analysis (ALA) I and II (6 cr. total)
* **Core Electives.** Must take at least five (5) out of six (6):[[1]](#footnote-1)
  + Administrative Law (3 cr.)
  + Business Organizations (4 cr.)
  + Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (4 cr.)
  + Evidence (4 cr.)
  + Taxation—Basic Federal Personal Income (3 cr.)
  + Trusts and Estates (4 cr.)
* **Scholarly Writing Requirement.** Complete prior to entering final semester. Can be satisfied by (i) the Scholarly Research & Writing course (2 cr.), (ii) a paper-based seminar course with permission of professor, or (iii) Directed Research (2 cr.)
* **Experiential Learning Requirement.** Complete all 3 components:
  + Lawyering (2 cr.). Taken during 1L January pre-session.
  + Advanced Practice Writing Requirement (APWR). Complete prior to entering final semester. List of approved courses on the Online Student Center site.
  + Applied Skills Requirement. Take one of:
    - Any clinic (also satisfies APWR)
    - Any externship
    - Any practicum
    - Pro Bono Scholars Program
    - List of additional approved courses on the Online Student Center

# Law School Residency Requirement

* Full-time students: 6 semesters of at least 12 credits each
* Part-time students: 8 semesters of at least 8 credits each
* Completion of degree within 84 months (60 months for admission in New York)
* Students transferring divisions must pay special attention to the residency rules

1. Students who began in Fall 2023 or later may also take *Race and the Law* (3 cr.) as one of the 5 required core electives. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)