Candidates for the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree must successfully complete a minimum of 86 credits including all required first-year courses and a course in Professional Responsibility; satisfy the Writing Requirement; complete six residency semesters; and maintain a satisfactory record characteristic of a prospective member of the legal profession.

Residence

The Law School, by virtue of regulations promulgated by the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools, requires six semesters in residence for the J.D. degree, except in the case of transfer students who have received credit for work done in other law schools and enter with advanced standing. A semester in residence is one in which a student enrolls in a minimum of 12 credits towards the J.D. degree, receives grades of D or better for at least nine of those 12 credits and meets the Law School’s attendance requirement.

Grading System

Candidates for the J.D. degree must satisfy two conditions during each academic year of enrollment: they must earn and maintain a minimum grade point average of C+ (2.3) and accumulate fewer than three exclusion points. A grade of D carries one exclusion point and a grade of F carries two exclusion points. Under the current grading system, there are ten possible grades that can be used by the faculty in evaluating performance in courses and seminars: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, F. It is the intent of the faculty that, for the purpose of allocating grades in a course or seminar and to assist in achieving grade uniformity, the mean grade for each course and seminar will be a 3.3 (B+). However, there is no particular grading curve to which a faculty member must adhere.