JURIS DOCTOR (J.D.)

Overview
Our reimagined J.D. program merges theory, doctrine, and experiential learning to produce practice-ready lawyers. Our 1L curriculum introduces both lawyering skills and extra-legal competencies. Then, your upper-level “The Lawyer As...” curriculum begins to shape your career with a concentrated focus on specific areas of legal practice. Courses are taught by a full-time faculty with extensive practice experience, along with sitting judges and practicing attorneys.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE (https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/jd-program/)

Admission Requirements
Dickinson Law awards both the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree and Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree. Our J.D. program merges theory, doctrine, and experiential learning to produce profession-ready lawyers.

Prospective students may apply to Dickinson Law’s J.D. program through the Law School’s regular decision process or the binding early decision process. The regular decision application opens on September 1 and closes on June 30, and the early decision application opens on September 1 and closes on December 1. Students who apply through the Law School’s early decision process will be notified of a decision by December 30 and, if admitted, these students agree to:

1. withdraw any pending applications to other law schools;
2. not initiate any new applications to other law schools; and
3. enroll at Dickinson Law in the Fall semester.

Dickinson Law is a paperless office and applicants must apply electronically through LSAC. Dickinson Law’s admissions team reviews completed applications only and renders decisions on an ongoing basis. Although the Admissions Committee attempts to notify candidates whose files are incomplete, it is ultimately the applicant’s responsibility to ensure timely submission of a complete application.

Learn more about the admissions requirements for the Juris Doctor (J.D.) (https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/apply-jd/) degree, including how to apply and the admissions timeline.

Program Requirements

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

- 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").
- 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;
- comply with the Semesters-in-Residence Requirement (https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/semesters-residence/);
- comply with the Academic Standing Rules (https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/academic-standing-rules/);
- 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, one course beyond the first-year required courses, designated as having subject matter focused on civil rights, equal protection, or social justice;
- comply with the Academic Standing Rules (https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/academic-standing-rules/);
- 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;
- comply with the Academic Standing Rules (https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/academic-standing-rules/);
- 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;
- comply with the Academic Standing Rules (https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/academic-standing-rules/);
- 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;
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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/)

Professional Licensure/Certification
Many U.S. states and territories require professional licensure/certification to be employed. If you plan to pursue employment in a licensed profession after completing this program, please visit the Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures by State (https://psu.edu/state-licensure-disclosures/) interactive map.