

JURIS DOCTOR (J.D.)

Located on Penn State's University Park campus, Penn State Law offers all of the resources of a world-class, public research institution while also featuring a student-centered academic environment. With a curriculum taught by renowned legal experts, interdisciplinary study opportunities across Penn State's largest campus, ample clinical and experiential learning opportunities, and a dedicated Career Services team, the Penn State Law J.D. Program is designed to give students the capacity to accomplish all of their professional goals.

The J.D. program at Penn State Law is a three-year, six-semester course of study offered in University Park, Pennsylvania. To earn a J.D. degree at Penn State Law a student must:

1. Earn at least 88 credits, including all first-year required courses. The maximum number of credits permitted per semester is 17.
2. Be in residence for six semesters. To be in residence, the student must enroll in at least 12 credits, at full tuition, and not work more than 20 hours per week during the semester. Credits earned through the Semester in Washington Program, the Semester in Harrisburg Program, the Externships Everywhere Program, and authorized Penn State Law semester-long study abroad programs may be used to fulfill this requirement. Credits earned during the summer months may not be used to fulfill this requirement.
3. Complete with a grade of at least C one course designated as an Upper Level Writing Seminar course (<https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/current-students/student-academic-handbook/required-seminar-course/>).
4. Complete with a grade of at least C the course in Professional Responsibility (<https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/courses/professional-responsibility/>).
5. Complete with a grade of at least a C one or more experiential (<https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/required-experiential-learning-credits/>) course(s) totaling at least six credit hours.
6. Complete the Professional Development program that takes place in January of your first year. Please see academic calendar for dates of the program.
7. Starting with the Class of 2026, complete with a grade of at least a C one course approved by the faculty to comply with ABA 303(c) (<https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/curriculum-race-law-and-equity/>).

Each student is responsible for fulfilling the above graduation requirements. Students should track their academic record and progress using their Degree Audit (Academic Requirements report) (<http://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/degree-audit/>), and should seek clarification as needed from the faculty, deans, registrar and other administrative personnel.

Complete List of Required Courses (<https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/academics/jd-program/>)

Semesters of Residence (<https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/current-students/student-academic-handbook/semesters-residence/>)

Curriculum

Code	Title	Credits
First Year - Fall		
PSLFY 900	Civil Procedure	4
PSLFY 910	Criminal Law	3

PSLFY 912	Applied Legal Analysis and Writing I	3
PSLFY 908	Legal Research Tools and Strategies	2
PSLFY 925	Torts	4

First Year - Spring

Required Professional Development Program that takes place in January of the student's first year. Please see academic calendar for dates.

PSLFY 907	Criminal Procedure	3
PSLFY 903	Constitutional Law I	3
PSLFY 905	Contracts	4
PSLFY 914	Applied Legal Analysis and Writing II	2
PSLFY 920	Property	4

Second or Third Year

PRORP 934	Professional Responsibility	3
Required Experiential Learning Credits		6
Required Upper-Level Writing Seminar Course		2-3
Required ABA 303(c) Course		1-3
Elective Credits		41-44
Total Credits		88

Admissions

Located on Penn State's University Park campus, Penn State Law offers all of the resources of a world-class, public research institution while also featuring a student-centered academic environment. With a curriculum taught by renowned legal experts, interdisciplinary study opportunities across Penn State's largest campus, ample clinical and experiential learning opportunities, and a dedicated Career Services team available to work with students from day one, the Penn State Law J.D. Program is designed to give students the capacity to accomplish all of their professional goals.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ADMISSIONS TO THE PENN STATE LAW J.D. PROGRAM (<https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/penn-state-law-jd-admissions/>)

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://opair.psu.edu/plc/dashboard/>) interactive map.