

# J.D. Degree Requirements: Class Entering Fall 2020

## REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD OF THE J.D. DEGREE

To graduate with a J.D. degree from the UNT Dallas College of Law, the following requirements must be met:

1. Credit hour requirement. Students must complete no fewer than 90 semester credit hours.
2. Residency requirement. Students must complete at least 53 credit hours in residence.
3. Completion of required courses. For the required courses, see required courses listed in Curricular Requirements.
4. Completion of Writing, Skills, Research, Experiential, Practice-Related Technology, and Advocacy requirements.
5. Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
6. Complete all requirements in no fewer than 24 months and in no more than 6 years after matriculating at the College of Law or at a law school from which the student has received transfer credit. The ABA Standards address the pace at which a student may complete his or her legal studies. Standard 304(c) requires that the course of study for a J.D. degree be completed “no earlier than 24 months and no later than 84 months after a student has commenced law study at the law school or a law school from which the school has accepted transfer credit.” The College of Law has adopted a maximum period of 6 years (72 months). In exceptional circumstances, the College of Law may extend this requirement but for no more than the maximum allowed by ABA Standard 304(c).

## CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

### First-Year Required Courses

Note: Some of these courses will occur in the fall semester of the second year for evening-division students.

- Fundamentals of Being a Lawyer (1 hour)
- Civil Procedure (2 semesters, 5 hours total)
- Contracts or Contracts I and II (4 hours total)
- Criminal Law (3 hours)
- Legal Methods (1 hour)
- Legal Research (2 hours)
- Legal Writing (2 semesters, 5 hours total)
- Practice Foundation I: Interviewing and Counseling (3 hours)
- Property I (2 hours)
- Torts or Torts I and II (4 hours total)

### Second-Year Required Courses

- Constitutional Law (4 hours)
- Practice Foundation II: Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (3 hours)
- Property II (2 hours)
- Legal Writing III (3 hours)

(Note: Legal Writing III will occur in the third year for the evening-division students.)

### Other Required Courses

- Federal Criminal Procedure (3 hours)
- Evidence (3 hours) or Evidence Practicum (4 hours)
- Professional Responsibility (3 hours)
- Capstone I: Legal Analysis and Bar Readiness (3 hours)
- Capstone II: Legal Analysis and Bar Readiness (3 hours)

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## Other Required Courses Continued

### (UBE Required Menu- 3.00 GPA or greater after the 2 semesters Full-time and 3 semesters Part-time)

- UBE Family Law (3 hours) or UBE Wills, Trusts, and Estates (3 hours)
- Business Associations I (3 hours) or UBE Commercial Law: Sales and Secure Transactions (3 hours)
- Conflicts of Law (2 hours) or Remedies (2 hours)

### (UBE Modified Menu- Less than 3.00 GPA after the 2 semesters Full-time and 3 semesters Part-time)

- UBE Family Law (3 hours)
- UBE Wills, Trusts, and Estates (3 hours)
- Business Associations I (3 hours)
- UBE Commercial Law: Sales and Secure Transactions (3 hours)
- Conflicts of Law (2 hours) or Remedies (2 hours)

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

In addition to required courses, some required courses contain requirements related to an important skills, experiences, or proficiency that students at the College of Law are expected to attain. Requirements are satisfied through credit-bearing courses, not-for-credit courses or experiences, or demonstrated proficiency.

**Writing.** The Writing Requirement is satisfied by completion of two (2) writing segments. A writing segment is an assignment that correlates in scope and complexity with written work product that lawyers prepare; and on which the student receives assessment.

**Research.** The Research Requirement is satisfied by completion of four to five (4-5) research segments (UBE Required Menu has 4 required research segments. UBE Modified Menu has 5 required research segments). A research segment requires the completion of at least one significant research assignment, which will include a research plan, a research trail, and a research bibliography. To ensure that students become proficient in the foundational information and research abilities required in practice, multiple research segments will address and reinforce knowledge of sources, creation of a research plan, use of multiple platforms for research, maintaining a research trail, and storing information.

**Skills.** The Skills Requirement is satisfied by completion of two to three (2-3) skills segments in addition to the skills provided in the required classes of Practice Foundations I and Practice Foundations II. (UBE Required Menu has 2 required skills segments. UBE Modified Menu has 3 required skills segments). A skills segment is a performance or activity in which students are assessed and which requires a student to engage in one or more of the following professional skills, or other skills recognized by the faculty as a possible basis for a skills segment: interviewing, counseling, negotiation, fact development and analysis, trial practice, document drafting, conflict resolution, organization and management of legal work, collaboration, cultural competency and self-evaluation.

**Experiential Education Requirement.** To satisfy this requirement, a student must complete either an:

1. Externship or Clinic (3 hours)

**Non-Credit Bearing Experiential Course Requirements.** Students must satisfy both requirements below:

1. Satisfactory completion of the Community Engagement Program
2. Satisfactory completion of the L.A. Bedford Mentorship Program

**Advocacy Requirement.** The Advocacy Requirement is satisfied by competing on a traveling Moot Court or Mock Trial team or by competing in the Thompson-Knight intra-school Moot Court Competition in the fall semester or the Kastl's Court intra-school Mock Trial competition in the spring semester or by participating as a witness in the Kastl's Court competition.

**Practice-Related Technology.** The Practice-Related Technology Requirement ensures that students graduate with competence in practice-related technologies. Competent and effective law practice entails the ability to use such

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technologies. Rule 1.1 of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct explains that the requirement of competent representation “requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation necessary for the representation,” and competent representation requires a lawyer to “keep abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology.” To satisfy this requirement, students must demonstrate basic proficiency as to practice-related technologies, including case management and time-keeping software; trial and litigation software; word processing; and databases. The College of Law will provide means for necessary training and for demonstrating the required proficiencies. This requirement may be fulfilled by either of the two options below:

1. LAW 7127- Law Practice Technology
2. Practice Technology Online Course (non-credit bearing)