

Counting Non-Law Course Credit Toward the JD

Updated November 2019

Students seeking to register for non-law classes should complete the attached. If the criteria for approval of a non-law course are met, Dean Crain will sign the form and a copy will be returned to you, and one kept in your student file. If there are problems or questions, Dean Crain will contact you. Independent of this approval process, you should register on MyUI for this course at your designated time to secure a seat.

The policy on Non-Law Courses is below. Please review it prior to completing the attached form.

A student seeking to count credit hours from a non-law course toward the J.D. degree must obtain the approval of the Dean or the Dean's designate. The student must provide the Dean (or the Dean's designate) with a course description for the course. Credit hours for the course will be approved only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The student can demonstrate that the course either (a) contributes to the professional competency of an attorney, or (b) provides perspective that will broaden the student's understanding of some aspect of law or the legal process.
2. The subject matter of the course does not duplicate that of a course offered by the College of Law.
3. The subject matter of the course does not duplicate that of another course the student has taken in any program.
4. The student takes the course after matriculating in the College of Law's J.D. program.
5. The course is either (a) graduate level (currently level 5000 or above); or (b) supported by a compelling argument demonstrating how a particular lower-level course will specifically benefit the student's legal education.

A student's ability to count non-law credit hours toward the J.D. degree is also subject to the restrictions in the Graduation Requirements for the J.D. Degree, the College of Law's Joint Degree Program policy, and any other applicable University, College of Law, or departmental requirements.

- No more than 20 s.h. may be earned through non-Law courses.
- Non-Law courses taken before starting the J.D. program cannot be counted.

A course that is taken outside the College of Law for credit hours towards a law degree will be graded according to the course's standard grading practices. These grades will appear on the student's transcript but will not be used in computing a law student's cumulative average. A pass, or a grade of "C" or higher, is required for law school credit.

Students who take courses outside the College of Law may be subject to course rules that are set by the partner program, and those rules may differ from rules in the College of Law. But law school policies on misconduct apply to joint degree students even with respect to the students' conduct in non-law courses.

Because non-law courses cannot count toward the J.D. degree without meeting the requirements of this policy, the College of Law strongly recommends that students seek the Dean's (or the Dean's designate) approval of any non-law course prior to enrolling in the course.

Request for Non-Law Course Credit to Apply to JD

Please complete all fields and email to lee-seedorff@uiowa.edu. Attach a copy of the course syllabus to the email.

Name: _____ Student ID#: _____

Semester Requested: _____ Your Class Year: _____

Are you a joint degree candidate? Yes ___ No ___

Proposed Non-Law Course Number: _____ Semester Hours: _____

Course Title: _____

Department: _____

Is this a web-based course? _____

Please attach a paper copy of the course description from MyUI.

What was your undergraduate major? _____

Does this course duplicate that of any course you have taken in any program?

Yes ___ No ___ If yes, explain: _____

How would this course either (a) contribute to your professional competency as an attorney, or (b) provide perspective that will broaden your understanding of some aspect of law, the legal process, or any particular legal subject?

Permission Granted:

Yes ___ _____
No ___ Carin N. Crain, Associate Dean Date

Comments: _____