

Graduation Requirements Overview

College of Law

Set out below are the basic requirements for graduation from the J.D. program at the College of Law. Additional academic requirements (e.g. the details of the legal writing and skills programs) are found in the on-line Student Handbook.

Graduation Requirements (for students who started fall 2013 through Fall 2015 and students entering as transfer students or two-year J.D. students in the Fall of 2016)

Courses

- Constitutional Law II
- Professional Responsibility (a class in ethics)
- First year curriculum

Upperclass Writing: four “units” required

At least two under direct faculty supervision: (including seminars, “w” classes, clinic and some limited field placements) or through independent research where there is direct and on-going faculty supervision.

Co-curricular: (no more than two of the four upper class writing units required for graduation may be earned in student-run, co-curricular programs such as Moot Court and the four journals).

Upper Class Professional Skills¹ - 1 required

Satisfy the requirement of receiving ‘substantial instruction in other professional skills generally regarded as necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession,’ as set forth in ABA accreditation Standard 302(a)(4) and ABA Standard Interpretations 302-2 & 302-3.

2.1 cum GPA

84 credit hours required

Limitation on Credit Hours

A student may enroll during any fall or spring semester for no more than 15 credit hours, nor for more than a total of 12 credit hours during any two adjacent

¹Effective for the class beginning in the fall 2010.

summer session, for credit that will be applicable to the student's J.D. degree. The Dean or Dean's designate may increase this limit to no more than 16 hours for one or more fall or spring semesters and to no more than 13 credits hours for adjacent sessions during two or more summers. Subject always to the relevant ABA standards at they may exist from time to time. University of Iowa College of Law Faculty Meeting Minutes adopted (Feb. 17, 2005) amended (Sept, 24, 2013).

Co-curricular and non-law course credit

No more than six hours of credit may be earned by participation in co-curricular or non-law school activities. University of Iowa College of Law Faculty Meeting Minutes adopted (Sept. 20, 2007).

Clinic, Externships, Field Placements, British Legal Placement

No student may apply more than 15 hours of credit earned through participation in the above group of courses. However, this limit may be waived with permission of the clinic faculty and the Dean of Students in order to allow students to complete cases or other projects in progress.

30 Hour Rule (the ABA rule)

No student may earn more than a total of thirty (30) hours of credit toward the J.D. degree in any combination of course work in the following: non-law courses; clinic; externships; field placements; British Legal Placement; independent research; supplementary writing; directed research and writing; writing tutorial; and co-curricular programs. These rules apply to joint degree candidates as well as to other students.

20 Hour rule

A student may not earn more than 20 hours of course work for law school hours in clinic, externships, field placements, British Legal Placement, and non-law courses. This rule applies to joint degree candidates as well as other students.

A student may apply no more than six credit hours of independent study (research and writing or tutorials) toward their J.D. degree, and may take no more than four of those credit hours with the same faculty member. The four-credit-hour limitation may be waived by the Dean or the Dean's delegate for good cause shown.

A student must complete the course of study required in no fewer than 27 months after the student has commenced law study.