Programs of Instruction

The Doctor of Law (J.D.) Degree

The regular or professional curriculum in the Law School is a three-year (nine-quarter) program leading to the degree of Doctor of Law (J.D.). The program is open to candidates who have received a Bachelor’s degree from an approved college before beginning their study in the Law School and to a limited number of highly qualified students who have completed three years of undergraduate studies but have not received degrees. The Law School will not award Bachelor’s degrees to such candidates, but in some cases undergraduate institutions will treat the first year of law study as fulfilling part of the requirements for their own Bachelor’s degrees.

The entering class for the J.D. program is limited to approximately 170 students. All students begin the program during the Autumn Quarter in September. The calendar for the academic year is located on the inside back cover of these Announcements.

The Combined Degree Programs

Students in the Law School may, with the permission of the Graduate School of Business, become candidates for the M.B.A. degree while pursuing their work toward the J.D. degree. By using certain courses in partial satisfaction of the requirements for both degrees, a student may be able to earn both the J.D. and the M.B.A. degrees in four calendar years. For detailed information about these arrangements, applicants should consult the Dean of Students in the Law School.

Law students may use several courses offered in the Law School’s Law and Economics Program to satisfy course requirements in the Department of Economics for the A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in economics, and thereby obtain such degrees in less than the normal time required.

Students in the Law School may become candidates for advanced degrees in other fields and earn credit toward such degrees by study during the regular summer quarters of the University. The Law School is flexible in granting leaves to those students who wish to pursue advanced degrees in other departments of the University in conjunction with their work toward the J.D. degree.

The University’s Committee on Public Policy Studies offers a one-year program leading to the Master of Arts degree in public policy. The program is available to law students who desire to develop expertise in the area of public policy. A full description of the program is contained in the section on Research and Special Programs. The Law School will grant a one-year leave to any student who wishes to participate in this program.

The Graduate Programs

The Law School has for many decades maintained programs of study beyond the first degree in law. In the 1960s the Foreign Law Program helped remedy the shortage of American scholars of foreign and comparative law, while the Comparative Law Program gave many students from abroad an initial exposure to American law and legal institutions. In the years since, the Law School has tended in its graduate programs to emphasize advanced scholarship in areas of particular faculty strengths. A small number of exceptionally qualified candidates continue to be admitted to Master of Laws and Master of Comparative Law programs in which course work predominates. For the most part, however, admissions and
fellowships are directed to the support of students who have well-defined research interests. Such students may work as candidates for the advanced degrees of Doctor of Jurisprudence or Doctor of Comparative Law, but degree candidacy is not necessarily required. Graduate study at the Law School is designed, therefore, to provide considerable flexibility in matching the research interests of students and faculty.

Admission to the Graduate Programs, supervision of students' programs, and the administration of requirements for degrees are under the supervision of the faculty Committee on Graduate Studies. The grading system and the requirements for satisfactory academic standing applicable to students in the J.D. program are applicable to students in degree programs, except where higher requirements are imposed by the rules of the Graduate Programs. Students whose native tongue is other than English may receive extra time on examinations with the written permission of the instructor concerned.

Inquiries concerning admission to the Graduate Programs should be addressed to the Dean of Students, The Law School, The University of Chicago, 1111 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Initial inquiries concerning the Graduate Programs must be received by January 15 and applications for admission should be completed by March 15 before the Autumn Quarter for which the student desires admission.

THE MASTER OF LAWS DEGREE

The Graduate Program leading to the LL.M. degree is limited to students (1) who have obtained an undergraduate degree from an approved school of law, (2) whose undergraduate record displays high scholarly aptitude, and (3) who display qualities of maturity and serious purpose sufficient to justify the expectation that they will satisfactorily complete the requirements for the LL.M. degree. A student admitted to the Comparative Law Program may, at any time during his period of study in residence, petition for admission to candidacy for the LL.M. degree.

The degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) is awarded to students who have been in residence for three full consecutive academic quarters, have completed their studies with a B average or above, and have satisfactorily completed in the course of their studies a substantial paper under the supervision of a member of the law faculty. To qualify for residence for a full quarter, the student must take and complete the equivalent of 12 or more course hours. Credit for 36 course hours and the maintenance of satisfactory academic standing are needed to qualify for the degree.

Students admitted to candidacy for the J.S.D. degree will be awarded the LL.M. degree following completion of the year in residence. Students who have been admitted to the J.S.D. program but are denied admittance to candidacy for the J.S.D. degree, and who have satisfied the requirements for the LL.M. degree, may be awarded the LL.M. degree upon recommendation of the Committee on Graduate Studies and favorable action by the faculty.

THE DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE DEGREE

The Graduate Program leading to the J.S.D. degree is limited to students (1) who have obtained an undergraduate law degree from an approved school of law, (2) whose undergraduate record displays outstanding scholarly aptitude, (3) who at the time of their admission demonstrate well-defined research interests,
and (4) who display qualities of maturity and serious purpose sufficient to justify the expectation that they will successfully complete the requirements of the doctorate.

The degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.S.D.) is awarded to students who have been in residence for three full consecutive academic quarters, have completed their studies with a B average or above, and, after admission to candidacy for the degree, have submitted a dissertation that is accepted by the faculty as a creditable contribution to legal scholarship. To qualify for residence for a full quarter, the student must take and complete the equivalent of 12 or more course hours. Credit for 36 course hours and the maintenance of satisfactory academic standing are needed to qualify for the degree.

The dissertation must be submitted to the Committee on Graduate Studies within five years after the completion of the period in residence. To be acceptable, the dissertation must constitute a creditable contribution to legal scholarship and must be in publishable form. Three typewritten, printed, or duplicated copies must be deposited with the Committee on Graduate Studies not later than five weeks before the date of the convocation at which the degree is to be granted. Dissertations must conform to requirements of form established by the Committee on Graduate Studies and the Dissertation Secretary of the University.

THE COMPARATIVE LAW PROGRAM

The graduate Comparative Law Program makes available to a small number of highly qualified law graduates trained primarily in foreign legal systems the opportunity to acquire a knowledge of American law and legal institutions, to pursue comparative studies in their fields of special interest, and to engage in research in such fields. The degrees awarded in this program are the Master of Comparative Law (M.Comp.L.) and the Doctor of Comparative Law (D.Comp.L.).

Admission to the Comparative Law Program is open to students who are graduates of approved foreign law schools and whose credentials establish to the satisfaction of the Committee on Graduate Studies that they are qualified to undertake advanced study and research in law. Foreign law school graduates who have been admitted to the LL.M. program may, at any time during their period of study in residence, petition for transfer to the Comparative Law Program.

The degree of Master of Comparative Law is awarded to students in the Comparative Law Program who have been in residence for three full consecutive academic quarters, have satisfactorily completed their studies and are recommended for the M.Comp.L. degree by the Committee on Graduate Studies and by the faculty. To qualify for residence for a full quarter, the student must take and complete 12 or more course hours. The program is individually arranged with the student’s faculty adviser and is expected to occupy the student’s full time. At least half of the student’s work in residence must be devoted to studies of Anglo-American law. Students will normally be expected to arrange their programs so as to include courses in civil procedure, constitutional law, torts, and contracts.

The degree of Doctor of Comparative Law is awarded to students who are graduates of approved foreign law schools, have completed with distinction the residence work required for the M.Comp.L. or LL.M. degrees and, after admission to candidacy for the degree, have submitted a dissertation that is accepted
by the faculty as a creditable contribution to the literature of comparative law. Dissertations must conform to the requirements of form established by the Committee on Graduate Studies and the Dissertation Secretary of the University.

The Legal History Program

The Law School is particularly rich in resources for the study of legal history. Several of the faculty are engaged actively in historical research and are available for advice and direction of reading and research. Academic offerings include courses and seminars in American Legal History, English Legal History, European Legal History, and Roman Law.

The Law School cooperates with the Department of History in offering a Ph.D. degree in legal history, under the auspices of the Department. Specialization in legal history can also be pursued within the degree programs of the Law School. For the academic year 1983–84, we should like to call particular attention to the following courses: 478, Legal History: Contract and Tort; 480, History of the Canon Law. Also of interest are the following seminars: 504, Constitutional Theory; 509, Property as a Constitutional Concept; 548, European Legal History; 549, English Legal History; 551, History of American Legal Thought; 554, Primitive Law. In addition to the work of the curriculum, seminars and lectures by outside scholars in legal history occur regularly. The Workshop in Legal History, held periodically under the auspices of the Leonard M. Rieser Memorial Fund, brings together faculty and students to discuss a scholarly paper on some topic of legal history.

The Law and Economics Program

The Law School has long been the center of teaching and research on the application of the theories and methods of economics to legal questions. A number of courses are offered in this area; they are described in the section of these Announcements dealing with Curriculum. No other law school provides comparable opportunities for study and research in this field.

The Law School has available to members of law school and economics faculties a limited number of Fellowships in Law and Economics. Fellows spend between one and three quarters at the Law School pursuing individually tailored programs of study in the application of economics to law. The Fellowship program is designed to enhance the research and teaching capabilities of law teachers and economists in this rapidly expanding field.

The Center for Studies in Criminal Justice

To support research relevant to criminal law and criminal procedure, the School in 1965 established The Center for Studies in Criminal Justice. Persons with basic qualifications in law or the social sciences may apply to the Center for positions as Research Fellows. Typically, a Fellow has completed law training or a doctorate in a related social science and comes to the Center with a well-defined research project and competence in research methodology. Fellowships are granted for one academic year and can be renewed. The probable quality and importance of the proposed research is the most important factor in selection of Fellows. Usually only one or two Fellows are appointed each year, to assure that each Fellow receives adequate support and guidance from the Center’s senior staff.