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 175 students. All students begin the program during the Autumn Quarter in September. The calendar for the academic year is located on the last page 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.

The Law School and the Department of History offer joint programs leading to the J.D. degree and the A.M. or Ph.D. degrees in history. Those programs are described in the section of these Announcements dealing with Research and Special Programs.

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.

A student may earn both the J.D. and the A.M. degree in International Relations in eleven quarters by counting three courses jointly listed by the Law School and the Committee on International Relations toward both degree programs.

The University’s Graduate School of 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.
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 Graduate Program

The Law School has for many decades maintained programs of study beyond the first degree in law. In recent years the Graduate Program has been composed primarily of graduates of approved foreign law schools who wish to experience an initial exposure to American law and legal institutions. For American and Commonwealth lawyers, 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 are admitted to the Master of Laws Program in which course work predominates. Students who have well-defined research interests may work as candidates for the advanced degrees of Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.S.D.) or Doctor of Comparative Law (D.Comp.L.). Degree candidacy is normally required; it is rare for visiting scholars to be admitted to a non-degree program. Graduate study at the Law School, however, is designed to provide considerable flexibility in matching the research interests of students and faculty.

Admission to the Graduate Programs, supervision of graduate 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 also applicable to students in graduate degree programs, except where other requirements are imposed by the rules of the Committee on Graduate Studies. Students whose native language is other than English will receive extra time on exams.

The Master of Laws and the Master of Comparative Laws Degrees

While there were historical differences between the two programs, those differences have been largely eliminated in recent years. Consequently, most degree candidates choose to receive the Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree. If, however, a student prefers to be awarded the Master of Comparative Law (M.Comp.L.) degree, that option is available. The Graduate Program leading to either degree is limited to students (1) who have obtained a first degree in law from an approved American or foreign 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.

The degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) or Master of Comparative Law (M.Comp.L.) is awarded to students who have been in residence for three full consecutive academic quarters and have completed their studies with a minimum average of 70. To qualify for residence for a full quarter, the student must take and complete the equivalent of nine or more course hours. Credit for twenty-seven course hours and the maintenance of satisfactory academic standing are needed to qualify for the degree.

The Doctor of Jurisprudence and Doctor of Comparative Law Degrees

The Graduate Program leading to the Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.S.D.) and the Doctor of Comparative Law (D.Comp.L.) degrees is limited to students who (1) have obtained a first degree in law from an approved American or foreign school of law, (2) whose undergraduate record displays outstanding scholarly aptitude, (3) who at the time of their admission demonstrate clearly 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.) or of Doctor of Comparative Law (D.Comp.L.) will be awarded to students who have been in residence for three full consecutive academic quarters, have completed their studies with at least a 70 average, 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 nine or more course hours. Credit for twenty-seven 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 awarded. Dissertations must conform to requirements of form established by the Committee on Graduate Studies and the Dissertation Secretary of the University.

Students will normally be admitted to the J.S.D. degree program during the academic year in residence leading to the LL.M. degree.