

Degree Requirements & the Degree Audit Report (DAR)

JD Requirements Overview: (for students who matriculated in or after May 2015)

83 credits total, including:

- 77 non-research credits (students may take up to 6 research credits)
- 77 credits taken while enrolled at U-M Law School
- 71 law credits (students may apply up to 12 non-law credits to their JD, with permission)
- 64 credits that meet the “64 Rule”

Course requirements: 1L required, first year elective, professional responsibility, upper-class writing, international or comparative law, statutory or regulatory, experiential learning (see restrictions on Page 2)

Law Residence Terms: 6 terms as a full-time student (a minimum of 10-credits are needed to be a full-time student)

GPA of at least 2.3

63 Graded Units are required to be eligible for Latin honors consideration

DEGREE AUDIT REPORT

To see your Degree Audit Report, follow these steps:

1. Go to [Wolverine Access](#) .
2. Go to “Student Business” under the “Students” tab
3. Click on “Student Center,” select “Academic Requirements” from the drop-down menu, and click the double arrow button to view your DAR.
4. Select “View Report as PDF” to see a more comprehensive listing of your progress toward your degree.

Questions?

Contact the Office of Student Records (lawrecords@umich.edu; 734.763.6499), or the Office of Student Life (lawstudentlife@umich.edu; 734.764.0516).

READING THE DAR

There are three classifications for the degree requirements: **Complete**, **Not-Complete**, and **In Progress**. They are color-coded throughout the document so that you can easily see what requirements you have met, still need to meet, or are in the process of meeting (through your current enrollment).

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Key: Matriculation occurs on the J.D. student's first day of class of their first academic term.

A student who matriculated in May 2015 or September 2015 must complete with a passing grade (D or better) the following:

- **During the first year:** Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, Legislation and Regulation, Torts, and Legal Practice I, II, and Skills.
- **After the first year:** At least one course with a rigorous writing component.
- **During the third or fourth term:** Introduction to Constitutional Law.
- **At some point before graduation:** At least one international or comparative law course of two or more credit hours, and one professional responsibility course.

A student who matriculated in or after May 2016 must complete with a passing grade (D or better) the following:

- **During the first year:** Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, Introduction to Constitutional Law, Torts, the Legal Practice writing and experiential courses.
- **During the second semester (for fall starters only):** One elective course of three or four credit hours (as designated in the registration materials).
- **After the second semester:** At least one course with a rigorous writing component. (See [Academic Regulations for J.D. Students](#) for more details.)
- **At some point before graduation:**
 - At least one international or comparative law course of two or more credit hours, one statutory or regulatory course of three or more credit hours, one course in professional responsibility of two or more credit hours, and two credit hours of experiential learning.
 - A separate course to fulfill each of the following requirements: a) upper-level course with a rigorous writing component; b) professional responsibility course of two or more credit hours; and c) two credit hours of experiential learning.

64 Rule: ABA accreditation standards require that all law school J.D. graduates must have earned a minimum of 64 credit hours in “regularly scheduled law classes.” For students who matriculated before May 2016, first-year required courses (except Legal Practice Skills – LAW 592), upper class courses, law courses taken outside of Michigan Law, seminars, and most clinical law courses count toward fulfilling this requirement. Independent Research (LAW 900, LAW 942, LAW 992), Law and Development Research (LAW 778), Advanced Clinical Law (LAW 980), Workers’ Rights Clinic Research (LAW 975), the field component of externships, externship research papers, study abroad papers, and non-law courses do not count. In addition, 1.5 credits of the 3-credit Innovation Platform (LAW 729) practice simulation course do not count. For students who matriculated in or after May 2016, the same information applies with the exception that 1 credit for Legal Practice Skills I (LAW 593) does not count.

(Note: This is not an exhaustive list. Check with the Office of Student Records if you are unsure whether credits earned in a particular class count.) If you completed or plan to enroll for an externship, are a dual degree student, are taking three or more non-law courses and/or a number of the other types of classes on the "do not count" list, you might have difficulty fulfilling this requirement.

Law Residence Terms: Students must complete six full-time terms (or their equivalent) in order to graduate from law school. A full-time term requires carriage throughout the term and completion of at least 10 credit hours with a grade of a "D," or better.

Limited Grade Option Limit: Up to two times during your law school career, you may convert a letter grade of "C" or better to a "P" (which means "Pass") in an upper-level (non-first-year) course. This is what the Law School refers to as "Conversion of a Letter Grade to a 'Pass.'" Please see [Part One, Section VI. B. of the Academic Regulations for J.D. Students](#) for specific rules and limitations concerning this option.

Law 5 Year Limit: All degree requirements must be completed within five years from the first day of the term the student began law school.

77 Non-Research Units are Required: LAW 778 (Law and Development Research), Workers' Rights Clinic Research (LAW 975), LAW 900 (Independent Research), LAW 942 (Law Practicum Research), and LAW 992 (Research: Special Projects) are the only "courses" at this time that do not count toward this rule. If you are doing or plan to do a lot of research for credit, then you should pay close attention to this and the 64 rule.

71 Law Units are Required: During their time in Law School, students may take non-law courses that, if approved, can be applied to their total number of credits for graduation. In order to receive credit, students must receive prior approval from the Assistant Dean for Student Life (see the online [Registration Instructions](#) for specific information about how to get approval) and successfully complete the course [with a B- (minus), or better grade]. Please note that an "NDC" (Not for Degree Credit) will appear on your unofficial transcript next to the course until the Office of Student Records has reviewed your grade and removed the "NDC" flag. This typically takes place after the Law School's "Conversion of a Letter Grade to a 'Pass'" (Pass/Fail) period after each term.

77 Units Must Be Taken While Enrolled at U of M Law School: You are permitted a maximum of six (6) hours of credit for coursework taken at another ABA accredited law school. Prior approval for this coursework from the Assistant Dean for Student Life is necessary. (See the online [Registration Instructions](#) for information about how to get approval.) Note: These six credits are included in the 12 you are permitted to take outside of Michigan Law. Therefore, if you plan to take some non-law credits at Michigan, and take some law credits elsewhere, make sure to check with the Office of Student Records or the Assistant Dean for Student Life.

Total Units Needed to Graduate:

83 total credits are required: for students who matriculated in May 2015, or thereafter

Cumulative GPA: A minimum grade point average of 2.3 for students who matriculated in May 2015, or thereafter

Graded Units for Honors Eligibility: The first step to being eligible to receive honors is to complete 63 graded for honors credits. Additional requirements can be found at the "[Honors: Eligibility Rules](#)" link on the Office of Student Records' webpage.