

*This publication contains current information regarding the Law School's degree requirements, academic policies and procedures, special programs, examinations and research papers. For additional information, consult the Academic Services/Student Records Office in 105 Slaughter Hall. Policies and procedures contained in this document apply to all law students, including graduate and combined-degree students, and are subject to change. They may be waived only by the assistant dean for academic services and the assistant dean for student affairs. Appeal of any decision by an assistant dean may be made only to the faculty/student Academic Review Committee.*

*In addition to the information in this directory, all law students are responsible for complying with the policies listed in the Graduate Record, a University publication available in the Student Records Office. The Graduate Record has important information on the University of Virginia, tuition, fees, financial aid, regulations governing graduate law and combined-degree programs, policies that apply to all University students, and the honor system.*

## **I. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE**

Candidates for the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree must successfully complete all required courses, meet minimum academic requirements, earn a minimum of 86 credits and six residency semesters, satisfy the writing requirement, and maintain a standard of behavior characteristic of a prospective member of the legal profession.

### **A. REQUIRED COURSES**

In addition to the basic first-year required courses (Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Legal Research and Writing, Property, and Torts), all degree candidates must

successfully complete a two- or three-credit professional responsibility course and a professional skills course.

### **B. ACADEMIC RECORD**

During each academic year of enrollment all degree candidates must earn a minimum grade point average (GPA) of C+ (2.3) and accumulate fewer than three exclusion points (see section II.K).

### **C. CREDITS**

All degree candidates must successfully complete a minimum of 86 semester hour credits. Typically, students complete 30-32 credits during the first year and 54-56 credits during the second and third years.

### **D. RESIDENCY**

All degree candidates must complete six full semesters in residence, except in the case of transfer students who receive credit for work completed at other law schools and enter with advanced standing. A semester in residence is one in which a student enrolls in a minimum of 12 credits toward the J.D. degree and receives grades of D or better for at least nine of those 12 credits.

### **E. WRITING REQUIREMENT**

In accordance with American Bar Association regulations, all degree candidates must satisfy the Law School's upper-level writing requirement by completing at least one substantial research paper during their law school careers (see section II.U).

### **F. CONDUCT**

All degree candidates must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the good order of the School of Law and standards of the legal profession (see section II.T.3).