Twin Cities Campus

Juridical Science S.J.D.

Law School

Law School

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

- Program Type: Doctorate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2019
- Length of program in credits: 48
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Doctor of Juridical Science

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The SJD program at the University of Minnesota Law School is intended for those who wish to carry on advanced legal study and original research under faculty supervision. SJD students must present research which makes a significant, original contribution of long-term value to legal scholarship. The dissertation must be of publishable quality and provide lawyers, scholars, or governmental officials with a useful understanding, not previously available, of a particular area of the law.

Accreditation

This program is accredited by acquiescence of the American Bar Association.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

Applicants must have completed the first degree in law AND must have completed (or are in the process of completing) a US LLM degree at the University of Minnesota or another institution.

Special Application Requirements:
1) Submission of a preliminary dissertation proposal demonstrating that the dissertation will constitute an original and substantial contribution, of publishable quality, to legal scholarship, in a research field in which the Law School has experienced faculty available for advising, and 2) Submission of an extensive, high quality writing sample written in English to demonstrate the ability to engage in advanced research and writing.

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

24 credits are required in the major.
24 thesis credits are required.

This program may not be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses towards program requirements is not permitted.

A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for students to remain in good standing.

At least 2 semesters must be completed before filing a Degree Program Form.

Coursework Requirements

Legal Research

Take one of the following courses, or another research course approved by your faculty adviser or the director of graduate studies.
LAW 6851 - Practice-Ready Legal Research (2.0 cr)
or LAW 6867 - Practice-Ready International Legal Research (2.0 cr)

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Information current as of March 28, 2024

Elective Courses
The remaining 22 credits are determined through consultation with your faculty advisor or the director of graduate studies.

Thesis Credit Requirement
24 Thesis Credits

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