

**Howard University School of Law
Academic Requirements**

I. J.D. – 86 credits¹/88 credits²

A. Required Courses

1. 1L Fall Semester (16 credits)

Civil Procedure I (4 credits)
Contracts (3 credits)
Legal Research, Reasoning and Writing I (2 credits)
Legal Research, Reasoning and Writing I – Research Lab (0 credits)
Legislation/Regulation (3 credits)³
Torts (4 credits)

2. 1L Spring Semester (14 credits)

Constitutional Law I (3 credits)
Contracts (2 credits)
Criminal Law (3 credits)
Legal Research, Reasoning, and Writing I (2 credits)
Property (4 credits)

3. 2L Fall Semester

Constitutional Law II (3 credits) * Prerequisite Constitutional Law I
Legal Writing II (2 credits) [surname starts with a letter from the 1st ½ of alphabet]

4. 2L Spring Semester

Legal Writing II (2 credits) [surname starts with a letter from the 2nd ½ of alphabet]

B. Additional Upper-Division J.D. Requirements

Evidence (4 credits)
Professional Responsibility (3 credits)
Legal Writing III (2-4 credits in a LWIII eligible seminar, law journal/review, or Independent Study)
Experiential (minimum 2 credits)⁴
Experiential (minimum 6 credits)⁵

¹ All J.D. students who entered the School of Law in the Fall 2016 semester must complete **86** credit hours to receive the J.D. degree. Please note that neither Legal Methods nor Legislation/Regulation is a required course for this cohort of J.D. students.

² All J.D. students who entered the School of Law either in or after the Fall 2017 semester must complete **88** credits to receive the J.D. degree. For this cohort of students, Legislation/Regulation is a required 1L course.

³ Legislation/Regulation is required only for J.D. and J.D./M.B.A. students who entered the School of Law either in or after the Fall 2017 semester.

⁴ All J.D. and J.D./M.B.A. students who entered the School of Law before the Fall 2016 semester must have a minimum of 2 credit hours of experiential coursework.

⁵ All J.D. and J.D./M.B.A. students who entered the School of Law either in or after the Fall 2016 semester must have a minimum of 6 credit hours of experiential coursework.

II. J.D./M.B.A. – 110 credits (71 J.D. credits/39 M.B.A. credits)⁶

A. Required J.D. Courses

1. 1L Fall Semester (16 credits)

Civil Procedure I (4 credits)
Contracts (3 credits)
Legal Research, Reasoning and Writing I (2 credits)
Legal Research, Reasoning and Writing I – Research Lab (0 credits)
Legislation/Regulation (3 credits)⁷
Torts (4 credits)

2. 1L Spring Semester (14 credits)

Constitutional Law I (3 credits)
Contracts (2 credits)
Criminal Law (3 credits)
Legal Research, Reasoning, and Writing I (2 credits)
Property (4 credits)

3. 2L Fall Semester

Constitutional Law II (3 credits) * Prerequisite Constitutional Law I
Legal Writing II (2 credits) [surname starts with a letter from the 1st ½ of alphabet]

4. 2L Spring Semester

Legal Writing II (2 credits) [surname starts with a letter from the 2nd ½ of alphabet]

B. Additional Upper-Division J.D. Requirements

Evidence (4 credits)
Professional Responsibility (3 credits)
Legal Writing III (2-4 credits in a LWIII eligible seminar, law journal/review, or Independent Study)
Experiential (minimum 2 credits)⁸

⁶ **Students entering the JD program before Fall 2016** – Refer to the information regarding experiential course requirements.

Students entering the JD program in or after Fall 2016: As noted, 71 JD credit hours are required to earn the JD-MBA. 39 MBA credit hours are required to earn the JD-MBA. Thus, a total of 110 credit hours are required.

For those students who plan to sit for the NY Bar, be advised that:

- The New York Bar allows a maximum of 12 credit hours of non-JD coursework (e.g., MBA coursework) to be counted towards the total minimum number of credit hours required for the New York Bar.
- Of the 71 JD credit hours, at least 64 credit hours must be earned in “classroom study.”
- “Classroom study” includes clinics.
- “Classroom study” does not include co-curriculars.
- “Classroom study” includes up to 1 hour of externship classroom credit.
- Of the remaining 7 hours (i.e., 71 hours – 64 “classroom study” hours) externship and co-curricular credits may be counted.

⁷ Legislation/Regulation is required only for J.D. and J.D./M.B.A. students who entered the School of Law either in or after the Fall 2017 semester.

Experiential (minimum 6 credits)⁹

C. Required M.B.A. Courses

1. Fall Semester – 3rd year

Financial Accounting
Statistics
Macroeconomics
Organizational Management
Elective

2. Spring Semester – 3rd year

Principles of Information Systems
Marketing Management
Financial Management
Productions & Operations
Elective

3. Additional Required Courses (to be taken before the 4th year) Students must also take Management Accounting and Microeconomics. These courses can be taken at any point before completing the fourth year of the program. In addition, students are permitted to enroll in elective courses of their choice.

4. 4th Year - 3L & M.B.A.

Strategic Management must be taken in the last semester of the M.B.A. portion of the dual degree program.

III. LL.M. - 24 credits

A. LL.M. Requirements

1. Fall Semester - Introduction to the U.S. Legal System [for degree candidates with law degrees or equivalent qualifications from jurisdictions outside the United States];
2. Research and Writing – At least four hours of writing either by a 4 credit thesis or by two seminar research papers. All LL.M. degree candidates must successfully complete the following requirements:

B. Additional Academic Requirements - Grading is on a numerical scale of 50-100. LL.M. degree candidates must maintain a minimum grade point average of 77 (C+) and cannot earn a grade of less than 70 (C) in each course in order to receive credit for that course. There is one special circumstance: the minimum acceptable grade for a thesis is 80 (B).

⁸ All J.D. and J.D./M.B.A. students who entered the School of Law before the Fall 2016 semester must have a minimum of 2 credit hours of experiential coursework.

⁹ All J.D. and J.D./M.B.A. students who entered the School of Law either in or after the Fall 2016 semester must have a minimum of 6 credit hours of experiential coursework.

Retention Requirements

A J.D. or J.D./M.B.A. student will be academically dismissed from the School of Law if the student:

- (a) fails three or more 1L courses;
- (b) has a cumulative weighted average of less than 72.00 at the end of the 1L year;
- (c) is required to participate and fails to participate in the Academic Support Program;
- (d) fails courses totaling six (6) or more credits in any one semester;
- (e) fails three (3) or more courses (including both 1L and upper-division courses);
- (f) has a cumulative weighted average of less than 75.00 at the end of the fourth semester or thereafter;
- (g) is a transfer student and has a cumulative weighted average of less than 75.00 at the end of any semester.

A J.D. student will be placed on academic probation if the student has a cumulative weighted grade point average between 72.00 and 74.99 after the end of the first year. A student who is on academic probation after the end of the first year must also participate in the upper-class Academic Support Program. Failure to participate in the Academic Support Program is grounds for dismissal. Excluding the Summer semester, probation shall terminate during the semester in which the student obtains a cumulative GPA of 75.

A J.D. student who is ineligible to continue at the School of Law for failing to meet retention standards is automatically discharged from the School of Law effective as of the end of the semester for which the disqualifying event occurred.