



The Life of a JSD Candidate

The College of Law offers an advanced program leading to the JSD degree to qualified LL.M. graduates of accredited U.S. law schools. The JSD is primarily for students who intend to pursue an academic career. Our goal is to produce leaders in the legal academy around the globe.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 5-10 page research proposal with evidence of preliminary research on the topic and anticipated research methodology
- Personal statement indicating career goals, relevant past experience, and reasons for selecting the University of Illinois
- Current curriculum vitae
- Three letters of reference including at least one from an accredited U.S. law school
- Copies of academic transcripts
- Statement of financial resources available to support this program
- TOEFL/IELTS score (English proficiency minimums: TOEFL 95 iBT or IELTS 7.0)
- An oral interview may be required
- Applications will be considered starting October 30. To receive maximum consideration, completed applications must be submitted by February 15.

TIMELINE

Year 1

- Participate in JSD Seminar
- Take law classes (32 credit hours or graded courses)
- Take individualized reading course with faculty advisor
- Study research methodology
- Attend law-school faculty workshops
- Develop relationships with faculty experts in your field
- Attend academic conferences
- Have annual progress review with graduate dean

Years 2-3

- Pass JSD qualifying exam (September)
- Review scholarly literature for dissertation
- Attend and present at conferences
- Begin gathering data and evidence for dissertation
- Draft dissertation proposal
- Pass preliminary defense of dissertation

Years 3-5

- Finalize dissertation research
- Identify faculty for dissertation committee
- Collaborate with committee on dissertation development
- Finish final version of the dissertation
- Pass final defense of the dissertation
- Deposit dissertation with Graduate College