

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL Los Angeles, CA

Maximum J.D. Units Policy

Faculty policy.

Revision history: Formerly a part of the annually revised Student Handbook; established as a standalone policy in August 2022; technical edits were made in August 2023 and May 2024.

Related policies: Transfer and Visiting Students Policy.

Scheduled Review Date: June 2025 (Student Services Office)

A. Full-Time J.D. Students

A full-time student pursuing the J.D. degree may not enroll in more than 16 units in a fall or spring semester without the permission of the Associate Dean for Student Services; in no case may a student enroll in more than 17 units in a fall or spring semester. A full-time student may not enroll in more than eight units in the summer term without the permission of the Associate Dean for Student Services. Students must be in good academic standing to receive authorization to overload on units.

B. Part-Time J.D. Students

A part-time student may not enroll in more than 11 units in a fall or spring semester without permission of the Associate Dean for Student Services; in no case may a student enroll in more than 17 units in a fall or spring semester. A part-time student may not enroll in more than six units in the summer term without the permission of the Associate Dean for Student Services. Students must be in good academic standing to receive authorization to overload on units.

C. Concurrent-Degree Students

A student in an approved concurrent-degree program must receive approval from the Associate Dean for Student Services to enroll in more than 17 units in a term or semester for both degree programs combined. Students must be in good academic standing to receive permission to exceed 17 combined units. Students in concurrent-degree programs should note the maximum cross-credits allowed in that degree program.

D. January Intersession

The January intersession program is held for one week each year, typically over four days, following the fall semester's conclusion and before the spring semester's start. J.D. students may not enroll in more than one unit in any single intersession, although students may take courses in multiple intersessions.

E. Honors Programs

Units earned for participating in an Honors Program (Law Review, Law Journal, Moot Court Honors Program, Negotiation Honors Program, and Trial Advocacy Honors Program) are included in the maximum units permitted under Sections A, B, and C above.

F. Distance Education Courses

Students, other than those enrolled in the Online J.D. Program, may earn no more than 43 of the 87 units required to earn the J.D. degree in distance education courses. For purposes of this Policy, a "distance education course" is one in which more than one-third of the instruction is conducted online.

G. Course Work at Other Law Schools

Except as detailed in the Transfer and Visiting Students Policy, a maximum of 6 units may be counted toward completing the J.D. degree from coursework taken at other schools. This 6-unit maximum includes all coursework completed in study-abroad programs, summer sessions, or intersessions.

H. Study-Abroad Programs

Southwestern will accept credit for study-abroad programs completed through other law schools only if the Associate Dean for Student Services has approved the program before the student's departure. Only programs approved by the ABA are eligible for the Associate Dean for Student Services' approval. A maximum of 6 units of credit earned at non-Southwestern institutions may be approved and applied toward completing the J.D. degree. In the case of students who attend both a Southwestern-sponsored summer-abroad program and a summer-abroad program sponsored by another ABA-approved law school, a maximum of 8 units from summer-abroad programs of any kind, Southwestern sponsored or otherwise, may be applied toward completion of the J.D. degree.

I. Policy Revisions

Southwestern reserves the right to change or modify any aspect of this policy at any time, with or without prior notice.