

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA




Programs and Concentrations

Six J.D. Pathways. Seven Concentrations.
One Career-Defining Education.



Your Journey Begins Here:

Residential J.D. Programs	4
Online J.D. Programs	5
Curriculum Comparison	7
Concentrations	9



Whether you plan to pursue your J.D. through an on-campus program or a more-flexible virtual format, Southwestern has a path designed for you! On-campus options put you in the heart of Los Angeles throughout your legal education, allowing you access to a thriving legal hub while earning your J.D. in 2, 3, or 4 years. The Online J.D. Program offers the nation's only full-time, mainly asynchronous option, in addition to a part-time, mainly asynchronous option. Students in all programs have access to optional concentrations that allow them to focus their studies on specialized topics.

EXPLORE SOUTHWESTERN'S J.D. PROGRAMS

Learn More



swlaw.edu/jd-programs



“When I told a father in our immigration clinic that we’d filed his citizenship application, the look in his eyes said it all. It reminded me our clients aren’t just a status—they’re stories of resilience. Advocating for them inspires me to help pave a path to legal status and hope.”

Qlehd Mernell Guiwa '25, 3L Full-Time J.D. (far left)
President, Christian Legal Society
Law Clerk, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California

Residential J.D. Programs

For those seeking an in-person legal education, Southwestern's residential J.D. programs provide a range of options. Set on our historic Los Angeles campus, these programs offer everything from the accelerated two-year SCALE program to part-time options that accommodate your professional and personal responsibilities. Each pathway combines classroom learning with hands-on experience through clinics, externships, and a collaborative community.

■ 2-Year Accelerated J.D. Program (SCALE):

Earn your J.D. in just 24 months through the country's first accelerated law program. SCALE combines intensive skills training, a guaranteed externship, and close faculty mentorship so you enter the profession sooner with the network and experience to lead.

■ 3-Year Full-Time J.D. Program:

Pursue your J.D. at the typical pace. Take advantage of myriad electives and co-curricular options, develop a broad legal network, and establish yourself on the career path of your choice.

■ 4-Year Part-Time Day Caregiver J.D. Program (PLEAS):

Designed for parents and caregivers, your first-year courses occur in the morning, so later in the day you can care for those who need you most.

■ 4-Year Part-Time Day J.D. Program:

Earn your J.D. during the day, but at a pace that allows for greater flexibility. Ideal for those who work evening hours or have outside responsibilities beyond school.

Online J.D. Program

Study from almost anywhere in the nation's first and only full-time, asynchronous online J.D. program, or choose the part-time option. Faculty in the program include renowned legal scholars and long-serving professors who teach or have taught in our residential programs. Online J.D. students benefit from real-world training via our vast externship network and the option to add on-campus electives.



“

Southwestern's Online J.D. program makes law school possible without putting my career or personal life on pause. Its flexibility lets me excel at work and in my studies, all at the same time. With so many course options, I'm shaping a substantive legal education that fits perfectly with my goals for the future."

Daniel Seco '28, 2L Part-Time Online J.D.
Vice President, Online Program, Student Bar Association
Law Clerk, Petrullo Law



Accelerated J.D. (2 years)

6-15 Units Per Quarter

1L (46 units)**Quarter 1 (11 units)**

Contracts I (3 units)

Foundations of Law & Practice* (1 unit)

LAWS I (3 units)

Torts (4 units)

Quarter 2 (11 units)

Civil Litigation (3 units)

Contracts II (2 units)

Criminal Law (3 units)

Legal Profession (3 units)

Quarter 3 (9 units)

Evidence Law & Practice I (3 units)

LAWS II*

Property (4 units)

Remedies (2 units)

Quarter 4 (14-15 units)

Criminal Procedure (3 units)

Elective (2-3 units)

Evidence Law & Practice II (3 units)

Jurisdiction (3 units)

LAWS II* (3 unit)

Lawyering Practicum*

Summer Session (6-8 units)

Required:

Lawyering Practicum* (2 units)

Options:

Summer-Abroad Program

Summer Elective Course(s),
including Externship Course**2L (35-38 units)****Quarter 5 (9-11 units)**

Bar Writing Skills & Strategies (3 units)

Community Property (2 units)

Constitutional Law I (3 units)

Elective(s) (1-3 units)

Quarter 6 (9-11 units)

Business Associations (4 units)

Constitutional Law II (3 units)

Elective(s) (2-4 units)

Quarter 7 (8-10 units)

Elective(s) (2-4 units)

Multiple Choice Skills and Strategies (2 units)

Wills and Trusts (4 units)

Quarter 8 (6 units)

Mandatory 8-week Externship (5 units)

Multiple Choice Skills and Strategies (1 unit)

*Multi-term course

**Includes Bar Skills and Strategies (3 units),
Community Property (2 units), Remedies
(2 units), and Wills and Trusts (4 units).Subject to change as we monitor changes to
the bar exam. Opt-out option based on GPA.
See Graduation Requirements Policy.***Includes Bar Skills and Strategies (3 units),
Family Law (3 units), Practical Lawyering Skills
(2 units), and Wills and Trusts (4 units). Subject to
change as we monitor changes to the bar exam.
See Graduation Requirements Policy.**Full-Time J.D. (3 years)**

10-16 Units Per Semester

1L (31 units)**Fall (15 units)**

Civil Procedure I (2 units)

Contracts I (3 units)

Criminal Law (3 units)

Foundations of Law & Practice*

LAWS I (3 units)

Torts or Property (4 units)

Spring (16 units)

Civil Procedure II (3 units)

Contracts II (2 units)

Elective (3 units)

Foundations of Law & Practice* (1 unit)

LAWS II (3 units)

Torts or Property (4 units)

2L (20-32 units)

Business Associations (4 units)

Constitutional Law I & II (6 units)

Electives (6-18 units)

Evidence (4 units)

Additional Requirements

Bar Readiness Curriculum** (11 units)

Constitutional Criminal Procedure (3 units)

Experiential Requirement (6 units)

Legal Profession (3 units)

Upper-Division Writing Requirement (2-3 units)

PLEAS and Part-Time J.D. (4 years)

8-11 Units Per Semester

1L (19 units)**Fall (9 units)**

Contracts I (3 units)

Criminal Law (3 units)

Foundations of Law & Practice*

LAWS I (3 units)

Spring (10 units)

Contracts II (2 units)

Foundations of Law & Practice* (1 unit)

LAWS II (3 units)

Torts (4 units)

2L (17-22 units)

Civil Procedure I & II (5 units)

Constitutional Law I & II (6 units)

Electives (2-7 units)

Property (4 units)

3L (16-22 units)

Business Associations (4 units)

Electives (8-14 units)

Evidence (4 units)

Additional Requirements

Bar Readiness Curriculum** (11 units)

Constitutional Criminal Procedure (3 units)

Experiential Requirement (6 units)

Legal Profession (3 units)

Upper-Division Writing Requirement (2-3 units)

Curriculum Comparison

The charts list required courses in our various J.D. programs. Students complete electives and practical training experiences as upper-division students. We also offer summer classes.

Full-Time J.D. (3 years)

10-16 Units Per Semester

1L (32 units)

Fall (16 units)

Constitutional Law I (3 units)
Contracts I (3 units)
Criminal Law (3 units)
Foundations of Law & Practice*
LAWS I (3 units)

Torts or Property (4 units)

Spring (16 units)

Constitutional Law II (3 units)
Contracts II (2 units)
Elective (3 units)
Foundations of Law & Practice* (1 unit)
LAWS II (3 units)
Torts or Property (4 units)

2L (20-32 units)

Business Associations (4 units)
Civil Procedure I & II (5 units)
Electives (7-19 units)
Evidence (4 units)

Additional Requirements

Bar Readiness Curriculum*** (12 units)
Constitutional Criminal Procedure (3 units)
Experiential Requirement (6 units)
Legal Profession (3 units)
Upper-Division Writing Requirement (2-3 units)

Part-Time J.D. (4 years)

8-11 Units Per Semester

1L (19 units)

Fall (9 units)

Contracts I (3 units)
Criminal Law (3 units)
Foundations of Law & Practice*
LAWS I (3 units)

Spring (10 units)

Contracts II (2 units)
Foundations of Law & Practice* (1 unit)
LAWS II (3 units)
Torts (4 units)

2L (17-22 units)

Civil Procedure I & II (5 units)
Constitutional Law I & II (6 units)
Electives (2-7 units)
Property (4 units)

3L (16-22 units)

Business Associations (4 units)
Electives (8-14 units)
Evidence (4 units)

Additional Requirements

Bar Readiness Curriculum*** (12 units)
Constitutional Criminal Procedure (3 units)
Experiential Requirement (6 units)
Legal Profession (3 units)
Upper-Division Writing Requirement (2-3 units)

PROFESSION-ORIENTED CONCENTRATIONS

Southwestern offers optional concentrations that allow students to pursue focused courses of study that prepare them for practice within specific fields of law. Students in the Online J.D. Program have five concentration options, as noted by the laptop icon below, and students in the residential programs may pursue any of the listed options.

■ Civil Litigation & Advocacy

- Ideal for students who wish to become civil litigators
- Focuses on developing pretrial and trial skills used in the courtroom and litigation-oriented firms and organizations

■ Criminal Law & Advocacy *

- Ideal for students interested in being public defenders, district attorneys, private defense attorneys, or judges
- Focuses on developing skills such as trial practice, client interviewing, and mastering the rules of procedure and evidence

■ Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies

- Ideal for students seeking to examine the law through a critical theory lens, focusing on race, gender, and sexuality perspectives
- Focuses on an understanding of the origins of law, the social impact of our legal system, and how individuals and their intersectional identities both shape and are impacted by this system

■ Entertainment, Media & Sports Law

- Ideal for students who want to break into the industry and join a network of accomplished alums from our top-rated program
- Focuses on cutting-edge developments within the entertainment and media space and helps students navigate a competitive environment



Also available in the Online J.D. Program.

* Approval Pending Fall '26

Discover
how our concentrations
drive student success at
swlaw.edu/JDConcentrations



■ Labor & Employment Law

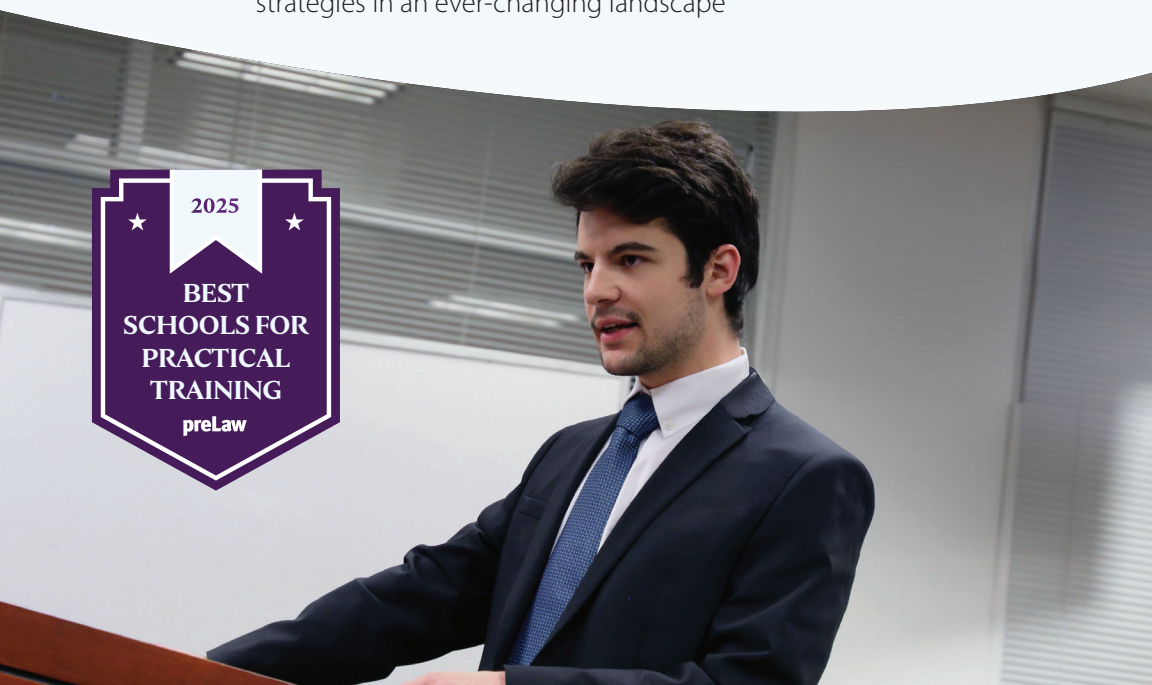
- Ideal for students who want broad-based training in workplace law
- Focuses on building knowledge in areas like collective bargaining, discrimination, accommodation, occupational safety, whistleblower protection, and more

■ Public Interest Law

- Ideal for students wishing to pursue justice for underserved individuals and communities
- Focuses on skills such as client interviewing, trauma-informed lawyering, provisioning direct services, and building a lifelong drive for service

■ Technology Law & Entrepreneurship

- Ideal for students seeking to enter the world of high-growth technology start-ups
- Focuses on the business law and technology law aspects of start-ups and primes students to implement innovative legal strategies in an ever-changing landscape



Connect with Us!



instagram.com/southwesternlawschool



swlaw.edu/linkedin



facebook.com/southwesternlawschool



youtube.com/@southwesternlaw

Learn about upcoming events at www.swlaw.edu/AdmissionsEventsCalendar

Southwestern Law School prohibits discrimination and harassment based on an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, reproductive health decision-making, pregnancy, sex stereotyping, sexual orientation, parental status, marital status, age, disability, medical condition, citizenship status, military status or service, veteran status, genetic information, any other classification protected by federal or California law, or any combination of any status protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services, or in the educational programs or activities Southwestern operates. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit <https://www.swlaw.edu/Policy>.

**As of the printing on September 15, 2025, our Online J.D. Program is available to residents of Alaska through an approved exemption. The program is exempt from authorization under AS 14.48 and 20 AAC 17.015 because the program is online or distance delivered and does not have a physical presence in the state. This institution is authorized by: The Indiana Commission for Higher Education/ The Indiana Board for Proprietary Education, 101 West Ohio Street, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46204-4206. Please check [swlaw.edu/online](https://www.swlaw.edu/online) for updates as to whether we are able to accept residents of your state for admission to the Online J.D. program.*