

JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE

Program Description

The law school's Juris Doctor degree program is designed to prepare students for the general practice of law and for policy-forming functions in government, business and other organizations in society. Courses provide students with a basic knowledge of the principles and processes of the Anglo-American system of law and of the integration of law into other disciplines and institutions.

The curriculum and program recognize that in order to be of the utmost service to clients, the lawyer must "see life whole" and appreciate the relationships among legal, social and political aspects of human endeavor. They also recognize that the best interests of society require a lawyer to be a thinker and scholar as well as a skilled technician.

Both the curriculum and methods of instruction are designed to meet these objectives. Although the casebook method is the predominant form of classroom instruction in larger classes, the faculty also employ other approaches. Classes such as lawyering skills, negotiating mergers and acquisitions, mediation, and law practice management combine theory with opportunities to learn about lawyering first-hand. Many of the classes use documents and "real life" problems to demonstrate concepts studied in class. The curriculum also includes opportunities for research and writing, seminar discussions, clinical instruction and skills training.

Academic Support and Success (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/law/juris-doctor-degree/academic-support-success/>)

Admission (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/law/juris-doctor-degree/admission-to-juris-doctor-program/>)

Scholarships (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/law/juris-doctor-degree/scholarships/>)

Areas of Study

Law students do not have a formal major, but have options for obtaining sequenced and advanced training in areas of interest to them, including:

- Advocacy and Litigation
- Business and Tax Law
- Commercial Law
- Estate Planning and Administration
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Domestic Relations
- Labor and Employment
- International Law
- Property and Real Estate
- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- Environmental Law

In addition, through field placements, competitions, journals and student organizations, students are able to develop skills and contacts in specialized areas of the law.

Students may also elect to participate in one of the Law School's formal areas of emphasis within the Juris Doctor degree program:

- Advocacy (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/law/juris-doctor-degree/litigation-emphasis-area-requirements/>)
- Business & Entrepreneurial Law (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/law/juris-doctor-degree/business-entrepreneurial-emphasis-area-requirements/>)
- Child & Family Law (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/law/juris-doctor-degree/child-family-law-emphasis-area-requirements/>)
- Estate Planning (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/law/juris-doctor-degree/estate-planning-emphasis-area-requirements/>)
- Intellectual Property (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/law/juris-doctor-degree/intellectual-property-emphasis-area-requirements/>)
- International, Comparative, & Foreign Law (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/law/juris-doctor-degree/international-comparative-foreign-law-icf-emphasis-area-requirements/>)
- Urban, Land Use and Environmental Law (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/law/juris-doctor-degree/urban-land-use-environmental-law-emphasis-area-requirements/>)

Licensure Disclosure

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UMKC School of Law is accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. Graduates of the JD program meet the educational requirements to sit for the Bar Exam.

UMKC strongly recommends that students review the applicable licensure board(s) in their state of residence or in the state where they intend to obtain a license before beginning an academic program that results in licensure or certification and prior to beginning any practicum/internship. See UMKC's Professional Licensure Disclosures (<https://www.umkc.edu/provost/academics/professional-licensure-disclosures.html>) page for more information.

States in Which the Curriculum Meets the Educational Requirements for Licensure

All US states and territories.

States in Which the Curriculum Does Not Meet the Educational Requirements for Licensure

N/A.