

Emory University School of Law
Student Handbook Addendum
2018-2019

Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) Program

Admissions Requirements

This degree program is designed for those seeking to pursue careers as teachers and scholars of law. It is a highly selective program open only to applicants who possess a distinguished academic record in law, show promise of outstanding scholarship, and demonstrate high potential for completing a scholarly dissertation of required quality.

Applicants must hold a J.D. degree, or foreign equivalent, and an LL.M. degree from an ABA- accredited U.S. institution. Applications must include or be accompanied by a research proposal detailing the importance of the research, methods, and identifying at least two Emory Law faculty with whom they wish to work. Students who have a law degree from a common law country, and/or a graduate degree in law or related field may have the LL.M. degree requirement waived.

The law school admits a small group of candidates to the S.J.D. class each year through a highly competitive admissions process. The Graduate Studies Committee will admit only the most highly qualified candidates who complete all elements of the application for admission, provide clear evidence of academic excellence, and demonstrate high potential for completing a scholarly dissertation that constitutes a substantial contribution to knowledge in his or her intended field.

The application deadline for fall is listed on the Emory Law website.

The following items are required to complete all application materials through the LSAC website. No materials submitted directly to Emory Law will be accepted.

Applications must include:

- Application form and fee
- CV/resume
- Personal statement
- Research proposal
- Official transcripts, including both J.D./formal equivalent and LL.M degree transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation. One letter may be from a supporting Emory Law faculty member, as appropriate.
- A substantial research paper written in, or translated into, English or in a language that can be read by an Emory faculty member

General Requirements

Academic Standing

To remain in good standing, students must maintain an overall cumulative minimum average of at least 2.50 on all coursework at the conclusion of the first term and be certified as making sufficient progress by the program administrator. In each term beyond the first, a student must have a cumulative average of at least 2.50 and continue sufficient progress toward completion to be in good standing.

Any student not in good standing is presumptively ineligible to continue in the S.J.D. program. Such a student may petition the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for continuation in the program. Students granted continuation remain in the program on probationary status. Students on probation must raise their average to at least 2.50 by the end of the probationary period. It is the obligation of the student to petition for continuation and probationary status and to monitor his or her own probation and eligibility to continue in the program.

Academic Course Load

During the first year, S.J.D. candidates may combine course work with directed research and writing credits for a total of 15 credits per semester. In the first year, students must take at least one course in legal or jurisprudential theory, chosen in consultation with their advisor. This course must be taken for a grade.

After the first year, students are expected to earn 12 credits per semester in directed research and writing. After the first year, students may choose courses from among those generally offered at the law school as approved by their supervising faculty member as part of the approved course of study for each S.J.D. candidate. Students may take courses for a grade, or audit courses, at any time during their program. Audited courses will not be counted toward the candidate's total semester credit load.

Graduation Credits. Over the course of the program, a student must accumulate a total of 108 credits to graduate. Presumptively, students will enroll in 15 credits in his or her first two semesters, and 12 credits for each subsequent semester. Also in the third semester, or as approved by the committee, students will register for the 3-credit Prospectus Defense course. The presumption is that the Prospectus Defense will take place prior to the conclusion of the second year. In addition, in the student's final semester the student will register for the 3-credit Dissertation Defense. In special circumstances, this timeline may be accelerated by approval of the student's dissertation supervisor, the Graduate Programs Committee, and with approval of the Dean. Regardless of the pace of accumulating credits, students must earn a minimum of 108 credits to graduate from the program.

Typical SJD Schedule

	First Semester	Second Semester
First year	15 credits	15 credits
Second year	12 credits + 3 credits Prospectus Defense	12 credits
Third year	12 credits	12 credits
Fourth year	12 credits	12 credits + 3 credits: Dissertation Defense

Total: 108 credits

Residency

Students in the S.J.D. program must be in residence and conduct his or her work from Emory Law's Atlanta campus during the first two semesters of his or her program. After the first two semesters in residency, students must be enrolled in the program, but may complete their research and writing from another location if remote work is approved by the student's faculty supervisor, and the Executive Director of Graduate Programs. Students are highly encouraged to stay in residence in Atlanta for at least their third and fourth semesters.

Dissertation Requirements

Prospectus Defense. Upon successful completion of the first two semesters and performance in courses at a level substantially above the quality expected of J.D. candidates, the Graduate Studies Committee shall constitute a doctoral committee consisting of three faculty members, including the student's supervisor and a member from a department outside of the law school. In the third semester of enrollment, the student will present a research Prospectus to his or her doctoral committee, and complete a successful oral defense of the Prospectus before the doctoral committee. Students may petition to accelerate the Prospectus defense to the first year, or delay it to the fourth semester. Petitions to accelerate or delay the Prospectus defense will be granted or denied by the Executive Director of Graduate Studies, on recommendation of the student's supervisor and committee.

Upon successful completion of the oral defense and acceptance of the Prospectus by a student's doctoral committee, the Graduate Studies Committee shall allow the students to proceed in the program. If a student fails to successfully complete the oral defense, and/or the student's doctoral committee does not accept the Prospectus, the student will be discontinued from the program. Students who fail may appeal that decision to the Executive Director of Graduate Programs who, in consultation with the Dean, will

give a final decision on any appeal. Any student dismissed from the program may not reapply.

Dissertation Completion Process. After a student has completed and passed the Prospectus defense, the student may continue research and writing under the supervision of his or her committee, subject to the residency and enrollment requirements outlined above. In their seventh semester, students must declare their intent to schedule their oral defense examination of their dissertation. The oral defense and submission of a final dissertation will take place during the student's eighth semester, unless for exceptional circumstances an extension is granted by the Graduate Studies Committee.

After the oral defense, and examination of the dissertation, the student's committee may rule as follows: *Full pass; Pass with minor revisions required; Pass with major revisions required; Fail.* The decision of the committee to grant a pass, or a pass requiring any sort of revision, is not appealable. The decision to fail a candidate in his or her dissertation will result in immediate dismissal from the SJD program. The decision of the committee to fail a candidate may be appealed to the Executive Director of Graduate Programs who, in consultation with the Dean, will give a final decision on any appeal. Any student dismissed from the program may not reapply.

In his or her final semester, a candidate shall submit and successfully defend in an oral examination a dissertation in the form of a monograph or a series of closely related essays suitable for publication and constituting a substantial contribution to knowledge in its intended field. To graduate, the student must submit a final copy of his or her dissertation, along with his or her committee's final approval, as directed by the Executive Director.

Final Graduation. To graduate, a student must meet all final dissertation deadlines:

	Spring Graduation	Fall Graduation
Declare intent to schedule oral defense next semester	December 1	May 1
Notice of intent to defend and graduate	February 1	September 1
Oral defense and committee action (<i>pass, pass with minor revisions, pass with major revisions, fail</i>)	By March 1	By September 15
Minor revisions to committee for review	April 1	October 15
Final signoff by supervising professor	April 15	November 1
Final dissertation submitted	May 1	November 15

Students who pass with major revisions required will be automatically deferred to the next semester's graduation. Students who fail the dissertation will be discontinued from the SJD program.

Any student who misses these deadlines will be delayed to graduate the following semester.