

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S A N G E L E S

Maximum J.D. Unit Policy

Revision history: Formerly a part of the annually revised Student Handbook. Established as a standalone policy in August 2022.

Related policies: [TBD].

Scheduled Review Date: June 2023 (Dean of Students and Diversity Affairs Office)

1. 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 Dean of Students; 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 Dean of Students. Students must be in good academic standing to receive permission to overload on units.
2. 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 Dean of Students; 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 Dean of Students. Students must be in good academic standing to receive permission to overload on units.
3. Concurrent-Degree Students: A student in an approved concurrent-degree program must get approval from the Dean of Students 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 total combined units. Students in concurrent-degree programs should note the maximum cross-credits allowed in that degree program.
4. January Intersession: The January intersession program is held for one week each year following the conclusion of the fall semester and before the start of the spring semester. J.D. students may not enroll in more than one unit in any single intersession, although students may take courses in multiple intersessions.

5. 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 1, 2, and 3 above.
6. Distance Education Courses: Students may earn no more than 29 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.
7. Course Work at Other Law Schools: A maximum of 6 units may be counted toward completing the J.D. degree from course work taken at other law schools. This 6-unit maximum includes all course work, including work completed in study-abroad programs, summer sessions, or intersessions.
8. Study-Abroad Programs Sponsored by Other Law Schools: Southwestern will accept credit for study-abroad programs completed through other law schools only if the Dean of Students has approved the program before the student's departure. Only programs approved by the ABA are eligible for the Dean of Students' 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.
9. Visiting at Other Law Schools: Under compelling circumstances, the Dean of Students may grant permission for a Southwestern student to participate in a semester-long study-abroad program or take their second, third, or fourth year at another school and receive a degree from Southwestern. The total number of units completed at other law schools must be approved by the Dean of Students.