

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL Los Angeles, CA

J.D. Program – Graduation Rates*

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Graduation %	78%	84%	77%	75%
Transfer Out %	5%	5%	5%	6%
All Other Attrition %	17%	11%	18%	19%
Total Students	315	364	277	293

*Last Update February 7, 2025

Calculating Graduation Rates:

Graduation rates measure how many students graduate within 150% of their program's normal completion time. This period is set at the time the student is established in their First-Year Class (FYC) cohort using the program the student is enrolled in at that time.

150% of Normal Completion Time:

- **Accelerated Program (SCALE):** 3 years
- **Full-Time Programs:** 4.5 years
- **Part-Time Programs:** 6 years

What classes are included in the graduation rates provided above?

Program	First-Year Class	Normal Time to Complete	150% of Normal Time to Complete
Accelerated (SCALE)	2021	2023	2024
Full-Time	2020	2023	2024
Part-Time	2018	2022	2024
Accelerated (SCALE)	2020	2022	2023
Full-Time	2019	2022	2023
Part-Time	2017	2021	2023
Accelerated (SCALE)	2019	2021	2022
Full-Time	2018	2021	2022
Part-Time	2016	2020	2022
Accelerated (SCALE)	2018	2020	2021
Full-Time	2017	2020	2021
Part-Time	2015	2019	2021

Understanding Graduation Rates at Southwestern Law School

What is a First-Year Class (FYC) Cohort?

An FYC cohort is a group of students who enter as first-year Juris Doctor students in a specific academic year. The Council on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association (ABA) approves protocols each year for defining and reporting the FYC in the ABA's Annual Questionnaire. The FYC is typically defined as those students who enrolled as first-year students and were enrolled as of the official school census date of October 5.

Once a student is established in a FYC cohort, they remain in the cohort, even if they change programs, withdrawal, or transfer out of the institution. Students may be excluded from a FYC cohort only for the following reasons: (i) have left school to serve in the Armed Forces; (ii) have left school to serve on official church missions; (iii) are totally and permanently disabled; or (iv) are deceased.

Different Programs and Graduation Times:

Southwestern offers various pathways to earn a J.D. degree, and the normal time to complete the degree requirements for each pathway differ:

- **Accelerated Program (SCALE):** 2 years
- **Full-Time Programs:** 3 years
- **Part-Time Programs:** 4 years

Example:

The 2023 FYC cohort consists of first-year J.D. students beginning their study of law in academic year 2023-2024 and who are enrolled in classes on October 5, 2023.

- Accelerated students in this cohort are expected to graduate in 2024.
- Full-time students in this cohort are expected to graduate in 2025.
- Part-time students in this cohort are expected to graduate in 2026.