

DOCTOR OF JURIDICAL SCIENCE (S.J.D.)

Program Requirements

To receive the S.J.D. degree, a student must:

1. earn at least 24 credits; and
2. satisfy the requirements and rules outlined in the S.J.D. policy.

Residency. All S.J.D. students are required to be in residence at Dickinson Law for one academic year (or two semesters), preferably during year one of the S.J.D. program. During the residency period, students complete two courses: *Research Methods* (2 credits) and *Research Colloquium* (2 credits). Whereas *Research Methods* focuses on the methodological considerations in the proposed area of legal research, the *Research Colloquium* is designed to engage scholars in a public facing discussion of their proposed research. S.J.D. students may enroll in additional Dickinson Law courses by assignment or with approval. Additional tuition and fees may apply.

Candidacy. In order to move into Candidacy, each S.J.D. student must pass an oral defense to an appointed Candidacy Committee, which usually takes place at the end of the first year. Candidates are encouraged to remain in residence unless their research requires other arrangements. In order to remain a candidate, each must submit an *Annual Progress Report* to demonstrate that satisfactory research progress is being made.

Defense. Students are expected to complete the program within two years after meeting the minimum residency requirement and achieving candidacy. When appropriate, a candidate's faculty supervisor will recommend to the S.J.D. Program Committee that the candidate be scheduled to defend the dissertation to an appointed Committee of Examiners. Upon successfully defending the dissertation and submitting the written dissertation as prescribed to Penn State Dickinson Law, the S.J.D degree will be conferred.

S.J.D. students are required to remain enrolled full-time throughout the duration of their S.J.D. studies (i.e., generally a minimum of 12 credits per semester). As long as one stays enrolled full-time, there are no minimum credit requirements to fulfill the degree requirements. For example, a typical three-year program would include 12 credits per semester for six semesters (72 credits). In addition to the two required courses of 2 credits each, students will have earned 76 credits in total. A typical three-year schedule is as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
Year One - 1st Semester		
LWSJD 901	SJD Pre-Candidacy Resident	12
LWSJD 902	SJD Research Methods	2
Year One - 2nd Semester		
LWSJD 901	SJD Pre-Candidacy Resident	12
LWSJD 905	SJD Research Colloquium	2
Year Two and Three - Each Semester		
LWSJD 903 or LWSJD 904	SJD Dissertation Research In-Residence SJD Dissertation Research Not In-Residence	12