JURIS DOCTOR

Description and Outcomes

Students seeking to practice law and develop a wide range of career opportunities should enroll in the Juris Doctor program. The JD program focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary to be a responsible and effective member of the legal profession. Law study and the JD degree have also been widely recognized as providing a foundation for individuals who work in business, government, education, and public interest positions.

The JD program at Concord strives to develop students’ abilities, skills, and perspective in legal fundamentals, professional and practical skills, and critical thinking skills.

The JD program at Concord is a 92 credit hour program, structured along three 16-week terms per year. Students on the standard pace are expected to graduate in 12 terms (4 years), assuming an average of 7 to 8 credit hours per term. Per Guideline 6.5(A) of the Accredited Law School Rules Guidelines, the JD can be completed no earlier than 30 months and no later than 84 months after commencing study. Students are responsible for ensuring they do not go outside of these limits.

(Note: Students who enrolled prior to Concord being granted accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California must successfully complete at least 20 credit hours of coursework each academic year, and must successfully complete at least 10 credit hours of coursework in a 24-week term to complete a qualifying half-year of study.)

The program consists of required courses and electives. You are required to submit periodic statements of the time spent in study, class preparation, and class attendance. These statements will be embedded in each course. You will have earned a JD degree and met the legal education requirement of the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California upon graduating from this program and may apply for admission to the State Bar of California.

Learning Outcome Objectives

Concord has established the following core learning goals in connection with its Juris Doctor program:

- Demonstrates knowledge of the role of law in society and the U.S. legal system.
- Demonstrates ability to analyze and explain legal solutions to a particular fact situation (critical thinking).
- Communicates clearly and effectively both in writing and orally.
- Demonstrates competency with legal practice skills.
- Demonstrates knowledge of the law in courses tested on the California bar exam.
- Demonstrates the knowledge and skills to recognize and resolve dilemmas in an ethical manner.
- Models professionalism and knowledge of the importance of service to the profession and to the community at large.

Required Disclosures

Study at, or graduation from, this law school may not qualify you to take the bar examination or to satisfy the requirements for admission to practice in jurisdictions other than California. A student intending to seek admission to practice law in a jurisdiction other than California should contact the admitting authority in that jurisdiction for information regarding the legal education requirements in that jurisdiction for admission to the practice of law.

There will be additional eligibility requirements to be admitted to the California bar. For more information, visit http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/.

This program was not designed to meet any specific state’s requirements to practice law other than California.

(Additional disclosure for students who enrolled prior to Concord being granted accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California: Students enrolled in the JD degree program at this law school must pass the First-Year Law Students’ Examination required by Business and Professions Code 6060(h) and Title IV, Division 1, Chapter 1 Rule 4.3(l) of the Rules of the State Bar of California as part of the requirements to qualify to take the California Bar Examination. A student who passes the First-Year Law Students’ Examination within three (3) administrations of the examination after first becoming eligible to take it will receive credit for all legal studies completed to the time the examination is passed. A student who does not pass the examination within three (3) administrations of the examination after first becoming eligible to take it must be promptly disqualified from the law school’s JD degree program. If the dismissed student subsequently passes the examination, the student is eligible for reenrollment in this law school’s JD degree program, but will receive credit for only one year of legal study.)

State Bar Exam Eligibility

As a graduate of the JD program, you are academically eligible to sit for the California State Bar exam.

You may be eligible to sit for the State Bar exam in the following states upon receipt of your California law license:

- North Carolina
- Wisconsin

As a graduate of the JD program, you may be eligible to sit for the State Bar exam in the following states, provided you possess a California law degree and meet additional requirements that include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Alaska: 5-7 years of practice
- Arizona: 3-5 years of practice
- Connecticut: 5-7 years of practice and a CA license for 10 years
- Colorado: 3-5 years of practice
- District of Columbia: 5 years of practice or 26 credits from an ABA-accredited law school
- Florida: 10 years of practice and an evaluation by the Board of Work Product
- Hawaii: 5-6 years of practice
- Maine: 3 years of practice
- Massachusetts: 5-7 years of practice
- Minnesota: 5-7 years of practice
- Missouri: 3-5 years of practice or 24 credits from an ABA-accredited law school
- Nevada: 10-12 years of practice
- New Mexico: 4-6 years of practice
- New York: 5-7 years of practice
As a graduate of the JD program, you are not currently eligible to sit for the State Bar exam in the following states/commonwealth/territory:

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Delaware
- Georgia
- Guam
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Puerto Rico
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Vermont
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wyoming

1 Georgia residents are not eligible to sit for the State Bar exam; however, they may file a petition for a waiver.
2 Iowa residents who are licensed in a U.S. jurisdiction and have practiced for at least five of the past seven years may qualify for admission without examination.
3 Maryland residents are not eligible to sit for the State Bar exam; however, the board may waive educational requirements for applicants licensed in another state and qualified by education or experience.
4 Michigan residents are not eligible to sit for the State Bar exam; however, they may file a petition for a waiver.

Pursuant to Rule 4.16 (B) of Title IV, Division 1 of the Rules of the State Bar of California (Admission Rules), “The Application for Registration must be filed first, before any other application is transmitted to the Committee. The applicant is required by law either to provide the Committee with a Social Security Number or to request an exemption because of ineligibility for a Social Security Number. Registration is deemed abandoned if all required documentation and fees have not been received within sixty days of filing. No refund is issued for an abandoned registration.”

For more information, see http://www.calbar.ca.gov (https://www.calbar.ca.gov).

(Note for students who enrolled prior to Concord being granted accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California: Registration as a first-year student is distinct from registering to sit for the California State Bar First-Year Law Students’ Examination (FYLSE). If you successfully complete your first year at Concord and satisfy all other requirements, you will be certified to sit for this examination.)

Progression Requirements

To maintain good academic standing in the JD program at Concord, you must actively progress toward the completion of each academic year as required by the State Bar of California. (For students who enrolled prior to Concord being granted accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California: You must maintain a pace dictated by State Bar of California rules that require students to complete their studies (a minimum of 432 hours) within 24 to 26 weeks in each term of the program, or a minimum of 864 hours within each 48- to 52-week academic year.) You must also meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/concord-law-school/policy-information/academic-standards/satisfactory-academic-progress/).

First-Year Requirements

Notwithstanding any other policy regarding satisfactory academic progress or academic probation, you must earn at least a 1.00 CGPA by the end of your first term or you will be academically dismissed from the School.

(For students who enrolled prior to Concord being granted accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California: In the first academic year you must earn a 2.50 CGPA or higher to be certified for the First-Year Law Students’ Examination (FYLSE). If you do not earn a 2.00 CGPA by the end of your first term, or do not earn a 2.50 CGPA by the end of the first year, you will be academically dismissed from the School.)

Upper-Division FYLSE Requirements

Note: The policies in this section only apply to students who enrolled in Concord’s JD program prior to Concord being granted accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California.

You are required to take and pass the FYLSE, unless you qualify for an exemption based upon attendance at a prior law school or because you have already passed the FYLSE. If you have prior law studies, Concord may require, as a condition of admission, that you petition the State Bar of California to restart your law studies.

Upon successful completion of the first year, before starting the second year, you must pass the FYLSE. If you do not receive FYLSE results in time for the upper-division start date that takes place immediately after your first administration, or you do not pass the FYLSE, you may start your second year only if you complete CL900 First-Year Intensive (FYI)
with a passing grade according to the course syllabus. If you achieve such a grade, while you are permitted to continue and complete the second year of studies while the second or third administration to pass the FYLSE is pending, under no circumstances may you begin the third year at Concord in the JD program without successfully passing the FYLSE.

If you need to devote additional time to studying for the exam, you can elect to take an FYLSE leave of absence, within the first three administrations of the FYLSE after becoming eligible, to temporarily suspend your studies. (See FYLSE Leave of Absence (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/concord-law-school/policy-information/academic-information/))

If you fail to pass the FYLSE within three consecutive administrations of first becoming eligible to take the examination, you may not continue in the JD program. (Note: the three administrations rule runs from the point of eligibility, i.e., completion of the first year, not from the time you first choose to take the examination.) If you pass the FYLSE on a fourth or subsequent administration, you may petition to be readmitted to the JD program, but all credits earned beyond the first qualifying year of study will be disqualified. You must repeat any required courses that were disqualified and must make up the disqualified half-year(s) of study. Petitions are rarely granted. If you are otherwise in good academic standing, you may be eligible to apply to the nonbar-track EJD program (See Program Changes (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/concord-law-school/policy-information/academic-information/)).

Requirements for a Qualifying Half-Year or Year of Study

Note: The policies in this section only apply to students who enrolled in Concord’s JD program prior to Concord being granted accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California.

To be eligible to sit for the California Bar Examination, you must complete 8 qualifying half-years of study, each with a minimum of 432 hours of preparation and study completed in no less than 24 weeks or more than 26 weeks; or 4 qualifying years of study, each with a minimum of 864 hours of preparation and study combined in no less than 48 and not more than 52 weeks. To receive credit for a qualifying half-year of study for the State Bar, you must earn at least 10 credit hours each semester. To receive credit for a qualifying year of study for the State Bar, you must earn at least 20 credit hours each year. If you fail to complete the minimum credit hours required for a qualifying half-year of law study in any term or a qualifying year in any academic year, you may be eligible to continue your studies at Concord but any passing grades received in that term will be disqualified, and you will have to make up the failing half-year or year of law study. The only courses you need to repeat in the make up half-year or year of law study are required courses in which you failed or that were disqualified due to FYLSE requirements.

You shall be allowed to make up 2 half-years of law study or one year of study. If you achieve another failing half-year, you are not eligible to continue in the JD program.

Final Exam Qualification Policy

You are required to attend regularly and punctually to your studies. To be able to take the final examination in a course, you must:

1. Complete 100% of the required work (other than seminars) by finishing all modules prior to the scheduled final examination date.

2. Participate in at least 80% of all seminars (100% for legal writing courses), either live or through the archive, by no later than one week (7 days) prior to the scheduled final examination date.

Graduation Requirements

You must successfully pass all required courses and complete at least 92 credit hours with a minimum 2.50 CGPA to graduate with a JD degree from Concord.

Students who meet all graduation requirements will be considered graduates of the University and may participate in graduation ceremonies. However, the diploma and transcript will be withheld until the financial obligations are satisfied.

Degree Plan

Program Requirements

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