

# The Law School

## Degree Programs in Law

The *Juris Doctor (JD)* is the first professional law degree in the United States. In almost all cases, candidates for the JD hold a four-year baccalaureate degree prior to enrollment. At Tulane Law School, the JD program is a three-year (six-semester) program, offered on a full-time basis only. The degree requires satisfactory completion of 88 semester hours of law coursework.

<http://www.law.tulane.edu/prog/index.cfm?d=jd&main=jd.htm>

The first year of coursework comprises the following required courses: Contracts I, Torts, Introduction to Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law I, Contracts II or Obligations I, Common Law Property or Civil Law Property, and Legal Research & Writing. After completion of the first year, all courses are elective with the exception of the required Legal Profession course. Students have the option of taking courses from throughout the curriculum and may, if they choose, pursue a certificate of specialization in European Legal Studies, Sports Law, Civil Law, Environmental Law, or Maritime Law. Tulane was the first law school in the United States to require community service of all of its students (30 hours are required prior to graduation). Six different live-client law clinics are available to third-year students: criminal defense, juvenile, civil litigation, domestic violence, environmental, and legislative and administrative advocacy.

Tulane Law School offers five *Master of Laws (LLM)* programs: the General LLM, the LLM in Admiralty, the LLM in American Business Law, the LLM in Energy & Environment, and the LLM in International & Comparative Law. Candidates for any of the LLM degrees already hold a first law degree from a law school in the United States or from a law school elsewhere in the world. All of Tulane's LLM programs require completion of 24 semester hours of law coursework, including at least three credits of directed research or seminar enrollment. Students who received the first law degree outside of the United States must enroll in *Introduction to US Law*

prior to the start of the fall semester, as well as a legal research and writing course during the fall semester.

<http://www.law.tulane.edu/prog/index.cfm?d=grad&main=grad.htm>

**General LLM:** Students in this program may enroll in virtually any non-clinical course in the Law School curriculum. Because the General LLM requirements are so flexible, students can design a course of study that will enable them to concentrate in one or two areas within the curriculum, for example, intellectual property or international trade. Alternatively, they may survey a broad range of areas, gaining exposure to a variety of topics in US law. <http://www.law.tulane.edu/admissions/index.cfm?d=grad&main=llmgeneral.htm>

**LLM in Admiralty:** Generally acknowledged to have the strongest admiralty and maritime law program in the world, Tulane offers over a dozen courses in this area each year. Students in this degree program complete at least 13 of the 24 hours of coursework in maritime courses. While most students complete this program on a full-time basis over two semesters, attorneys practicing full time in the New Orleans metropolitan area may pursue the LLM in Admiralty program on a part-time basis over four semesters. An important resource for students pursuing this degree is the Tulane Law School Maritime Law Center, which was established to provide a focus for Tulane's many activities in the field of admiralty and maritime law. The Center brings distinguished scholars of maritime law to Tulane each semester and organizes continuing education programs and conferences in the US and abroad on a variety of international maritime topics. <http://www.law.tulane.edu/admissions/index.cfm?d=grad&main=llmadmiralty.htm>

**LLM in American Business Law:** Students interested in pursuing the study of US corporate and commercial law find a strong program at Tulane Law School. Candidates for this degree take Business Enterprises I, Business Enterprises II, Contracts II, and two other corporate or commercial law courses. Remaining credits may be

chosen from any of the courses open to LLM students. <http://www.law.tulane.edu/admissions/index.cfm?d=grad&main=llmambuslaw.htm>

**LLM in Energy & Environment:** Tulane is an ideal place for the study of both environmental and energy law, largely because it is located in an area of the United States in which these two areas come into frequent conflict. New Orleans and Louisiana are natural laboratories for a variety of energy and environmental issues. Students may enroll in this program on a full-time basis, or on a part-time basis over two years. The degree requires completion of the Energy & Environment LLM Seminar and 15 credit hours (five courses) selected from a broad range of courses dealing with environmental law issues, energy-related issues, and related topics. Remaining credits may be chosen from any of the courses open to LLM students. The Energy & Environment program is enriched through the Institute for Water Law & Policy, which functions as the research entity of the program. <http://www.law.tulane.edu/admissions/index.cfm?d=grad&main=llmenergy.htm>

**LLM in International & Comparative Law:** The breadth and depth of the comparative and international law curriculum at Tulane Law School provide unparalleled opportunities for both US and foreign lawyers to obtain a basic foundation in international legal practice. Tulane's program offers courses in public international law, private international law including international business transactions, and comparative law. In addition to courses in European Union institutions and law, courses in substantive areas of foreign law are available. Tulane's unique perspective in a historically mixed common law/civil law jurisdiction results in an unusually rich experience for students. In addition to a strong faculty with significant international experience and training, and an outstanding international and comparative library, the program offers the resources of the Eason-Weinmann Center for Comparative Law, which enriches the program of the Law School by bringing together outstanding legal scholars from various countries and legal systems

for seminars and lectures. Candidates for this degree enroll on a full-time basis and complete at least 13 semester hours of international and comparative courses. Each student's course of study is dependent on his or her background and previous legal education. <http://www.law.tulane.edu/admissions/index.cfm?d=grad&main=llmint.htm>

The **Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD)** program is a very selective one, encompassing a small number of students who hold both the first law degree and an LLM degree with distinguished record. The SJD program requires one additional semester of coursework beyond the LLM. Thereafter, candidates proceed to the dissertation phase of the program. It is expected that the final SJD dissertation will be submitted within three years after initial enrollment in the SJD program. The dissertation must make an original and significant contribution to legal scholarship. <http://www.law.tulane.edu/admissions/index.cfm?d=grad&main=generalinfo3.htm>

### Special Programs

**BA/JD or BS/JD 3/3 Program:** With the permission of the appropriate undergraduate dean, students at Newcomb-Tulane College may apply for admission to Tulane Law School during the junior year. If admitted students enroll as full-time law students during what would otherwise be the senior year. At the successful conclusion of that year, the BA or BS is awarded. After two more years of full-time law study, the JD is awarded. This program enables students to receive the BA or BS and the JD in a total of six years.

Students wishing to apply to Tulane Law School under the 3/3 Program should take the LSAT during the summer between the sophomore and junior years, or during the fall semester of the junior year. Application to Tulane Law School should be made between October 1<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> of the junior year.

***Prelaw Acceptance Program:*** Prelaw Acceptance Program candidates complete the full four years of the normal baccalaureate program and receive admission to Tulane Law School so long as they fulfill the requirements described below. Only students who complete all four years of college at Tulane (with the exception of the junior year abroad through Tulane) are eligible for this program. Students are expected to follow an academically rigorous program as undergraduates.

Students who achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher in all undergraduate coursework and a score of 162 or higher on the LSAT are guaranteed admission to Tulane Law School within two years of the completion of the BA or BS degree. Admission is conditioned on meeting the character and fitness requirements of Tulane Law School. Candidates must apply for admission by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they wish to enroll; applications must be complete by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

***Joint Degree Programs:*** The JD may be combined with other graduate degrees at Tulane University, enabling eligible students to complete two degrees in less time than it would take to complete them sequentially. Application must be made to each degree program separately; candidates admitted to both degree programs are then considered by a joint-degree committee which makes the final determination. Joint degree programs include the JD/MBA, JD/MACCT, JD/MHA, JD/MSW, JD/MS in International Development, and JD/MA in Latin American Studies. Other joint-degree programs can sometimes be arranged on an ad hoc basis.  
<http://www.law.tulane.edu/prog/index.cfm?d=joint&main=joint.htm>