



Graduation Requirements

The Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree

The Doctor of Jurisprudence degree (JD) will be conferred upon students who have successfully completed all requirements of South Texas College of Law for graduation. There are three graduating classes each year (May-spring semester; July-summer session; December-fall semester) with two graduation ceremonies. The May graduation ceremony honors the May and July graduates and is traditionally held off campus. The December graduation ceremony honors the December graduates. The size of the graduating class will determine the location of the ceremony, whether on or off campus.

Requirements for Graduation

A candidate for a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree is required to:

1. Meet all entrance requirements.
2. Earn at least 90 semester hours of credit with a passing grade and a cumulative grade average of 2.000 (C) or better within seven years of the date of first enrollment. No more than 30 semester hours may be earned at other law schools. (*See Visiting Student Status.*)
3. **Complete with a passing grade the following required courses for graduation:** Civil Procedure; Constitutional Law; Contracts I and II; Criminal Law; Evidence; Federal Income Taxation; Legal Research & Writing I and II; Professional Responsibility; Property I and II; Torts I and II; substantial writing (minimum of two hours credit) and professional skills (minimum of two credit hours).
4. Complete the degree no earlier than 24 months and no later than 84 months after commencing law studies.
5. Complete all required courses in residence, unless required courses were accepted when a student transferred into the college.
6. Make formal application for graduation.
7. Pay all fees and tuition charges incurred prior to graduation.
8. Participate in commencement, unless permission to graduate in absentia is granted by the Dean.
9. Attend the college's bar exam preparation course as a prerequisite to graduation if entering his/her last semester with a cumulative GPA lower than 2.500 (Academic Supervision).

A student can satisfy this requirement only by attending at least 80% of the course's sessions.

If any of the above requirements is not met, the degree cannot be conferred and the anticipated graduation date will move to the next semester. Examples typically include: 1) a grade of "F" or "incomplete" entered on the record or 2) credit not received for a course taken as a visiting student.

All requirements must be met within a period no later than one year after the original graduation.

The degree will be conferred in the semester when all requirements have been finally met.