

# JURIS DOCTOR

## The J.D. Program Mission

The Juris Doctor program at Trinity Law School is a rigorous program of legal education that prepares its students, upon graduation, for admission to the bar and for effective, ethical, and responsible participation as members of the legal profession.

## J.D. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Juris Doctor program, the graduate shall, at a minimum, include competency in the following:

1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the law in key areas tested on the California Bar Exam by obtaining a grade of C or higher on a class examination.
2. Demonstrate that law may be practiced as a tool of ministry through pro-bono or low-cost legal services.
3. Identify and formulate the legal issues and theories that apply to the facts of a described situation or problem in the content area as demonstrated by successful performance on an examination.
4. Compare case law to a given set of facts, using it to determine the appropriate action as demonstrated by written case briefs and participation in classroom discussion.
5. Integrate biblical principles to content area topics through classroom discussion and/or assignments.

## Degree Requirements

To graduate with a Juris Doctor degree, students must successfully complete the prescribed program of 90 units of study within 5 years. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above is required for the degree.

Students wishing to complete the program in three years should maintain a unit load of 15 units per semester. Students wishing to complete the program on a part-time basis should maintain a unit load of 12 units. Students may be able to reduce their unit load by enrolling in summer session courses. Students are required to take a minimum of 9 units each semester.

Students wishing to enroll in more than 16 units or less than 9 units in any given semester must submit a petition to the Registrar's Office for approval.

## Academic Year

The academic calendar consists of fifteen-week semesters each fall and spring with the option of taking additional courses during the summer session. Courses are offered throughout the day and evening, as well as on Saturdays to facilitate full and part-time programs of study. Please see the calendar in this catalog or at [tls.edu](http://tls.edu) for semester start and end dates, registration deadlines, and holidays.

## Saturday Classes

Trinity Law School is one of the few law schools to offer classes on Saturdays. Qualified students have the option to earn their entire JD degree by attending class on Saturdays only. Incoming students with an LSAT of 145 or higher will be permitted to take up to nine units of class time in a single day. This allows these qualifying students to take all the

required first semester classes on Saturday. In later semesters, those students with a cumulative GPA of 2.66 or higher can continue to take up to nine units of class time in a single day, and thus can continue to complete the program by taking classes only on Saturdays.

Saturday classes are open to all students. The LSAT and GPA requirements noted above only apply to students taking nine units on Saturdays.

Please be advised that should you need to retake a course, you must retake it during one of the weekday sessions as it will not be re-offered on Saturday.

## Accreditation

Trinity Law School is accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California. Trinity Law School is a school of Trinity International University, which is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

Trinity Law School's degree-granting authority is in connection with its students qualifying to take the California Bar Examination and obtain admission to the practice of law in California based on accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California.

## Admission to Practice Law in California

Accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California, the law program fulfills the requirements pertaining to admission to the practice of law in the State of California. Graduates are qualified to take the California Bar Examination.

## Admission to Practice Law Outside of California

Applicants intending to practice law in states other than California are encouraged to investigate the educational requirements, as well as the rules and regulations, governing admission to practice in those jurisdictions. Study at, or graduation from, this law school may not qualify a student to take the bar examination or be admitted to practice law in jurisdictions other than California. A student who intends to seek admission to practice law outside of California should contact the admitting authority in that jurisdiction for information regarding its education and admission requirements.

## Out of State Students

Students coming to Trinity Law School from out-of-state should make sure that they have secured suitable housing and transportation to ensure that these issues do not become an impediment to academic success. Trinity does not provide on-campus housing. However, there are several apartment complexes with one, two, or three-bedroom units located near campus offering a range of rental rates, leasing and amenities options.

Out of state applicants should contact the Admissions office for information on housing and essential services.

## Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requiring special arrangements will be accommodated upon petition, with supporting documentation of the disability and upon approval of the Registrar. Special accommodations will be carefully tailored to meet the documented need in accordance with the Trinity Law School disability policy. An informational packet detailing

the services available for students with disabilities can be obtained from the Records Office.

## Students with a First Degree in Law from a Foreign School

Trinity Law School accepts students who have earned a first degree in law at a foreign institution who wish to complete a year of legal education at a California Bar Accredited law school in areas of law prescribed by the Committee of Bar Examiners to become eligible to sit for the California Bar Exam.

Students with a first degree in law from a foreign law school will be required to enroll in Professional Responsibility and Ethics and at least three of the following:

Code	Title	Hours
LA 541	Torts 1	3
LA 542	Torts 2	3
LA 521	Contracts 1	3
LA 522a	Contracts 2	3
LA 531a	Criminal Law	3
LA 783i	Criminal Procedure	3
LA 673b	Civil Procedure 1	3
LA 674b	Civil Procedure 2	3
LA 661	Property 1	3
LA 662	Property 2	3
LA 600i	Constitutional Law 1	3
LA 601i	Constitutional Law 2	3
LA 671i	Evidence 1	3
LA 672i	Evidence 2	3
LA 702a	Business Organizations	3
LA 764	Community Property	2
LA 803	Wills, Trusts, and Estates	3
LA 822a	Remedies	3

Students matriculating with a first degree in law from a foreign law school may matriculate in either the fall or spring semester, with the exception of students matriculating from Handong International Law School who may matriculate in the summer session as well. Students matriculating with a first degree in law from a foreign school must earn a TOEFL score of 100 or higher to be eligible for admission to Trinity Law School.

All students with a first degree in law from foreign law schools will be held to the same grading scale as all Trinity Law School students. Their grades will not be included in the calculation of the curve for any courses taken at Trinity Law School. However, they will receive a grade, which shows how they compared with the other students in the course. Any course in which the earned grade is below C- will not count toward the 20 unit requirement to be certified by Trinity Law School to sit for the California Bar Examination. Students with a first degree in law from a foreign school are held to the same expectations of academic honesty and integrity in their work.

## Student Handbook

Academic policies and standards in addition to those in this catalog are contained in the Student Handbook, which is issued to each student at the beginning of every academic year. In case of any conflict, the

standards contained in the catalog are controlling. Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the policies and standards for the law school and the Rules Regulating Admission to Practice Law in California, a publication of the State Bar of California.

Students are required to take classes in an order that will maximize their learning potential. Students must have completed or be concurrently enrolled in all classes in each category before they can take classes in the subsequent category.

## Category 1 Classes

- Legal Research and Writing 1 & 2

All students are required to take Legal Research and Writing 1 (3 units) during their first semester and Legal Research and Writing II (3 units) during their second semester. Students must complete or be concurrently enrolled in the legal writing program before completing the rest of the law school curriculum. Students who withdraw or are dropped from a Legal Research and Writing class will not be permitted to enroll in or continue other classes.

## Category 2 Classes

- Contracts
- Torts
- Criminal Law
- Criminal Procedure

## Category 3 Classes

- Legal Institutions and Values
- Business Organizations
- Civil Procedure
- Property

## Category 4 Classes:

- Professional Responsibility and Ethics
- Constitutional Law Evidence
- Community Property
- Jurisprudence
- Wills, Trusts and Estates Remedies
- Legal Research and Writing 3
- Advanced Exam Approaches and Skills

To avoid class conflicts, students should register for classes in the following order:

1. Legal Research and Writing 1 & 2
2. Contracts 1 & 2
3. Torts 1 & 2
4. Criminal Law
5. Criminal Procedure
6. Legal Institutions and Values
7. Business Organizations
8. Civil Procedure 1 & 2
9. Property 1 & 2
10. Professional Responsibility and Ethics
11. Constitutional Law 1 & 2

12. Evidence 1 & 2
13. Community Property
14. Jurisprudence
15. Wills, Trusts, and Estates
16. Remedies
17. Legal Research and Writing 3
18. Advanced Exam Approaches and Skills 1 & 2

**Taking classes in any order other than what is listed above may result in a class conflict which may delay graduation.**

Students may take electives upon completion of or concurrent enrollment in 30 units.

## Non-classroom Credit

A maximum of nine units of non-classroom credit may be earned toward the 90 semester credits required for graduation. Non-classroom credits may be earned for internships or independent study as well as participation in moot court, law review and any clinical program. Of these nine units, a maximum of six units may be from internships. There is a six-unit maximum for independent study. There is a four-unit maximum for Moot Court and Law Review. Students cannot take more than three units of internship in any given semester, excluding the summer terms.

Students are not allowed to obtain internship credit for a paid position or for doing work supervised by a close relative.

## Practical Skills Requirement

Students must complete six units of practical skills course credit toward the 90 unit graduation requirement. Courses that meet practical skills requirement include legal research and writing, clinics and elective. See specific course description for indication that the course meets the practical skills requirement.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses</b>		
LA 505a	Legal Institutions and Values	3
LA 521	Contracts 1	3
LA 522a	Contracts 2	3
LA 531a	Criminal Law	3
LA 541	Torts 1	3
LA 542	Torts 2	3
LA 559	Legal Research and Writing 1: Objective Writing	3
LA 560b	Legal Research and Writing 2: Persuasive Writing	3
LA 566a	Legal Research and Writing 3: Practical Skills	3
LA 600i	Constitutional Law 1	3
LA 601i	Constitutional Law 2	3
LA 613	Professional Responsibility and Ethics	3
LA 661	Property 1	3
LA 662	Property 2	3
LA 671i	Evidence 1	3
LA 672i	Evidence 2	3
LA 673b	Civil Procedure 1	3
LA 674b	Civil Procedure 2	3
LA 702a	Business Organizations	3

LA 764	Community Property	2
LA 783i	Criminal Procedure	3
LA 790d	Jurisprudence	4
LA 803	Wills, Trusts, and Estates	3
LA 822a	Remedies	3
LA 998c	Advanced Exam Approaches and Skills 1	3
LA 998d	Advanced Exam Approaches and Skills 2	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>78</b>

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Elective Courses (15 Hours)</b>		
LA 523	Contract Drafting	1-2
LA 523b	Government Contracts	3
LA 543b	Open Development in Cambodia: Human Trafficking and Economic Development	3
LA 651a	Law and Advocacy: Immigrants, Refugees and Displaced Persons	1
LA 675a	Alternative Dispute Resolution	2-3
LA 750	Appellate Advocacy	3
LA 753	Trial Practice	3
LA 763	Family Law	3
LA 870	Civil Litigation Skills	2
LA 870a	California Civil Procedure and Evidence	2
LA 890	Advanced Criminal Law and Procedure	3
LA 891	Juvenile Law	2
LA 892c	International Trade and Investment	1
LA 893	Securities Regulation	2
LA 905b	Theory and Law of War	3
LA 910	The Right to Life and the Law	2-3
LA 918a	International Disputes Resolution	3
LA 919	International Forum on Human Rights	2
LA 920a	International Institute of Human Rights	4
LA 921a	Religious Liberties and International Human Rights	3
LA 922	Public International Law	3
LA 923a	International Criminal Law	3
LA 925a	Immigration Law	2
LA 953a	Legal Internship	1-6
LA 955	Uniform Commercial Code	2
LA 957	Law Practice Management	2-3
LA 959	Legal Clinic Practicum	1-2
LA 959d	Nonprofit Clinic	1-3
LA 959k	Trinity Mobile Legal Clinic	1
LA 959m	Trinity Poverty Law Clinic	2
LA 959o	Trinity Religious Liberty Clinic	2-3
LA 959r	Trinity Bankruptcy Clinic	1
LA 960	Administrative Law	3
LA 961c	Bankruptcy	3
LA 961d	Consumer Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Survey	1
LA 962a	Intellectual Property	3
LA 962b	Real Estate Transactions	3
LA 970A	Independent Study/Guided Research	1-6
LA 975	Environmental Law	3

LA 975i	International Environmental Law	3
LA 979	Federal Income Tax Law	3
LA 980	Law and Public Policy	2
LA 982a	Law and Literature: Revenge, Justice and Mercy	1
LA 984	Religion and the Law	2
LA 984a	Politics, Law, and Religion	1
LA 985	The Lawyer as Counselor	3
LA 989	Moot Court	1-2
LA 991	Law Review	1-3
LA 995bb	Special Topics: Labor Law	2
LA 995bc	Insurance Law	1-3
LA 995bl	Banking Law	2
LA 995ci	Employment Discrimination	2
LA 995ma	Mergers and Acquisitions	3
LA 995ml	Attorneys as Moral Leaders	1
LA 995np	Law of Non Profit Organizations	3
LA 995p	American Tribal Law and Comparative Human Rights	3
LA 995ro	Religious Organizations, Churches, and Foreign Charities	2
LA 999d	Intelligent Design	1
LA 999dp	Death Penalty	3

## Juris Doctor Flex Track Program Overview

Students who have not taken the Law School Admissions Test or who do not meet the requirements for the regular Juris Doctor program may be considered for admission into the Juris Doctor Flex Track Program.

Students must complete 18 units of study in separate Juris Doctor Flex Track courses specifically designed to pass the First Year Law Students Examination, FYLSX. At the end of the first year of 18 units of study, a student with a grade point average of 2.67 or higher will have the FYLSX requirement waived. All other students must sit for and pass the California First Year Law Students Examination to continue in the regular Juris Doctor program at Trinity Law School.

Students must enroll in and complete Torts 1, Contracts 1, and Criminal Law in the first semester, and Torts 2, Contracts 2, and FYLSX Skills in the second consecutive semester, which are offered in the evenings only. Students who drop a class, receive a failing grade or unauthorized withdrawal in any class during either of the two semesters will be dismissed from the Juris Doctor Flex Track program.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
LA 521x	Contracts 1	3
LA 522x	Contracts 2	3
LA 531x	Criminal Law	3
LA 541x	Torts 1	3
LA 542x	Torts 2	3
LA 599x	FYLSX Skills	3
Total Hours		18

## Final Course Grades

Grading is based upon the relative quality of each student's response compared with other students in the same class. Grades on individual

components in a class may or may not be curved. Final grades will not be an average of grades on individual components.

For the following classes, grades are distributed according to Table A (<http://catalog.tiu.edu/law/appendix-1>):

Code	Title	Hours
LA 505a	Legal Institutions and Values	3
LA 521	Contracts 1	3
LA 522a	Contracts 2	3
LA 531a	Criminal Law	3
LA 541	Torts 1	3
LA 542	Torts 2	3
LA 559	Legal Research and Writing 1: Objective Writing	3
LA 560b	Legal Research and Writing 2: Persuasive Writing	3
LA 783i	Criminal Procedure	3

For all other required classes, grades are distributed according to Table B (<http://catalog.tiu.edu/law/appendix-1>).

Grading tables can be found in Appendix 1 (<http://catalog.tiu.edu/law/appendix-1>).

## Grading Curves

In applying the curve, instructors will use the distribution of grades with reference to class size as shown in the tables located in Appendix 1 (<http://catalog.tiu.edu/law/appendix-1>). Instructors may petition the Dean to deviate from the curve slightly in classes where a strict application of the curve would not properly measure student performance.

## Law Student Registration with the Committee of Bar Examiners

All students seeking admission to practice law in California must register with the Committee of Bar Examiners within 90 days from the commencement of their law studies. Registration must be completed through the State Bar of California website ([www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov) (<http://www.calbar.ca.gov>)).

## Petitions to the Committee of Bar Examiners

All petitions filed with the Committee of Bar Examiners must be verified. Accordingly, students are requested either to appear before a notary public to have a petition sworn to, or in the alternative, to attach a declaration under penalty of perjury in the following form:

"I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing petition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Executed on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_, 20\_\_\_, at \_\_ (city)\_\_, \_\_ (state)\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature