

# JURIS DOCTOR (J.D.)

## Overview Information

### Introduction

Concordia University School of Law is dedicated to graduating the students we enroll with the skills necessary to be successful on the bar and in practice. Our core mission includes service to students and, through them, to a society in desperate need of affordable legal services.

Through our rigorous academics we are committed to provide you the skills necessary to be successful in the legal profession:

- You will be treated and graded as an individual and your success is our success. Professors use their judgment to set grades, and the school does not impose mandatory curves on professors. We like to develop pre-set standards for success. Your academic achievement is our core goal.
- Entrepreneurial faculty with focus on student success and outcomes. Concordia faculty are passionate about teaching and they prepare you from their academic and professional experience in practice. They have years of experience in trials and appeals. They know, first hand, what it takes to help you pass the bar and to practice law.
- We're committed to training practice-ready lawyers. Although our core faculty are committed to the law school full time, we work closely with practicing lawyers to mold our curriculum and teaching methods for the next generation of lawyers and clients. In your first year, you will draft practice complaints, motions, and discovery requests and practice depositions. Practicum classes are offered during the same semester as many of our upper-level classes. These practicums are coordinated with the doctrinal classes so you will immediately apply technique to develop the art and science of law.

### Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are the lawyering skills that students are expected to obtain through the completion of a legal education. Consistent with ABA Standards, upon completion of a J.D. degree, graduates of the Concordia University School of Law will demonstrate proficiency in the following student learning outcomes at the level needed for admission to the bar and effective and ethical participation in the legal profession as an entry level attorney.

The curriculum at Concordia University School of Law has been designed to prepare students with the key skills and competencies needed to demonstrate these learning outcomes in the legal profession.

Each graduating student will:

1. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the law and the American legal system;
2. apply knowledge and critical thinking skills to perform competent legal analysis, reasoning, and problem solving;
3. demonstrate the ability to conduct legal research effectively and efficiently;
4. demonstrate communication skills, including effective listening and critical reading, writing in objective and persuasive styles, and oral advocacy and other oral communications;

5. apply knowledge of professional ethics to representation of clients, performance of duties as an officer of the courts, and to the resolution of ethical issues; and
6. exemplify the Lutheran values of service, community, and inclusivity.

### Performance Consideration for each Outcome

**Learning Outcome 1:** Graduates will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the law and the American legal system.

Graduates will demonstrate achievement of this learning outcome by ...

*Consideration 1:* Identifying, describing, and interpreting the fundamental terms, rules, and principles of law, including significant alternative formulations, such as minority rules.

*Consideration 2:* Describing the American legal system's structures, processes, and procedures.

**Learning Outcome 2:** Graduates will apply knowledge and critical thinking skills to perform competent legal analysis, reasoning, and problem solving.

Graduates will demonstrate achievement of this learning outcome by ...

*Consideration 1:* Identifying the applicable body of authorities and the key rules within each authority.

*Consideration 2:* Synthesizing the relevant rules of law into a logical framework for analysis.

*Consideration 3:* If rules conflict, analyzing which rule a court is likely to apply.

*Consideration 4:* Applying the identified rules to the relevant facts, including evaluating potential counterarguments, to determine the likely outcome of the case.

*Consideration 5:* When appropriate, analogizing the facts to and distinguishing the facts from those of precedent cases to determine the likely outcome of the case.

*Consideration 6:* Identifying the practical impact of rules, such as cost and effects on other people.

*Consideration 7:* When appropriate, explaining the policy underlying a rule to justify arguments for the rule's extension, reversal, or modification.

**Learning Outcome 3:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to conduct legal research effectively and efficiently.

Graduates will demonstrate achievement of this learning outcome by ...

*Consideration 1:* Devising and implementing a logical research plan, which reflects an understanding of the limitations created by time and financial constraints.

*Consideration 2:* Accurately assessing the weight of authority.

*Consideration 3:* Identifying and effectively employing the fundamental tools of legal research.

**Learning Outcome 4:** Graduates will demonstrate effective communication skills, including effective listening and critical reading,

writing in objective and persuasive styles, and oral advocacy and other oral communications;

Graduates will demonstrate achievement of this learning outcome by ...

*Consideration 1:* Writing documents that are clear, concise, well-reasoned, organized, professional in tone, appropriate to the audience and the circumstances, and if appropriate, contain proper citation to authority.

*Consideration 2:* Speaking in a clear, concise, well-reasoned, organized, and professional manner that is appropriate to the audience and the circumstances.

*Consideration 3:* Actively engaging in conversations with clients, colleagues, judges, and others.

*Consideration 4:* Advocating for clients by examining disagreements, strategies and possible outcomes.

*Consideration 5:* Demonstrating the ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively.

**Learning Outcome 5:** Graduates will apply knowledge of professional ethics to representation of clients, performance of duties as an officer of the courts, and to the resolution of ethical issues;

Graduates will demonstrate achievement of this learning outcome by ...

*Consideration 1:* Listing the sources of the law governing lawyers.

*Consideration 2:* Identifying and explaining the applicable law governing lawyers.

*Consideration 3:* Using the law governing lawyers to recognize ethical and other professional dilemmas.

*Consideration 4:* Applying the law governing lawyers to help resolve ethical and other professional dilemmas.

*Consideration 5:* Exercising professional judgment to help resolve ethical and other professional dilemmas.

*Consideration 6:* Recognizing the attorney's professional responsibility to improve the law, the profession, and the justice system.

*Consideration 7:* Developing a personal code of ethics to apply when the rules give an attorney discretion.

**Learning Outcome 6:** Graduates will exemplify the Lutheran values of service, community, and inclusivity.

Graduates will demonstrate achievement of this learning outcome by ...

*Consideration 1:* Exhibiting civility and treating others with respect.

*Consideration 2:* Developing cultural competency by demonstrating an appreciation for diversity, including sensitivity to social and cultural differences.

*Consideration 3:* Contributing to the profession's fulfillment of its responsibility to ensure that adequate legal services are provided to those who cannot afford to pay for them.

## Degree Requirements

A student's graduation degree requirements are established based on matriculation date. To qualify for the degree of Juris Doctor, a student must:

1. Complete a course of study of not fewer than 90 credit hours of course work.
2. Achieve a final cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0.
3. Achieve a passing grade in all required courses.
4. Complete all of the graduation degree requirements no earlier than 24 months and no later than 84 months after a student has commenced studies at the School of Law or a law school from which transfer credit has been accepted.
5. Complete all required courses:
  - a. Business Organizations
  - b. Civil Procedure I
  - c. Civil Procedure II
  - d. Constitutional Law I
  - e. Constitutional Law II
  - f. Contracts I
  - g. Contracts II
  - h. Criminal Law
  - i. Criminal Procedure
  - j. Evidence
  - k. Foundations of Justice
  - l. Legal Research & Writing I
  - m. Legal Research & Writing II
  - n. Professional Responsibility
  - o. Property I
  - p. Property II
  - q. Success Skills
  - r. Torts I
  - s. Torts II
6. Complete two (2) Menu Courses from this list:
  - a. Administrative Law
  - b. Bankruptcy
  - c. Conflict of Laws
  - d. Federal Courts
  - e. Federal Income Tax
  - f. Remedies
  - g. Secured Transactions
  - h. Wills, Trusts, and Estates
7. Complete all requirements associated with the:
  - a. Advanced Writing Requirement,
  - b. Experiential Learning Requirement,
  - c. Legacy Mentor Program, and
  - d. Pro Bono Service Requirement.

### **a. Advanced Writing Requirement**

Following the first year of law school and prior to graduation, each student must complete a rigorous legal writing requirement.

**b. Experiential Learning Requirement (formerly Professional Skills)**

Following the first year of law school and prior to graduation, each student must complete one or more experiential learning course(s), totaling at least six credit hours. The experiential learning courses must provide instruction in professional legal skills which are generally regarded as necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession. An experiential learning course may be (i) a simulation course; (ii) a clinical course; (iii) an externship; or (iv) an eligible additional Advanced Writing Requirement course. To satisfy this requirement, a course must be primarily experiential in nature and must:

- (i) integrate doctrine, theory, skills, and legal ethics and engage students in performance of one or more of the professional skills identified in Standard 302;
- (ii) develop the concepts underlying the professional skills being taught;
- (iii) provide multiple opportunities for performance; and
- (iv) provide opportunities for self-evaluation.

A course used to satisfy the Advanced Writing Requirement may not also be used to satisfy the Experiential Course Requirement.

**c. Legacy Mentor Program**

The Legacy Mentor Program is designed to provide law students with opportunities to interact with members of the legal profession, to understand the social and ethical responsibilities of the legal profession, and to prepare students to create change, serve others, and contribute to the profession. The mentorship program is a graduation requirement at the School of Law. All full-time and part-time students are required to enroll in the mentorship program during their second year at the School of Law. (Transfer students must contact the Director of Externships & Pro Bono Programs (<https://law.cu-portland.edu/brenda-bauges>) to create a course plan to complete the mentorship requirement.) A total of one (1) credit hour is awarded for successful completion of the mentorship requirements. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the student is enrolled in the appropriate mentorship course each relevant semester.

**d. Pro Bono Service Requirement**

The pro bono program at Concordia Law is mandatory and institutionally supported. Each student is required to complete 50 hours of law-related public service prior to graduation. Students may participate in the pro bono program after completion of their first semester of study and after attending a required pro bono program orientation. Students must be in good academic standing to participate. In accordance with Model Rule of Professional Conduct Rule 6.1, the substantial majority of a student's pro bono work should consist of providing direct legal services to persons of limited means. The work must be legally-substantive, supervised by a licensed attorney or other qualified professional, and performed without any remuneration, either monetary or to satisfy any other academic requirements. Under the supervision of the Director of Externships & Pro Bono Programs (<https://law.cu-portland.edu/brenda-bauges>) and a student-run Pro Bono Service Board, the School of Law has established partnerships with organizations that provide legal services to underserved populations in a wide variety of settings including legal aid organizations, volunteer lawyer programs, government agencies, and charitable organizations. A list of pre-approved opportunities can be found on the Pro Bono page of Concordia Law's website (<https://law.cu-portland.edu/academics/experiential-learning/pro-bono>). Students are encouraged to identify their own opportunities for service, but all projects must be pre-approved by the Director of Externships & Pro Bono Programs (<https://law.cu-portland.edu/brenda-bauges>) to be eligible for pro bono credit. For more information, refer to the Pro Bono

Program Manual. A link to it is provided at: <https://law.cu-portland.edu/academics/experiential-learning/pro-bono>.

## Curricular Requirements

### Juris Doctor Degree Requirements (90 credits)

**FIRST YEAR****Required Courses (32 credits)**

LAW 601	CIVIL PROCEDURE I	3
LAW 602	CIVIL PROCEDURE II	3
LAW 605	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I	3
LAW 608	PROPERTY I	3
LAW 609	CONTRACTS I	3
LAW 610	CONTRACTS II	3
LAW 613	CRIMINAL LAW	3
LAW 623	LEGAL RESEARCH & WRITING I	3
LAW 625	LEGAL RESEARCH & WRITING II	3
LAW 626	TORTS I	3
LAW 689	SUCCESS SKILLS	1

**UPPER LEVEL****Required Courses (28 credits)**

LAW 606	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW II	3
LAW 614	CRIMINAL PROCEDURE	3
LAW 617	EVIDENCE	3
LAW 618	FOUNDATIONS OF JUSTICE	3
LAW 620	PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	3
LAW 636	BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS	4
LAW 650	PROPERTY II	3
LAW 658	TORTS II	3
LAW 704	PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY	1
LAW 705	PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIP	0

**Pro Bono Service Requirement (0 credits)**

**Advanced Writing Requirement (2-3 credits)** 2-3

Choose one course from the following:

LAW 611	PRACTICUM: CONTRACTS	2
LAW 631	ALW: LITIGATION PLANNING & DRAFTING	3
LAW 632	ALW: JUDICIAL WRITING	2
LAW 664	ALW: INTENSIVE LEGAL WRITING	2
LAW 665	ALW: ADVANCED APPELLATE ADVOCACY	2
LAW 669	ALW: RHETORIC	3
LAW 678	ALW: LOGIC & NARRATIVE	2
LAW 684	ALW: LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING	2
LAW 693	ALW: MOTION PRACTICE	2

**Experiential Course Requirement (6 credits)**

(Externships, Practicums, Clinics, or eligible Advance Writing courses not used to satisfy that requirement)

**Menu Course Options**

Complete two (2) Menu Courses from the following list (5-6 credits):

LAW 621	FEDERAL COURTS	3
LAW 630	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	3
LAW 633	CONFLICT OF LAWS	3
LAW 635	BANKRUPTCY	3
LAW 655	REMEDIES	3

LAW 657	FEDERAL INCOME TAX	3
LAW 660	SECURED TRANSACTIONS	2
LAW 662	WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES	3
<b>Electives</b>		<b>21</b>
Additional Electives to bring overall total to at least 90 credits		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>89</b>

## Full-time Law Faculty

This list was accurate at the time of publication. For the most up-to-date list of full-time Law faculty, visit <https://law.cu-portland.edu/faculty-staff/full-time-faculty>.

**Brenda Bauges**, J.D., Assistant Professor; Director, Law Externships & Pro Bono Program, [bbauges@cu-portland.edu](mailto:bbauges@cu-portland.edu)

**Teresa Burnham**, J.D., Assistant Professor, [tburnham@cu-portland.edu](mailto:tburnham@cu-portland.edu)

**B. Summer Chandler**, J.D., Assistant Professor, [suchandler@cu-portland.edu](mailto:suchandler@cu-portland.edu)

**McKay Cunningham**, J.D., Associate Professor, [mccunningham@cu-portland.edu](mailto:mccunningham@cu-portland.edu)

**Jason Dykstra**, J.D., Assistant Professor; Assistant Director, Legal Research & Writing Program, [jdykstra@cu-portland.edu](mailto:jdykstra@cu-portland.edu)

**Tenielle Fordyce-Ruff**, J.D., Associate Professor; Director, Legal Research and Writing Program, [tfordyce@cu-portland.edu](mailto:tfordyce@cu-portland.edu)

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**Greg Sergienko**, J.D., Professor, [gsergienko@cu-portland.edu](mailto:gsergienko@cu-portland.edu)

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