Program Description

Degree Awarded: JD Juris Doctor of Law

The JD degree program offers a large selection of courses with options for transdisciplinary study with other departments on campus. Students will find the opportunity to take classes with a more traditional, theoretical focus and to take advantage of many options that focus on the development of practice skills. The college hosts:

- The Center for Law and Global Affairs
- The Center for Law, Science and Innovation
- The Indian Legal Program

At a Glance

- College/School: Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
- Location: Downtown Phoenix campus

Concurrent Degrees

This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:

- Justice Studies, PhD
- Psychology, PhD
- Social Work - Standard Program, MSW
- W. P. Carey MBA - Full-Time Program

Degree Requirements

Satisfactory completion of the course of study offered by the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law leads to the Juris Doctor degree.
To be eligible for the Juris Doctor degree, a student must satisfy all the following:

1. Admission to the college as a candidate for the degree is required, as is satisfaction of any conditions imposed at the time of admission or prior to graduation during the course of law study.
2. Successful completion of a minimum of 88 hours of academic credit is required, of which 72 must be graded with a cumulative weighted average of 2.0 or better (scale is 4.00 = "A").
3. No more than four credit hours of "D" (deficient) grade work after the first year can be applied toward the 88 hours.
4. Completion of all required first-year courses, Professional Responsibility, and either Constitutional Law II or Criminal Procedure is required.
5. Satisfaction of the graduation writing requirement (see Section II, E of college policies) is required.
6. A maximum of 12 credits of externship work, a maximum of seven credits of independent study, and a maximum of four professional development credits can be counted toward the 88 credits required for graduation.
7. All 88 credits required for graduation must be earned at the ASU College of Law unless prior approval by the dean's designee is granted (see Section IX, A and Section XI, B of the college policies).
8. Completion of the degree requirements may be done no earlier than 24 months and no later than 84 months after commencing study at the law school or a law school from which the school has accepted transfer credit. A transfer student must complete the work of at least three semesters in the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law immediately preceding the granting of a degree.
9. Satisfaction of the Flexible Writing Requirement (see Section II, H of the college policies) is required.
10. Satisfaction of the Experiential Learning Requirement (see Section II, G of the college policies) is required.
11. A minimum of 64 units must be obtained from courses that involve attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions. The following do not count toward these required 64 units: all externships; independent studies; courses taken outside the law school under section IX A; credits received for working for a journal under section X F; credits received for Moot Court under section X G; credits received for being a teaching assistant; credits received from any clinic other than Civil Justice Clinic, Immigration Law and Policy Clinic, Indian Legal Clinic, Innovation Advancement Legal Clinic, Mediation Clinic, Post Conviction Clinic; and credit from courses without regularly scheduled meetings.
12. A maximum of 38 transfer units can be counted toward the 88 units necessary for graduation.

Admission Requirements

Applicants with degrees from foreign institutions must meet the Graduate College and College of Law English proficiency requirements.
The Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University enrolls only one first-year Juris Doctor class per year, and it enters in the fall semester. The Juris Doctor degree is a three-year program, and almost all students study on a full-time basis. The college does offer a flexible scheduling option for students with circumstances that make full-time enrollment impossible. Each year, far more applications are submitted to the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law than the college's facilities and programs can accommodate. Thus, admission is competitive. The Sandra Day O'Connor College College of Law makes its admission decisions based upon all information contained in the applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to the program, an applicant must have taken the LSAT and have earned, or expect to have earned by the time of enrollment in law school, a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university. Further, a candidate must complete the application for admission and submit all mandatory attachments. Transcripts and letters of recommendation or evaluations must be submitted through the Law School Admissions Council's Credential Assembly Service and will be provided to the College of Law by LSAC with the applicant's LSAT record. Applicants must apply electronically through http://www.lsac.org.

The Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law will provide full file review to 100 percent of the completed applications to the Juris Doctor program. While the applicant's undergraduate record and LSAT score are important predictors, no decision will be made on objective criteria alone. Among the other factors considered by the admission committee are:

- ability to communicate
- demonstrated commitment to public service
- diversity of experience and background
- exceptional personal talents
- extracurricular or community activities
- foreign language proficiency
- geographic diversity
- graduate study
- history of overcoming economic or other disadvantage
- honors and awards
- leadership experience
- maturity
- overcoming disability
- personal experiences with discrimination
- publications
- service in the Armed Forces
- the rigor of the undergraduate course of study
- work experience

Students should see the program website for application deadlines.
For an application to be considered complete, it must include the following:

1. a complete Credential Assembly Service report, with all transcripts and letters of recommendation or evaluations
2. the completed application, including explanations for affirmative answers to conduct, character and fitness questions
3. LSAT scores from Law School Admissions Council
4. a personal statement that does not exceed two double-spaced, typed pages
5. the required application fee
6. a resume that does not exceed three typed pages

The Credential Assembly Service report must be from the current application year.

Contact Information

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law | BCLS 420
asulaw.admissions@asu.edu | 480-965-1474
Admission Deadlines