S.J.D. Degree

Georgetown’s S.J.D. Program is exceptional. It offers students a unique opportunity to benefit from the world’s largest law curriculum and the extraordinary faculty who teach it, while doing so in a personalized environment designed to respond to the specific needs of S.J.D. students. S.J.D. students have unparalleled access to resources by virtue of studying in Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States and home to major international organizations. S.J.D. students are an integral part of the law school community and are invited to participate in its rich academic and social life.

The S.J.D. Program is intentionally small to enable students to receive individualized attention and to cultivate a close community of scholars for enrichment and ongoing support. Admission is contingent on the availability of a full-time faculty member to serve as supervisor for the dissertation. There is no limit to the topics that students may consider as long as they are original, able to contribute to the production of new legal knowledge, and pursued with academic rigor.

All students in residence take the 8-credit S.J.D. Core Curriculum each semester, consisting of a 3-credit S.J.D. Seminar, a 3-credit S.J.D. Colloquium, a 2-credit Reading Course, and the Fellows Collaborative. Professor Alexa Freeman teaches the S.J.D. Seminar and the S.J.D. Colloquium, and the student’s supervisor typically guides the reading. The Fellows Collaborative is taught by Professors Robin West and Greg Klass. In addition to the S.J.D. Core Curriculum, first year students take a 2-credit course in the fall, Presentation Skills for Academics, taught by Professor Andy Wolvin of the University of Maryland. First year students are also required to take a 3-credit writing course which may be from either the J.D. or LL.M. curriculum.

Contact Information
To learn more, please contact:
Office of Graduate Admissions
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Email Address: lawllmadmis@georgetown.edu

Search LL.M SJD Schedule Courses (http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?program=program_95)

LAW 2081 v00 Presentation Skills for Academics (http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%202081%20v00)
LL.M Seminar | 2 credit hours
First year S.J.D. students receive training in oral presentations and practice their skills in moot sessions for the Mid-Atlantic S.J.D. Roundtable at the end of the fall semester.

Upon completion of this course, students will have a greater understanding of and enhanced professional skill in creating and presenting listenable research and instructional presentations.

Note: This course is limited to S.J.D. students and requires departmental approval.

LAW 3064 v00 S.J.D. and Fellows Seminar (http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%203064%20v00)
LL.M Seminar | 3 credit hours
The S.J.D/Fellows Seminar is intended to provide our graduate students and fellows who hope to enter the legal academy with a shared body of knowledge regarding jurisprudence, legal theory, and interdisciplinary movements in law, as well as a place to "workshop" their works in progress. The Seminar alternates between "workshop" meetings, in which graduate students and fellows may present their work in progress to the group and invited faculty members and receive critical feedback, and "seminar" meetings. The seminar runs four semesters, with a different theme in each of the semesters: one semester each is devoted to "Contemporary Legal Scholarship," "The History of American Legal Theory," "Law and Social Science," and "Law and Humanities." The seminar aims to equip students and fellows with a basic core of knowledge in these areas that are widely shared in the legal academy, and expose them to the works and methods of scholarship now shaping the legal academy.

In the Fall of 2018, the subject of the seminar will be Contemporary Legal Scholarship, with a substantive focus on international and comparative law. We will look at a series of articles that examine, inter alia and subject to change, the Jurisprudence of Comparative Law, Comparative Constitutionalism, Human Rights Law, Comparative Criminal Justice, and Comparative Family Law. In the Spring of 2019, the subject will be American Legal Theory. We will look at some of the now classic pieces of legal scholarship from the formative era of American legal thought to the present, including foundational work in Legal Realism, Legal Formalism, the Legal Process School, and Liberal Legalism, with an introduction to contemporary movements, including Law and Economics, Critical Legal Studies, Critical Feminist and Race movements, and their contemporary and postmodern critics. In the Fall of 2019 we take up "Law and Social Sciences," where we examine articles from Law and Economics, Law and Sociology, Law and Psychology and contemporary Empirical Legal Studies, with an introduction to Empirical Legal Methods as well. In the Spring of 2020 we look at "Law and the Humanities," including Law and Philosophy, Law and Literature, Legal History and Law and Cultural Studies. While a thorough examination of each of these fields is far beyond the reach or capacity of the seminar, we do hope to introduce fellows and students to some of the major ideas currently having an impact or being debated in the legal academy.

Note: Georgetown Law clinical, research and institute fellows are all invited and encouraged to participate on a non-credit basis.

LAW 2017 v00 S.J.D. Colloquium (http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%202017%20v00)
LL.M Seminar | 3 credit hours
The S.J.D. Colloquium meets weekly throughout the year focusing on different themes each semester. These may include American legal theory, law and society, comparative law, law and development, and other topics of special interest to S.J.D. students. Leading scholars in these fields may teach a segment from time to time.

Note: This course is limited to S.J.D. students and requires departmental approval.
LL.M Seminar | 8 credit hours
The S.J.D. Core Curriculum is for all students in residence and consists of four components: the S.J.D. Colloquium, the S.J.D. Seminar, Supervised or Independent reading, and the Fellows Collaborative.

The S.J.D. Colloquium meets weekly, focusing on different themes each semester. These may include American Legal theory, Law and Society, Comparative Law, Law and Development, and other topics of special interest to S.J.D. students. Leading scholars in these fields teach segments from time to time.

The S.J.D. Seminar meets weekly to discuss students' work in progress. Students present one or two times a year during which their faculty supervisors are encouraged to attend. The goal is to improve the quality of their work in a collaborative and supportive environment.

In Supervised or Independent Reading, students develop reading lists with their faculty supervisors to focus on particular research areas for their dissertations. In their first year, students engage in Supervised Reading with someone on the faculty, not necessarily their supervisor. Students take Independent Reading starting their second year.

The Fellows Collaborative meets weekly, alternating between seminar meetings and workshop meetings. The seminar covers one topic per semester over a two-year cycle: Law and Social Sciences, Law and Humanities, American Legal Theory, and Contemporary Legal Scholarship. The workshop is primarily designed for those actively on the “academic market” to present works in progress for feedback.

The S.J.D. Core Curriculum is limited to S.J.D. students and requires departmental approval.

LL.M Seminar | 3 credit hours
The S.J.D. Seminars are small group classes consisting of 6-8 students. Each seminar group meets weekly to discuss students' work in progress. Students present their work two times a semester on a rotating basis. The goal is to improve the quality of their work in a collaborative and supportive environment.

Note: This course is limited to S.J.D. students and requires departmental approval.