

Combined Degree Request for Non-Law Course Credit to Apply to JD

Updated August 22, 2022

Students in formal combined degree programs are eligible to count up to 12 credit hours from the non-Law program toward the JD.

A student seeking to count credit hours from a non-law course toward the J.D. degree must obtain the approval of the Dean or the Dean's designate. The student must provide the Dean (or the Dean's designate) with a syllabus/course description for the course. Credit hours for the course will be approved only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The student can demonstrate that the course either (a) contributes to the professional competency of an attorney, or (b) provides perspective that will broaden the student's understanding of some aspect of law or the legal process.
2. The subject matter of the course does not duplicate that of a course offered by the College of Law.
3. The subject matter of the course does not duplicate that of another course the student has taken in any program.
4. The student takes the course after matriculating in the College of Law's J.D. program.
5. The course is either (a) graduate level (currently level 5000 or above); or (b) supported by a compelling argument demonstrating how a particular lower-level course will specifically benefit the student's legal education.

A student's ability to count non-law credit hours toward the J.D. degree is also subject to the restrictions in the Graduation Requirements for the J.D. Degree, the College of Law's Joint Degree Program policy, and any other applicable University, College of Law, or departmental requirements.

- No more than 20 s.h. may be earned through non-Law courses.
- Non-Law courses taken before starting the J.D. program cannot be counted.
- Distance courses are subject to the limit of no more than 15 credit hours, counting both Law courses and non-Law courses used as credit toward the JD.

A course that is taken outside the College of Law for credit hours towards a law degree will be graded according to the course's standard grading practices. These grades will appear on the student's transcript but will not be used in computing a law student's cumulative average. A pass, or a grade of "C" or higher, is required for law school credit.

Students who take courses outside the College of Law may be subject to course rules that are set by the partner program, and those rules may differ from rules in the College of Law. But law school policies on misconduct apply to joint degree students even with respect to the students' conduct in non-law courses.

Because non-law courses cannot count toward the J.D. degree without meeting the requirements of this policy, the College of Law strongly recommends that students seek the Dean's (or the Dean's designate) approval of any non-law course prior to enrolling in the course.

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Please complete all fields and email to lee-seedorff@uiowa.edu. Attach a copy of the course syllabus to the email.

Name: _____ Student ID#: _____

Non-Law Course Number 1: _____ Semester Hours: _____

Course Title: _____

Is this a distance/online course? Yes No

Does this course duplicate that of any course you have taken in any program? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

Non-Law Course Number 2: _____ Semester Hours: _____

Course Title: _____

Is this a distance/online course? Yes No

Does this course duplicate that of any course you have taken in any program? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

Non-Law Course Number 3: _____ Semester Hours: _____

Course Title: _____

Is this a distance/online course? Yes No

Does this course duplicate that of any course you have taken in any program? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

Non-Law Course Number 4: _____ Semester Hours: _____

Course Title: _____

Is this a distance/online course? Yes No

Does this course duplicate that of any course you have taken in any program? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

Non-Law Course Number 5: _____ Semester Hours: _____

Course Title: _____

Is this a distance/online course? Yes No

Does this course duplicate that of any course you have taken in any program? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

Permission Granted: Yes No

Carin N. Crain, Associate Dean Date

Comments: _____