BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JURIS DOCTOR
Please see the Law School Bulletin for further details.

84 Credits required for graduation/67 Graded Credits (minimum) required for graduation; 17 Credit/No Credit (pass/fail) 48
Graded Credits required for graduation for transfer students admitted 2011 & beyond; 8 Credit/No Credit (pass/fail) limit
The below categories may contribute to the Credit/No Credit limits; please note that transfer students may not "convert" any
graded elective courses to CR/NC status:

- Clinics (1-6 credits per semester, however, the majority of Clinics are graded)
- Convert graded elective courses (6 credits maximum, C- or better grade required, only 1 per semester) (this category
  not available to transfer students)
  
  Dean’s Fellows or Writing Center Fellows (2 credits per semester)
  Field Placement (1-4 credits per semester, 8 credits maximum, 2 credit graded co-requisite)
  GW graduate courses (6 credits maximum, related to legal studies, and B- or better grade required)
  Joint degree candidates (a maximum of 12 cross-over credits allowed toward 84 total credits)
  Journal (4 credits, subject to journal rules)
  Skills Competitions: ADR, Moot Court and/or Mock Trial (maximum of 3 during course of study, only 1 per semester)
  Summer law courses at other law schools (6 credits maximum, C- or better grade required)

12 Credits (minimum) per semester for full-time status with a maximum of 15 credits
11 Credits (maximum) to 8 credits (minimum) per semester for part-time status
8 Credits in summer sessions, 6 credits (maximum) in study abroad summer programs

3 Course requirements beyond the first-year curriculum:
  
  Legal Writing (journal or 8000 words or more research paper/independent legal writing evaluated as B- or better)
  Professional Responsibility & Ethics (2 or 3 credit course, must register for letter grade)
  Skills Course (Select one from list of eligible courses, most are 2 credits; must register for letter grade)

6 Enrollment units required for graduation (not required if you remain part-time during your entire course of study):
  
  Earned by semester as follows: 12+ credits = 1 unit, 11 credits = .8 units, 10 credits = .7 units,
  9 credits = .65 units, 8 credits = .6 units, 7 credits = .5 units, 6 credits = .4 units, 5 credits = .35 units,
  4 credits = .3 units, 3 credits = .2 units, 2 credits = .15 units, 1 credit = .075 units

REGISTRATION TIPS

1. Exam dates/times are not negotiable. Two or even three final exams on the same date will not constitute a conflict.
   Plan accordingly by consulting the exam schedule when you register. You may not register for classes with exams on
   the same day and time.

2. Make a master list of all courses that you might like to take. Plan out in detail all semesters for which a class and exam
   schedule is available. You may change the plan at any time, but start with a good road map of where you
   intend to be by the time you graduate.

3. Rising second-year, full-time students should consider registering for only 12-13 credits in the fall semester to ensure
   ample time for possible journal participation and a job search, including the Fall Interview Program.

4. Take advantage of the course syllabi and course evaluations available online on the web portal and in the library. Ask
   advice from professors with whom you have already studied and from professors whose courses you intend to take.

5. Remember, your schedule is not cast in stone. You may freely add and drop when classes begin in the coming
   semester. In fact, you should go to class and experience the professor, text and syllabi before committing yourself to a
   course. Do not panic if you are not absolutely certain of the classes for which you plan to register.

6. Plan a balanced program of study as explained in detail on the second side of this guide. Avoid taking a
   disproportionate share of credits in any semester from two credit seminars, and carefully select CR/NC electives.
The Law School offers a large curriculum and minimal upper-level requirements which give students substantial freedom to tailor their upper-level courses to their own interests. However, the freedom in course selection permitted by this elective policy places responsibility on each student to plan a coherent academic program. Students should seek guidance on their course selection from faculty members, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Law School Bulletin, and the Supplement to the Law School Bulletin.

Plan a Balanced Program: Some students choose to pursue a particular area of the law in special depth or breadth because of career inclinations or for the intellectual values associated with specialized study. However, the faculty warns students against excessive specialization. You cannot foresee future career changes and challenges, and lawyers are not expected to be specialists when they graduate from law school. To design a well-balanced program, try to select a variety of courses from the following categories each semester: (1) upper-level requirements, prerequisites or co-requisites; (2) subject matter or professor of interest to you; (3) preparation for the bar; and/or (4) preparation for your field of practice. It is also important to strike a balance each semester between exam courses and those that offer other methods of evaluation, including research paper seminars, clinics, field placement, and skills and simulation courses.

Skills Courses (at least one is required): The American Bar Association and the law faculty mandate that all students take at least one skills course in order to fulfill the graduation requirement. Skills courses include the following:

- All Clinics (see next entry): Advanced Appellate Advocacy; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Client Interviewing and Counseling; Legal Drafting; Mediation; Negotiations; Trial Advocacy and Pre-trial Advocacy. This is not an exhaustive list of eligible skills courses. See the web portal or Law School Bulletin.

Experiential Learning: To round out your schedule and to be better prepared for practice, include clinical and field placement opportunities and consider skills competitions:

- **Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinics:** Environmental Law; Family Justice Litigation; Federal, Criminal, & Appellate; Health Rights Law; Immigration; International Human Rights; Law Students in Court; Neighborhood Law & Policy; Public Justice Advocacy; Small Business and Community Economic Development; & Vaccine Injury.

- **Field Placement:** An unpaid externship with a judicial, government or non-profit organization for a maximum of 4 credits in one semester and a total of 8 credits towards graduation. A co-requisite course evaluated on the basis of a letter grade must also be completed to earn the externship credits.

- **Skills Competitions:** Alternative Dispute Resolution; Mock Trial; Moot Court (e.g. Van Vleck; Giles-Ritch; Int'l)

- **Other Opportunities:** Disabled People & the Law; Prisoners Project; Environmental Law

State Bar Exams: State Bar Exams: To be licensed to practice law, each state/jurisdiction administers a 2-day exam on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of each February and July (a few states offer a 3-day exam), and also makes determinations of character and fitness as an equal component to the bar licensing process. In addition, the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) is a separate, 60 question, two-hour, multiple-choice, ethics exam offered every March, August, and November, which may be taken before graduation and is required by all jurisdictions except MD, WI, and PR. Please check state bar webpages for updated information, particularly test format, as it is subject to frequent change. The National Conference of Bar Examiners lists all state web-pages at www.ncbex.org. The most popular choice of bar exams for GW Law graduates is the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE), which consists of four, and as many as five tests. The MPRE is required as stated above; the Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) consisting of six 30-minute essay questions; the Multistate Performance Test (MPT), consisting of two 90-minute skills questions testing legal and fact analysis, problem solving, effective written communication, and organization/management of a lawyering task; and the 200 multiple-choice question Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) testing in six hours the following subjects: Civil Procedure I & II, Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II, Contracts I & II, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Property, and Torts (courses in italics are electives at GW Law). The UBE does not test state specific law, but each state/jurisdiction that has adopted the UBE may require a separate state specific component as the fifth part of its bar exam in the form of an on-line test or non-graded mandatory course on particular aspects of state law. States that have not yet adopted the UBE often use certain UBE components for their state bar exam, most notably the MPT and the MBE (used in all states except LA & PR). States reserve the right to test state specific law in their own essays and multiple choice questions. It is wise to strategically plan the bar exam subjects you will study in law school and those you reserve for the 1-2 days allocated for subject lectures in a bar review course and further self-study. Your choices may differ from those of another student taking the same bar exam. Make your decisions based on your aptitudes, interests, and ability to absorb complex subjects in a minimal amount of time.