

JD Degree Requirements Checklist

Chicago-Kent College of Law, AY 2025–2026

Requirement	Description	Reference
Credit hours	87 hours to earn the JD; at least 64 must be in courses that require attendance in regularly scheduled classroom sessions or direct faculty instruction.	§ 1.1(a)
Time	Must be completed in 84 months (7 years)	
Grade Point Average	Attain cumulative GPA of at least 2.300.	§§ 1.1(b), 8.1–8.8
Transcript Submission	Students must have timely submitted their undergraduate and graduate transcripts.	§ 1.1(c)
Required First-Year Courses	<i>Fall Semester:</i> Contracts (251), Torts (253), Criminal Law (257), Legal Writing 1 (259); <i>Spring Semester:</i> Civil Procedure (258), Property (261), Legal Writing 2 (260), and either Legislation (206) or a 1L your way course. Students deferring Legislation must take it Fall of 2L year.	
Required Upper-Level Courses	Constitutional Law (275); Legal Writing 3 (431); and Legal Writing 4 (432) or LW4 equivalency (119). Certain activities qualify students to take a LW4 equivalency class in lieu of a regular section.	
Professional Responsibility	Students must take either the course Professional Responsibility or one of these alternatives: Ethics and Advocacy, Practice and Professionalism, and Professional Responsibility: Business Ethics.	
Seminar requirement	Take a seminar or independent research in lieu; must have completed 54 course credits and LW4 or equivalency (see § 1.4) unless waived.	§ 1.2(b)
Required experiential credits	Take six credits from approved list of experiential courses (including LW3 and LW4, through which most students will get 4 credits); see handbook for details if you are doing LW4 equivalency.	§ 1.2(a)
Bar Exam Strategies	Students in the bottom 25% of their class at the end of their second year are required to take Bar Exam Strategies in their final semester.	§ 1.2(a)
Other limits	No more than 6 credits of elected pass/fail courses; those offered only pass/fail don't count toward this limit. No more than 24 credit hours toward graduation for clinical courses and externships combined. No more than 4 credit hours for TA positions.	

Note: This checklist provides a high-level overview of the JD program requirements. According to § 1.8 of the student handbook: “Students have the responsibility to make sure they complete all degree requirements. Graduating seniors should make an independent review of their records before registering for their final semester.” For full details, exceptions, graduation tracking, and updates, consult the current student handbook (available on the academic affairs website).