LAW, JD

Penn Carey Law offers a full-time program leading to the Juris Doctor (JD), the first professional degree in Law. Applicants have completed their undergraduate degrees and, oftentimes, advanced degrees in a broad array of disciplines; many have work experience prior to attending law school. On occasion, Penn Carey Law has admitted international students who hold a law degree from outside the United States but who want to earn a JD degree in the United States. Penn Carey Law also accepts a select group of Penn undergraduates who submatriculate, combining their bachelor's degrees and their JDs.

Penn Carey Law's program of legal education, combining its rich, interdisciplinary curriculum, varied co-curricular activities, and pro bono responsibilities, prepares its students for admission to the bar and to serve as effective, ethical, and responsible members of the legal profession. Each student will be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate a core knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law in a number of different subject areas;
- Engage in legal analysis and reasoning, conduct efficient and effective legal research, apply problem solving skills, and present findings, analyses, and recommendations efficiently and effectively in both written and oral communication;
- Work collaboratively;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of law and the contributions and benefits to legal analysis and problem solving that other disciplines can make;
- Exercise proper professional judgment and fulfill ethical responsibilities to clients, the profession, and society in general; and
- Utilize a range of professional skills that facilitate active, competent and ethical participation in the legal profession.

For more information: https://www.law.upenn.edu/admissions/jd/

Curriculum

JD candidates are required to complete the following:

- 86 semester hours during 6 semesters in law school residence
  - No more than 22 semester hours may be earned in co-curricular activities
- One course in Professional Responsibility
- 6 or more semester hours of experiential learning
- Pro Bono Requirement
- A scholarly research and writing project

The First Year (1L)

Penn Carey Law's first-year curriculum comprises five semester-long required core courses and two spring-term electives, as well as a year-long Legal Practice Skills course.

Code	Title	Course Units
Required First-Year Courses		
LAW 5000	Civil Procedure	4
LAW 5010	Constitutional Law	4
LAW 5020	Contracts	4
LAW 5030	Criminal Law	4
LAW 5040	Torts	4
LAW 5100	Legal Practice Skills (Fall)	4
LAW 5100	Legal Practice Skills (Spring)	2
Electives		
Regulatory/Administrative Course Elective [1]		3
General Elective [2]		3
Total Course Units		**32**

[1] In recognition that legal issues of import often involve our nation's regulatory system, Penn Carey Law offers a unique elective choice to 1Ls in this area. Students choose from courses in administrative law, environmental law, health law, legislation, and public international law.

[2] Students choose from a wide range of survey courses that are designed to highlight different viewpoints and areas of law for students' examination and consideration. Examples include advanced contracts, introduction to intellectual property law & policy, introduction to jurisprudence, law and economics, law and society in Japan, legal responses to inequality, privacy, and property.

The Second and Third Years (2L & 3L)

Across the second and third years, course selection is entirely elective and students have a wide range – between 80 to 100 courses, seminars, clinics, and externships per semester – from which to choose.

Students may receive up to 12 semester hours toward their JD graduation requirements for graduate-level courses taken in other departments at Penn upon establishing that these courses will contribute to their legal educations.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2026 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

Course Lists are updated each November for the upcoming Spring.