Special Limitations

Co-Curricular and Clinical Credits

(a) Up to four co-curricular credits may count toward the 87 needed for the J.D. degree. These include credits earned as follows: membership on one of the eligible student-edited journals (Albany Law Review, Science & Technology Law Journal, Government Law Review); completion of Independent Study Legal Research Paper under the supervision of a full-time faculty member; participation in certain Moot Court activities.

(b) An additional two credits for a moot-court interschool trial team or for participation as a Dominick L. Gabrielli Moot Court Competition Chair (Appellate Advocacy and Family Law competitions) may count toward the degree, provided that such student is supervised by a full-time faculty member and devotes two semesters, or an excess of 100 work-related hours, to the activity.

(c) Up to twenty clinical credits may count toward the 87 needed for the J.D. degree. These credits do not compete with the co-curricular credits listed above and may be earned in addition to credits described in (a) and (b). The twenty-credit maximum may include no more than four credits for continued clinical placements.

(d) Summary: According to the guidelines above, a student could conceivably earn a grand total of 26 co-curricular and clinical credits combined, provided he/she complies with the proper breakdown of 4, 2, and 20 credits in the respective categories. Students pursuing joint degrees, however, are subject to different co-curricular and clinical credit rules.

2.5 G.P.A. Rule Regarding Upper-Class Activities

Participation in the following activities is limited to those students whose cumulative grade-point averages are 2.50 or above at the time the student is selected for participation: Law Review, Journal of Science & Technology, Government Law Review, Moot-Court Activities (including both external and internal competitions), Semester in Government – D.C., Semester in Practice, Semester Abroad (does not apply to summer study-abroad programs).

Students who are ineligible to participate in the write-on competitions for the journals at the end of their first year because their G.P.A. does not meet the 2.5 minimum, may participate in the write-on competition at the end of their second year, if they have the requisite G.P.A. at that time. Students who are ineligible to participate in the Gabrielli Appellate Advocacy Competition in their second year because they do not have the requisite GPA, may elect to participate during their third year if they have obtained the minimum GPA prior to the fall of their third year.
Residency Credits

In addition to satisfying other graduation requirements, every J.D. student must comply with the Law School’s residency rules by accumulating 6.0 residency credits in order to graduate.

“Residency credits” refers to the number of credit hours that a student must complete each semester, and also the total number of semesters in which those credits must be completed. Residency rules have been implemented to comply with New York Court of Appeals Rules for admission of attorneys and the ABA Standards for Accredited Law Schools.

(1) Residency Credits for Fall and Spring Semesters

As noted above, residency rules require each student to earn 6.0 residency credits in order to graduate. The Residency Credits are most commonly earned during the course of the fall and spring semesters, as follows:

- Full-time (three-year program): During the fall and spring semesters, students who take at least 10 credits and pass 9 credits earn 1.0 residency credit for that semester.

- Part-time (four-year program): During the fall and spring semesters, students who take at least 8 credits and pass 8 credits earn .75 residency credits for that semester.

(2) Residency Credits for Intersession Courses

No residency credits may be earned for courses taken during the Intersession.

(3) Residency Credits for Summer Session

Students may earn residency credits during the summer session, as follows:

- Full-time (three-year program): Students who are in the three-year program and who take 8 credits or more during the summer session earn .5 residency credits.

- Part-time (four-year program): Students who are in the four-year program and who take 6 credits during the summer session earn .375 residency credits.

Students who pursue summer study elsewhere will not earn residency