

Dual-degree program: MD/JD

Juris Doctor



Training physicians of the future in the intellectual disciplines and practices of medicine and law

Physicians of the future are not only doctors, but also economists, administrators and problem-solvers working toward the common goal of improving patient care. Answering the nation's need to transform medical school education, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine and the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University have created the Medical Doctor (MD)/Juris Doctor (JD) dual-degree program.

Combining your MD degree with a JD degree from ASU Law will prepare you for leadership roles in a variety of health care institutions, for developing health care policies for governmental agencies or nonprofit organizations, and for careers in medical and legal education. ASU Law is one of the nation's preeminent law schools, conveniently located on the college's Downtown Phoenix campus.

The JD provides students with the following knowledge and skills:

- Case law and statutory rules related to health care

- Legal research, analysis, reasoning and problem-solving
- Written and oral communication in the legal context
- Professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system

Curriculum overview

The MD/JD can be completed in six years. Medical students admitted into the program complete two years of courses at ASU Law, including one summer, then return to their medical studies. During their final year of medical studies, they complete a four-credit capstone project that ties together their medical and legal training. Courses cover legal doctrine and theory provide experiential learning opportunities and include a variety of courses related to health care, including the opportunity to do independent study projects with an MD/JD professor.

"The glory of medicine is that it is constantly moving forward, that there is always more to learn."

— William J. Mayo, M.D.

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law rankings

Best law school

#24
in the U.S.

– 2021 U.S. News & World Report

Health law

#22
in the U.S.

– 2021 U.S. News & World Report

Law school

#1
in Arizona
since 2010

– U.S. News & World Report

Public law school

#7
in the U.S.

– 2021 U.S. News & World Report

A top school
for Health Law
with an

A+
ranking

– preLaw magazine



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"The MD/JD program gave me a deeper understanding of the structure of the legal system and creative ideas for how to fix the health care system. I have been able to navigate our laws and regulations, speak the same language as the people enforcing the rules and conduct research on the intersection of law and medicine. I loved how individualized my training was at ASU."

— Rachel Lindor, MD, JD, instructor of
Emergency Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine



"My JD has enabled me to view health care in general and the practice of medicine in particular through a new lens. The degree opened doors, identified new opportunities and, most importantly, has allowed me to be a resource for colleagues and patients."

— John Shufeldt, MD, JD, chief medical officer,
San Carlos Apache Healthcare Co.

Degree requirements

Program length: Two years (including summer after the first year) Students must complete a total of 88 JD credit hours to graduate, including all of the following:

- 30 credits of prescribed course work during the first JD year
- Two to eight credits satisfying two writing requirements
- Six credits of experiential learning
- One four-credit capstone project to be completed during the final year of the MD degree
- Electives

Students will be awarded their JD at the same time they receive their MD.

Admission

Application deadline: March 1

Applicants must take the Law School Admission Test and submit exam scores, along with a completed application, to the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law to be considered for admission to the JD program.

#1 in the U.S. for innovation

ASU ahead of MIT and Stanford

— U.S. News & World Report, 6 years, 2016–2021



FAQs

When do I need to apply?

While our regular admission application deadline is March 1, we encourage people to apply as early as August 15 to help secure a seat. There is an upside in signaling your interest early. For instance, you will be invited to various events on campus to learn more about law school. We can tailor your experience by matching you with MD/JD alumni and advisors. We can also help you plan financially.

Do I have to take the LSAT?

Yes. We encourage you to take the Law School Admission Test no later than September or October. You must take the LSAT no later than February for regular admission on March 1. You will need to register with the Law School Admission Council Credential Assembly Service, complete the LSAC electronic application, and submit a complete application to ASU Law.

What kind of financial support is available?

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we award millions of dollars in scholarships each year. All admitted students are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships and will be notified if additional information is required.

Whom should I contact for information?

All Mayo Clinic students must indicate their intention to apply for this program to:

Victoria (Vicki) Hochstetler, MEd
Operations Manager, Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences
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