6. List new courses that will be added to your curriculum specifically for this program. Indicate number, title and credit hour value for each course.

In most JSD degree programs, students participate in supervised independent study classes and directed research classes, under the supervision of the Director of the JSD degree program and a faculty expert in the student’s field of research. Because students will undertake research and write in a broad range of fields, the courses will be more generic descriptions of activities rather than subject concentrations. The Law School will create new independent study courses, directed research classes for the program, and a dissertation research course, once this proposal has been approved at all levels of review.

The Law Faculty has recommended approval of the program. It has also been reviewed by the ABA, which has concluded that the Law School has the resources to well support the JSD and it will have no detrimental effect on the JD program. Once the Law School has approval from ACHE, the Law School Curriculum Committee will undertake its usual role in approving the description and content of new courses, and recommend the same for final approval by the full faculty.

7. Please list any existing undergraduate programs at the institution which are directly or indirectly related to the proposed graduate program. If this is a doctoral proposal, also list related master’s programs at your institution.

The most related existing program at the Law School is the international LL.M degree program. As described above, some of the very best applicants to LL.M programs choose to attend law schools which also offer the JSD degree. The Law School seeks to join the list of such schools.

8. Program Completion Requirements—

The Law School expects most JSD degree candidates to be enrolled at the Law School for 2 to 3 years beyond the LL.M degree to complete the 48-hour JSD degree program. The time will vary based on prior work and the pace of each candidate’s research and writing progress. The Director of International Programs, in consultation with the International Program Committee and any supervising faculty, will set the credit hour requirements for major courses, supporting courses, and dissertation preparation individually for each applicant. The minimum time in the JSD degree program will be two academic years, or the completion of 48 hours, after earning the LL.M. After the completion of 1 year, candidates for the JSD will defend their dissertation/research proposal before a committee, including the supervising faculty, the Director of International Programs, and at least two members of the International Program Committee.
Credit hours required in major courses: 12
Credit hours required in support courses: 12
Credit hours in required or free electives: 0
Credit hours for thesis or dissertation: 24
Total hours for JSD degree: 48

Appendix A provides a sample curriculum for the JSD program, modeled after programs at peer schools.

9. Accreditation

If there is a recognized (USDE or CHEA) specialized accreditation agency for this program, please identify the agency and explain why you do or not plan to seek accreditation.

The American Bar Association (ABA) is the accreditation body for law schools in the U.S. The ABA does not accredit graduate law degree programs beyond the Juris Doctor degree. However, it does review proposals for new degree programs to determine if the programs will negatively impact the existing JD degree program. The Law School has submitted its proposal to the ABA for its review and acquiescence. The Law School has confirmed that the new JSD degree program will have no detrimental impact on its JD degree program. The ABA has concluded that the Law School has the faculty, staff, and resources to support the JSD degree.

The ABA letter is attached to this proposal.

C. Program Admissions Requirements, Enrollment Projections and Completion Projections

1. Describe briefly the criteria and screening process that will be used to select students for the program.

The Law School has a team of five professionals who work in its Admissions Office. That team promotes all the Law School’s programs, including the international LL.M program. The team screens applicant queries and forwards information to the Director of International Programs, who then follows up with applicants interested in the international LL.M program. The Director of International Programs works with the Associate Dean of Admissions and with the International Program Committee to determine standards for admission and to review applications for the International LL.M Program. Because classes are taught in English, applicants must provide evidence of a mastery of English, usually through a TOEFL Score (Test of English as a Foreign Language). Typically, the Law School seeks
Appendix A: Sample Curriculum

JSD curricula vary widely. This proposal is modeled on the leading JSD programs. Each study plan will be tailored to the academic interests of each candidate. Each candidate will enroll in designated courses at the Law School until completion of the degree. It is expected that all students will complete the JSD degree within 3 years, but no later than 5 years from first enrolling in the JSD program.

First Year-

Fall Semester: Complete 12 hours of Independent Study/Directed Research in major field.

LAW 900 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law
LAW 901 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law
LAW 902 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law
LAW 903 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law

Spring Semester: Complete 12 hours of Independent Study/Directed Research in related courses.

LAW 904 3 credit hours on Legal Philosophy
LAW 905 3 credit hours on Legal Research
LAW 906 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law
LAW 907 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law

End of year 1: Defend dissertation proposal before the Committee.

Second Year-

Fall Semester: Revise dissertation proposal.

LAW 908 Dissertation Research--complete 12 hours of directed research under faculty supervision.

Spring Semester: Write dissertation and complete

LAW 909 Dissertation Writing—complete 12 hours of dissertation drafting under faculty supervision. Defend dissertation before the Committee.

Third Year (if necessary)

Revise/complete dissertation.