

JUDICIAL STUDIES

The University of Nevada, Reno
The National Judicial College
The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

SCOPE

The Judicial Studies Program (JS) is intended to provide a formal academic setting in which judges can integrate technical studies of the judiciary with more academic courses in an effort to provide an intellectual assessment of the role of the American judiciary. Toward this end, the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) provides specially designed courses that treat judicially-related issues from a liberal arts perspective, including the humanities, social, behavioral and natural sciences, and communications. The National Judicial College (NJC) and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) provide a series of courses treating more technical subject matter.

ACADEMIC OBJECTIVES

A major academic objective of the JS is to help create and define the academic discipline: Judicial Studies. Providing a master's and a Ph.D. degree in judicial studies is an attempt to recognize current accomplishments in the field and to encourage further achievements by increasing the discipline's intellectual resources in teaching and research, and by raising its visibility in the judiciary and in the academic community.

IMPORTANCE TO JUDGES AND JUDICIARY

The JS is a challenging, stimulating academic degree program designed to:

- provide a structured, interdisciplinary academic curriculum applicable to your judicial needs;
- encourage judges to take an active role in teaching, planning and administering judicial education;
- provide experience (by virtue of the master's thesis and Ph.D. dissertation requirement) in conducting and publishing research of interest and applicability to the judicial system;
- provide an academic degree program with national scope and impact.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

For the Master's degree, judges may apply for acceptance to study in one of two major areas: Trial Court Judge Major (which includes administrative law judges, court masters, hearing officers, military judges and tribal judges) or Juvenile and Family Court Judge Major. Admission consideration will be given to applicants who are full-time sitting judges, and are graduates of ABA accredited law schools. Exceptions may be made for full-time sitting international judges, full-time judges who are graduates of recognized foreign law schools or non-accredited American law schools who have been admitted to the Bar, and appear otherwise qualified.

Factors to be considered in the admission process include professional achievement since law school, professional activities related to the law and the judiciary, published writings (including opinions), academic record in college and law school, the potential for making continued contributions to the judicial profession, and three letters of reference provided by professional colleagues.

For the Ph.D. degree, judges who have graduated from the master's program may apply. Factors to be considered include professional achievements and professional activities since receiving the master's, performance while working toward the master's degree, published writings, and letters of reference.

Judges interested in applying for admission must complete and submit the University of Nevada, Reno Judicial Studies Application form at https://my.nevada.unr.edu/psp/rmporprd/UNR_APPLY/ENTP/h/?tab=UNR_TAB_APPLY_LOGIN. A complete master's application consists of: the application form; \$60 application fee; two official copies of undergraduate, graduate and law school transcripts; three letters of reference; and samples of writings (references and writing samples are to be sent to the program). It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all materials are received as no application will be considered until all materials have been received. A completed Ph.D. application consists of: the application form; \$40 application fee; letters of reference from the master's thesis chair and/or committee members; two additional letters of reference; and samples of writing since receiving the master's (references and writing samples are to be sent to the JS program).

Admissions decisions shall be made by the JS Admissions Committee, which consists of representatives from the University of Nevada, Reno, The National Judicial College, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, with final approval from the University of Nevada, Reno

Graduate School. Once a decision has been reached, applicants will be notified electronically to go online and accept the admission. An applicant must be accepted into the program in order to enroll in UNR classes and receive UNR academic credit for NJC and NCJFCJ/JS classes.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

For additional program, admission, or application information, feel free to contact:

Judicial Studies Program Officer
Judicial Studies Programs
University of Nevada, Reno/0311
Reno, Nevada 89557
(775) 784-6270
jsp@unr.edu | www.judicialstudies.unr.edu

CURRICULUM

The curriculum focuses on judges and their roles in and contributions to American society, and the improvement of services rendered by judges in a free society. The curriculum encourages students to become more proficient in the diagnosis and analysis of problems through the use of techniques developed by the social, behavioral and natural sciences, and the humanities. The curriculum will require the study and assimilation of research techniques used by professionals who testify in court. These same techniques will be used by students to study issues important to the advancement of the discipline of judicial studies.

The JS Master's degree serves as an umbrella for two related, though distinct, academic majors; one is for trial judges, the other is for juvenile and family court judges. The former is offered by the University of Nevada, Reno with the cooperation of The National Judicial College. The latter is offered by the University of Nevada, Reno with the cooperation of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Each major has required and elective courses. The total number of credits required in each major is 32. An additional 49 credits, beyond the master's, is required for the Ph.D.

MAJOR FOR TRIAL COURT JUDGES (including Administrative Law Judges)

Required courses include:

- JS 610 General Jurisdiction, 4 credits (NJC) **OR**
- JS 611 Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced, 4 credits (NJC) **OR**
- JS 612 Administrative Law: Fair Hearing, 4 credits (NJC/ALJs or non-GJ judges)

- JS 615 Judicial Writing, 2 credits (NJC)
- JS 710 History and Theory of Jurisprudence, 3 credits (UNR)
- JS 797 Thesis, 6 credits (UNR)

Elective courses include:

- Group I (a minimum of 8 credits) (NJC)
- JS 613 Criminal Evidence, 2 credits
- JS 617 Advanced Evidence, 2 credits
- JS 618 Decision Making Process, 2 credits
- JS 619 Ethical Issues in the Law: A Novel Approach, 2 credits
- JS 621 Logic and Opinion Writing, 2 credits
- JS 622 Scientific Evidence and Expert Testimony, 2 credits
- JS 623 Handling Capital Cases, 2 credits
- JS 624 Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills, 2 credits
- JS 625 Dispute Resolution, 2 credits
- JS 626 Advanced Judicial Writing, 2 credits
- JS 627 Effective Caseload Management, 2 credits
- JS 628 Practical Approaches to Substance Abuse Issues, 2 credits
- JS 629 Managing the Complex Case, 2 credits
- JS 632 Conducting the Trial, 2 credits
- JS 633 Evidence in a Courtroom Setting, 2 credits
- JS 634 Managing Challenging Family Law Cases, 2 credits
- JS 636 Domestic Violence, 2 credits
- JS 638 Probate Courts: Contemporary Issues, 2 credits
- JS 642 Today's Justice: The Historic Bases, 2 credits
- JS 644 When Justice Fails, 2 credits
- JS 645 The Fourth Amendment: Comprehensive Search and Seizure, 2 credits
- JS 649 Administrative Law: Advanced, 2 credits (ALJs or non-GJ judges)
- JS 690 Topics in Comparative Jurisprudence, 2 credits

Group II (a minimum of 9 credits) (UNR)

- JS 715 Justice, Law and Literature, 3 credits
- JS 718 Scientific Research Methods for Judges, 3 credits
- JS 720 Comparative Law, 3 credits
- JS 725 Media and the Courts, 3 credits
- JS 730 Law and Economics, 3 credits
- JS 735 Law and the Social and Behavioral Sciences, 3 credits
- JS 740 Medical Legal Issues, 3 credits
- JS 745 Public Policy and the Courts, 3 credits
- JS 750 Criminology: Causation, Enforcement, Responsibility, 3 credits
- JS 760 Language and Judicial Process, 3 credits
- JS 765 Science in Law, 3 credits
- JS 770 Gaming and the Law, 3 credits

MAJOR FOR JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

Required courses include:

- JS 610 General Jurisdiction, 4 credits (NJC) **OR**
- JS 611 Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced, 4 credits (NJC)

- JS 615 Judicial Writing, 2 credits (NJC)
- JS 660 Core College (The Role of the Judge), 2 credits (NCJFCJ)
- JS 710 History and Theory of Jurisprudence, 3 credits (UNR)
- JS 797 Thesis, 6 credits (UNR)

Elective courses include:

- Group I (a minimum of 6 credits) (NCJFCJ)
- JS 661 Family Law and Domestic Relations Issues, 2 credits
- JS 662 Evidentiary Problems in the Juvenile and Family Court, 2 credits
- JS 663 Advanced Juvenile Justice Management Institute, 2 credits
- JS 664 Child Abuse and Neglect Institute: The Role of the Judge, 2 credits
- JS 690 Topics in Comparative Jurisprudence, 2 credits

Group II (a minimum of 9 credits) (UNR)

- JS 715 Justice, Law and Literature, 3 credits
- JS 718 Scientific Research Methods for Judges, 3 credits
- JS 720 Comparative Law, 3 credits
- JS 725 Media and the Courts, 3 credits
- JS 730 Law and Economics, 3 credits
- JS 735 Law and the Social and Behavioral Sciences, 3 credits
- JS 740 Medical Legal Issues, 3 credits
- JS 745 Public Policy and the Courts, 3 credits
- JS 750 Criminology: Causation, Enforcement, Responsibility, 3 credits
- JS 760 Language and Judicial Process, 3 credits
- JS 765 Science in Law, 3 credits
- JS 770 Gaming and the Law, 3 credits

DOCTOR OF JUDICIAL STUDIES

The Ph.D. requires additional courses beyond the master's (6 UNR courses, 3 NJC/NCJFCJ courses), and the required courses described below totaling 73 credits. Elective courses are selected from the regular course elective listings that have not previously been taken and/or from the additional electives below. Courses needed will vary by student. Please contact the JS Program for an evaluation of your file to determine additional courses needed.

Required courses include:

- JS 795 Comprehensive Exam, 1 credit (UNR)
- JS 799 Dissertation, 24 credits (UNR)

Additional elective courses include:

- JS 775 Independent Study, 1-3 credits (UNR)
- JS 780 Special Problems, 1-3 credits (UNR)

COMPLETION OF COURSEWORK

For the master's, a student may take up to six years to complete the program, but it is designed to be completed in three to four years. In order to complete the program in three years, a student must be able to spend a total of at least 12 weeks participating in courses on the UNR campus during three consecutive summers for completion of UNR requirements. UNR offers a course in winter (January) that can be applied to this time as well. More time may be required for completion of the NJC or NCJFCJ courses, depending upon course schedules and the qualifications of a candidate for retroactive credit (see "Retroactive Credit by Examination" on page 7). It is the responsibility of applicants to make arrangements with the appropriate judicial personnel to ensure that they can be absent from court for the necessary time during two or more summers.

Coursework for the Trial Court Judge major comprises 15 required credits: General Jurisdiction *or* Special Court Jurisdiction (NJC), Judicial Writing (NJC), History and Theory (UNR), and Thesis (UNR), and 8 elective credits from NJC and 9 elective credits from UNR totaling 32 credits in all. NJC courses are one week in length excluding General Jurisdiction or Special Court Jurisdiction, which are two weeks in length. UNR courses are two weeks in length, excluding History and Theory, which is offered at night and is four weeks in length (taken in consecutive two-week sessions over two summers).

Coursework for the Juvenile and Family Court Judges is comprised of 17 required credits: General Jurisdiction *or* Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced (NJC); Judicial Writing (NJC), Core College (NCJFCJ), History and Theory (UNR), and Thesis (UNR), and 6 elective credits from NCJFCJ and 9 elective credits from UNR totaling 32 credits in all. NCJFCJ courses are one week in length. NJC courses are one week in length excluding General Jurisdiction, which is two weeks in length. University of Nevada, Reno courses are two weeks in length, excluding History and Theory, which is offered at night and is four weeks in length (taken in consecutive two-week sessions over two summers).

For the Ph.D., a student has up to eight years, beyond the Master's degree, to complete the program. Typically, an additional 12 weeks on the University of Nevada, Reno campus participating in courses is required and 49 credits (18 UNR elective credits, 6 NJC or NCJFCJ elective credits, 1 Comprehensive Exam credit, and 24 dissertation credits). For information or a record evaluation, please contact the JS Program.

Considerable effort has gone into making maximum use of the relatively short time students will spend on campus. Students should expect to spend non-classroom time reading or preparing for end-of-course examinations or projects **both before and after course attendance**. The completion of the thesis or dissertation requirements will be accomplished outside of classes. To receive course credit, **students should expect to attend each course in its entirety and schedule travel plans accordingly**.

A student is required to take two courses per year to remain in good standing. This means taking one course in spring and one course in fall. If a student is unable to meet this requirement, they need to apply for a leave of absence in advance for a designated period of time to remain in good standing. If a leave of absence is not requested, a student must complete a notice of reinstatement to graduate standing and pay the \$60 reinstatement fee. If a leave of absence is more than two semesters, a student may be required to reapply to the program.

ENROLLING IN COURSES

JS participants **enroll for courses through the organization offering them**. Requests for enrollment information relating to courses should be directed to:

UNR Courses (700 level)

Judicial Studies Program Officer
Judicial Studies Programs
University of Nevada, Reno/0311
Reno, NV 89557
jsp@unr.edu
(775) 784-6270

NJC Courses

Registrar
The National Judicial College
University of Nevada, Reno/0358
Reno, NV 89557
registrar@judges.org
(775) 784-6747

NCJFCJ Courses

Registrar National Council of Juvenile
and Family Court Judges
PO Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507
kjones@ncjfcj.org
(775) 507-4798

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE MASTER'S OR PH.D. DEGREE

To be awarded the master's degree, the student must: complete a minimum of 32 credits in the prescribed curriculum; maintain a 3.0 grade point average in all courses; take classes for 12 weeks in residence on the UNR campus; complete all required course exams or papers assigned; and a thesis approved by the student's advisory committee. The thesis advisory committee is composed of two full-time UNR faculty members (one will serve as chair and one will serve as a Graduate School representative), one NJC or NCJFCJ faculty member based on the student's major, and, if desired, a fourth member from UNR, NJC, NCJFCJ or an outside member with approval from the Program Director.

After the prospectus and committee have been approved by the Program Director and Graduate School, final approval of the thesis may occur in two ways. The applicant may be required to defend the completed thesis orally, or with committee approval, publish the paper in a suitable ABA-approved law review or other profession refereed journal (slight modifications of the published paper will need to be made to submit to the University for graduation). The final thesis must also successfully pass a SafeAssign or plagiarism scan.

To be awarded the Ph.D. degree, the student must: complete a minimum of 73 credits in the prescribed curriculum; maintain a 3.0 grade point average in all courses; take classes for an additional 12 weeks in residence on the UNR campus; complete all required course exams or papers assigned; and a dissertation approved by the student's advisory committee. A maximum of 24 course credits is transferred from the student's master's degree toward the Ph.D. leaving 24 course credits (18 UNR, 6 NJC), 1 comprehensive exam credit, and 24 dissertation credits needed to complete the degree.

The dissertation advisory committee is composed of two full-time UNR faculty members (one will serve as chair and one will serve as the Graduate School representative), one NJC faculty member, and two members from UNR, NJC, NCJFCJ or outside members with approval from the Program Director.

After the prospectus and committee have been approved by the Program Director and Graduate School, final approval of the dissertation will require the applicant defend the completed dissertation orally. If completed in publication format, slight modifications will need to be made to submit to the University for graduation. The final dissertation must also successfully pass a SafeAssign or plagiarism scan.

RETROACTIVE CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

Past participants in NJC or NCJFCJ programs may receive credit toward the master's degree for courses under specified conditions as set forth in the UNR catalog and in the retroactive credit regulations of the program. The credits must be for courses that have been approved for required or elective credit. Those who wish to obtain academic credit for courses taken previously must complete the appropriate request form and must take the most current written exam to be administered by NJC or NCJFCJ.

The regulations for retroactive credits by examination for NJC and NCJFCJ courses are as follows:

1. In order to receive retroactive credit, a degree candidate must fill out an application to take the exam.
2. Credit will be granted only upon successful passage of an examination covering the basic topics or objectives of the course. The examination will be the same as the examination given to students currently enrolled in the course. It will, therefore, test the student's current knowledge of the area rather than the material as presented at the time the course was taken.
3. Credit by examination may be obtained by a student who participated in a course as a faculty member, and passes the exam.
4. Credit by examination may **not** be obtained by a student for more than 10 credits total.
5. Credit by examination will not be granted for courses that were taken more than seven years before the student's admission.
6. Potential students for the master's may take an examination in a course offered for credit, and receive credit after admission to the JS, so long as admission is within seven years of the examination.

TUITION AND FEES

The tuition and fees for the JS are paid separately to the three schools cooperating in the JS, according to the tuition and fee policy of each. The three schools assess tuition and fee charges for each course at the time the course is taken.

University of Nevada, Reno Fees

The University of Nevada, Reno tuition for each course offered is \$995. The Ph.D. dissertation fee is \$4,200 or \$175 per credit. The Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam fee is \$332.00. UNR tuition includes health service and student union use, but does **not** include course materials, room or board.

The fee for the thesis course is payable at the time that the student enrolls in the course. The tuition for the Ph.D. dissertation can be spread out over the completion period of the degree but must be paid in full at the time the student makes application for graduation. In addition to tuition, students will be required to pay a \$60 JS admission application fee (\$40 Ph.D.), and costs associated with required course materials, as well as research, preparation, copyrighting, \$75 application for graduation, and \$85 binding costs of the thesis and \$95 for the dissertation. If courses have to be repeated (i.e., thesis or dissertation credits) to remain in good standing, tuition will be charged at the current rate.

Cancellations and refunds: Students may withdraw from a course or the JS program at any time. However, no refunds will be given.

NJC Fees

It is the responsibility of the JS student to inform NJC at the time of registration if he/she anticipates taking the course examination to receive credit toward the JS program. NJC charges students the same tuition and fees as it charges other participants in its programs. Contact the NJC directly for fee information.

Tuition for NJC courses includes the cost of course materials. The conference fee includes a daily continental breakfast, lunch, refreshment breaks, and a dinner event on Wednesday evening. (Adjustments may be arranged with the business office for candidates unable to attend Wednesday evening functions because of the evening JS class.)

NCJFCJ Fees

It is the responsibility of the JS student to inform NCJFCJ *at the time of registration* if he/she anticipates taking the course examination to receive credit toward the JS program. NCJFCJ charges students the same tuition and fees as it charges other participants in its programs. Contact the NCJFCJ directly for fee information. Courses cross-listed with NJC are charged at the NJC rate.

NCJFCJ tuition includes the cost of course materials.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel facilities near the University of Nevada, Reno campus that provide a discounted rate for judges attending UNR, NJC, and NCJFCJ courses: Eldorado Resort and Casino, Courtyard Reno Downtown/Riverfront, Siena Hotel, Silver Legacy, and Whitney Peak Hotel. For reservations, visit the NJC website, Hotels and Travel Information page at <http://www.judges.org/courses/reno-hotels/> for a comparative chart of hotel rates and amenities as well as how to make a reservation to take advantage of the discounted rates and NJC amenity package.