

Taft Law School

The Juris Doctor-Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

CATALOG SUPPLEMENT JANUARY 2023

Taft Law School is dedicated to the memory of Bernard E. Witkin (1904-95), a legendary legal scholar and a believer in life-long learning.

This catalog supplement should be carefully reviewed in conjunction with the Taft Law School General Catalog by individuals considering application to the *Juris Doctor-Attorney TrackSM Program*. Additional catalog supplements are available for other Taft Law School degree programs. This catalog is effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Any questions on the information contained in this catalog supplement should be directed to the Admissions Office at the mailing address, e-mail address, or telephone numbers below:

Taft Law School
3700 South Susan Street, Office 200
Santa Ana, California 92704-6954

(800) 882-4555

(714) 850-4800

Email: Admissions@TaftU.edu

Juris Doctor-Attorney TrackSM and JDATSM are registered service marks of The Taft University System.



©2023 The Taft University
System

Rev: 1/2023

Taft Law School

■ The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

OVERVIEW

Taft Law School offers two distinct Juris Doctor Programs which will qualify its graduates for the California Bar Examination. This Catalog Supplement describes the program that includes *directed study* courses. (A separate Catalog Supplement describes the program that includes independent study courses.)

As a result of Taft Law School's compliance with specific rules established by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California (CBE) and the California Supreme Court, graduates of the *Juris Doctor-Attorney TrackSM Program* (hereinafter the *JDATSM Program*) become eligible to sit for the California Bar Examination.

Students enrolling in the *JDATSM Program* have many different career or personal goals. Many intend to practice law, but equal numbers elect to enter private enterprise or devote their lives to public service. Regardless of the career plans of graduates, a major objective of the *JDATSM Program* is to prepare students for the California Bar Examination. Individuals who do not desire admission to the Bar should consider enrolling in the *Juris Doctor-Executive TrackSM Program* offered at our sister school WHTU.

While individuals who enter the legal profession enjoy excellent earning possibilities, they also have important professional as well as ethical responsibilities. Many become leaders in charitable and political organizations or contribute time to social and constitutional issues.

Many law school graduates use their legal knowledge in areas outside the legal profession. Accountants, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, educators, and many others have found legal training to be beneficial in their daily activities as well as increasing their career opportunities.

PRESENTATION

The *JDATSM Program* is presented through a distance education modality using online technology requiring no classroom or seminar attendance. Prior students have resided in all regions of the United States as well as in Asia and Europe.

The *JDATSM Program* requires four years of study. Each year consists of a period of time of not less than 48 nor more than 52 consecutive weeks for CBE and 52 weeks with no less than 24 units for Title IV. While materials and instruction are presented in a non-traditional manner, it is an objective of the School to maintain criteria comparable to resident law programs with respect to program content and academic standards.

ADMISSION POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

Consistent with the School's stated Mission of providing educational opportunities to individuals who are mature adults, employed on a full-time basis, or for whom place of residence or travel requirements are constraining factors, the School has instituted classifications of applicants. All admission decisions are made without regard to sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability, medical condition, age, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Due to regulatory changes, Taft Law School is not accepting for admission, applicants who reside in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.



■ The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

ADMISSION POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS *Concluded*

REGULAR APPLICANTS

The California Committee of Bar Examiners has determined that an applicant who has a bachelor's degree from an institution approved by the Committee is admissible as a Regular Student. An applicant who does not have a bachelor's degree, but who has completed at least one-half of the work required for a bachelor's degree at a college or university approved by the Committee, is also admissible as a regular applicant.

Our accrediting body, the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) has determined that Applicants who have earned a Bachelor's degree or higher from a college or university accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education generally qualify as regular applicants.

SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Individuals, who do not qualify as a regular applicant, may apply as a special applicant. Special applicants must satisfy the standards established by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California with respect to prelegal education. An applicant may not be admitted as a Special Student unless he or she has satisfied the examination requirements (currently the College Level Equivalency Program examination) of § 6060(c)(2) of the California Business and Professions Code and Rule VII, Section 1 of the Rules Regulating Admission to Practice Law in California.

Other than the minimum threshold mandated by the Committee of Bar Examiners, the School has not developed any pre-established criteria for special admissions. In the admission of special applicants, the major consideration is whether the applicant has the ability to succeed in the Program and if the applicant will benefit from the Program. Any applicant that does not qualify as a regular applicant must be interviewed by a faculty member and provide supplemental writing sample. (The interview can either take place in the School's offices or via telephone.)

APPLICANTS EDUCATED OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES

It is necessary for applicants holding earned degrees from colleges or universities outside of the United States to obtain an evaluation of their education from a credential evaluation service approved by the State Bar of California. Upon request, the School's Admissions Office will provide a list of approved evaluators.

In addition, applicants whose native language is not English and who have not earned a degree from an accredited institution where English is the principal language of instruction must take the *Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)*. The minimum score for the paper-based version is 550 or the equivalent.

TRANSFER APPLICANTS

Taft Law School welcomes applications from students seeking to transfer from other law schools. Applicants seeking advanced standing should submit a transcript of all previous law study along with the *Application for Admission* form. All prospective transfer students are individually evaluated for purposes of awarding transfer credit. Among the factors considered in such an evaluation are the grades of the applicant in law courses completed, the law school where the courses were completed, and the period of time since the courses were completed.

All applicants who wish to be admitted as third- or fourth-year students as well as some prospective second year students must obtain an evaluation from the Committee of Bar Examiners of past studies and proposed studies. The School will assist transfer students in the preparation of a proposed plan of study.

RULES OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

Students who plan to sit for the California Bar Examination must comply with a complex set of rules established by the Committee of Bar Examiners. In addition to the academic



The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

requirements established by this school, students must successfully complete the First-Year Law Students' Examination ("Baby Bar") after their first year of study. This exam, given by the Committee of Bar Examiners each year in June and October, covers the first-year subjects of Contracts/UCC, Criminal Law, and Torts. Normally, testing sites are located in both Northern and Southern California. The examination cannot be taken at any other location.

A *Summary of the Requirements for Admission to Practice Law in California* may be found on our website at:

<https://taftu.edu/about/california-bar-examination-disclosure/>

To obtain a complete copy of the State Bar rules, go to <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/> and then click on the Admissions tab and then click on requirements.

DISCLOSURE

The method of instruction at Taft Law School for the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree program is principally by correspondence.

Students enrolled in either of the *Juris Doctor-Attorney TrackSM Programs* at Taft Law School who successfully complete the first year of law study must pass the First-Year Law Students' Examination required by Business and Professions Code § 6060(h) and *Title 4, Division 1, of the Rules of The State Bar of California (Admissions Rules)* as part of the requirements to qualify to take the California Bar Examination. A student who passes the First-Year Law Students' Examination within three (3) administrations of the examination after first becoming eligible to take it will receive credit for all legal studies completed to the time the examination is passed. A student who does not pass the examination within three (3) administrations of the examination after first becoming eligible to take it must be promptly disqualified from the law school's *Juris Doctor-Attorney TrackSM Program*. If the

dismissed student subsequently passes the examination, the student is eligible for re-enrollment in the law school's *Juris Doctor-Attorney TrackSM Program* but will receive credit for only one year of legal study.

Study at, or graduation from, this law school may not qualify a student to take the bar examination or to satisfy the requirements for admission to practice in jurisdictions other than California. A student intending to seek admission to practice law in a jurisdiction other than California should contact the admitting authority in that jurisdiction for information regarding the legal education requirements in that jurisdiction for admission to the practice of law.

CURRICULUM

First Year

Introduction to Law (LAW 601) 1
Unit

Contracts (LAW 616) 8
Units

Torts (LAW 612) 7 Units

Criminal Law (LAW 613) 5 Units

Legal Writing (LAW 604) 3 Units

Second/Third Year*

Business Organizations (LAW 631) 8 Units

Civil Procedure (LAW 624) 6 Units

Community Property (LAW 633) 3 Units

Constitutional Law (LAW 622) 7 Units

Criminal Procedure (LAW 630) 3 Units

Evidence (LAW 634) 10
Units

Professional Responsibility (LAW 640) 4 Units

Property (LAW 623) 7 Units

Fourth Year

Wills & Trusts (LAW 620) 4 Units

Remedies (LAW 646) 4 Units

Uniform Commercial Code (LAW 644) 4
Units

Advanced Legal Reasoning (LAW 645) 6
Units

Electives 6
Units

(*The course sequence for second and third year students varies depending on their enrollment



The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The professional degree of Juris Doctor is awarded to those students in the *JDATSM Program* who have fulfilled all of the following requirements:

1. Satisfactory completion of 96 semester units within a period of not more than seven years with at least 24 semester units completed at Taft;
2. Satisfactory completion of a minimum of six semester units of Taft Law School course work designed to teach practice-based skills and competency training. These units are available in a variety of required and elective courses.
3. Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 or higher in Taft courses; and
4. Completion and submission of the School's *Program Evaluation Form*.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Core (Required) Courses

Advanced Legal Reasoning (LAW 645) 6 Units

This course provides advanced study in logical and creative legal thinking which can be applied on bar examinations and in legal practice, analysis of statutory and common law, legal research skills, and the ability to write objectively and persuasively.

Business Organizations (LAW 631) 8 Units

This course examines the laws governing the creation, termination and legal consequences of agency relationships, partnerships and business corporations; advantages and disadvantages of various forms of business enterprises.

Civil Procedure (LAW 624) 6 Units

This course dissects the federal and California rules relating to jurisdiction and venue; sufficiency of the complaint, answers, counterclaims and cross complaints, joinder of parties and causes of action and motions before, during and after trial.

Community Property (LAW 633) 3 Units

This course reviews the classification of separate and community property, liability for debts, management and control of the community, and problems arising from the dissolution of the community or death of a spouse.

Constitutional Law (LAW 622) 7 Units

This course explores the scope of federal powers, separation of powers, the federal system, the Bill of Rights, due process, equal protection, and eminent domain.

Contracts (LAW 616) 8 Units

This course analyzes the law relating to formation of contracts, the statute of frauds, third-party beneficiary contracts, assignment of rights and delegation of duties, liability for breach of contract including the law of conditions and discharge.

Criminal Law (LAW 613) 5 Units

This course probes laws relating to various criminal offenses, including crimes against the person and habitation, larceny and kindred offenses, attempt and conspiracy rules, the defenses to criminal charges and the procedural rights of the accused.

Criminal Procedure (LAW 630) 3 Units

This course studies criminal procedure in general, with substantial emphasis on recent Supreme Court decisions affecting the procedural rights of the accused; criminal trial practice and techniques are also covered.

Evidence (LAW 634) 10 Units

This course scrutinizes and differentiates federal, California, and common law relating to relevancy, special exclusionary rules privileged communications, the hearsay rule and its exceptions, the opinion rules, authentication and the best evidence rule, impeachment and rehabilitation, presumptions and burden of proof.



The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS Continued

Introduction to Law (LAW 601) 1 Unit

This is an orientation course to help prepare the lay person for the study of law. As the first law school course, it provides the new student with an understanding of principles of law and of case analysis.

Legal Writing (LAW 604) 3 Units

This course explains how to write in a “Lawyerlike” manner and develop legal research skills. The student is guided through the process of how to write memoranda, letters, briefs and answers to law exams.

Professional Responsibility (LAW 640) 4 Units

This course is an examination of relevant codes and cases in an attempt to better understand a lawyer’s ethical obligations.

Property (LAW 623) 7 Units

This course reviews laws relating to the various types of real property interests including freehold, non-freehold estates and future interests, landlord-tenant relationships, conveyancing, and the use of land.

Remedies (LAW 646) 4 Units

This course explores laws relating to equitable remedies, including injunction and specific performance and defenses; protection against certain types of tort liability including waste, nuisance, unfair competition and the law of rescission and reformation.

Torts (LAW 612) 7 Units

This course examines laws relating to civil liability for intentional wrongs to person and property, negligence, strict liability, misrepresentation, defamation and other civil wrongs.

Uniform Commercial Code (LAW 644) 4 Units

This course covers the interpretation and application of the Uniform Commercial Code; the law relating to contract formation, enforcement, and breach when there is a transaction in goods, including buyers and sellers remedies as well as

5 the law of warranty.

Wills & Trusts (LAW 620) 4 Units

This course analyzes the law relating to the creation of wills and trusts, creation of the trust relationship, charitable trusts, resulting and constructive trusts, the powers and duties of the trustee, alteration and termination of the trust, probate of wills and administration of estates.

ADVANCED COURSES

The courses listed below as “Advanced” courses, may only be taken by transfer students. We have found that some law schools do not teach all of the law that may be tested on the California General Bar Examination. For example, the California Bar Examination can test California Evidence and California Civil Procedure. Many law schools only teach the federal law in these areas. The Advanced Courses will be individually designed for a transfer student that needs to fill a gap in the student’s knowledge.

Advanced Civil Procedure (LAW 669) 3 Units

This course offers the student the opportunity to conduct advanced study and research in the areas of jurisdiction and venue; sufficiency of the complaint, answers, counterclaims and cross complaints, joinder of parties and causes of action and motions before, during and after trial.

Advanced Constitutional Law (LAW 663) 3 Units

This course offers the student the opportunity to conduct advanced study and research in the areas of privacy, free speech, equal protection, and states’ rights.

Advanced Contracts (LAW 664) 3 Units

This course offers the student the opportunity to conduct advanced study and research in the areas of the Parole Evidence Rule, third-party rights, performance and breach, and remedies.

Advanced Criminal Law (LAW 665) 3 Units

This course offers the student the opportunity to conduct advanced study and research in the areas of the Model Penal Code, collateral defenses, inchoate crimes, and constitutional limitations on punishment.



■ The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

ADVANCED COURSES CONTINUED

Advanced Criminal Procedure (LAW 667) 3 Units

This course offers the student the opportunity to conduct advanced study and research in the areas of the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments to the Constitution.

Advanced Evidence (LAW 668) 3 Units

This course offers the student the opportunity to conduct advanced study and research in the areas of privileges, hearsay and relevancy and the reasons for excluding relevant evidence.

Advanced Property (LAW 673) 3 Units

This course offers the student the opportunity to conduct advanced study and research in the areas of rights in water, acquisition by adverse possession, possessory estates, and future interests.

Advanced Torts (LAW 670) 3 Units

This course offers the student the opportunity to conduct advanced study and research in the areas of negligence, products liability, defamation and wrongful invasion of privacy.

ELECTIVE COURSES

(Not all elective courses are offered in every year.)

Administrative Law (LAW 651) 3 Units

This course is an examination of the law relating to governmental agencies, with emphasis on federal regulation. The course deals with issues such as the due process right to a hearing, adjudication, rule-making, freedom of information, secret lobbying, control of discretion, judicial review and regulatory reform.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (LAW 674) 3 Units

This course focuses on the options that parties may have to settle a dispute without going to trial. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has become a mandatory step in many judicial districts before a matter may proceed to trial. In particular, the course examines the processes of Negotiation, Mediation, and Arbitration.

Appellate Advocacy (LAW 682) 3 Units

This course explores the many stages of taking a case up on appeal. You will identify mistakes that the trial court has made, prepare an appellate brief, and ultimately argue the case before an appellate Judge.

Directed Legal Studies (LAW 650) 1-6 Units

This course consists of an independent research project written under the supervision of a law school faculty member. Subjects may vary dependent on the nature and interest of the student and requires the approval of the Dean or Associate Dean.

Health Care Law (LAW 675) 3 Units

This course provides the student with the necessary background on a wide variety of health care topics, enabling professionals to deal with the common legal and practical problems facing the health care industry.



The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

Intellectual Property (LAW 658) 3 Units

This course covers the protection of intellectual property and encouragement of creativity. Explores copyright, trademarks, trade secrets, patents, unfair competition, and selected state law theories. It provides students with a general working knowledge of the various intellectual property doctrines.

Labor/Employment Law (LAW 672) 3 Units

This course examines the historical foundation for labor laws and the creation of the labor movement while focusing on the workplace of today. The laws and regulations that govern the employment relationships, particularly those related to wages, hours, benefits and conditions are focused upon. The distinctions between public and private employers are also reviewed.

Management of a Law Practice (LAW 683) 3 Units

This course presents a comprehensive analysis of the concepts of management applicable to the legal profession.

Sports Law (LAW 671) 3 Units

This course reviews the broad spectrum of issues related to the world of sports. The course will examine such diverse issues as the power of the sports commissioner, labor negotiations, the role of the sports agent, professionalism vs. amateurism, injuries, and gender equity.

Trial Advocacy (LAW 685) 3 Units

This course examines many aspects of civil litigation. You will start the course by preparing a complaint and then carry that action through discovery to trial where you will prepare opening and closing statements.

INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES AND METHODS

Shortly after enrollment, students are provided with login information which allows them to access the electronic course syllabi, a list of required and recommended course materials as well as the official *Student Handbook* for the Program.

First-year students may commence formal study in the months of January, May, or September. Second and third-year students may commence study in June or October. Fourth-year students may commence study in June or December.

Each academic year consists of 44 or 45 weekly lesson assignments plus a three- or four-week review period. At least one final examination must be completed after the last day of the 48th week and all final exams must be completed by the last day of the 52nd week. The majority of these assignments contain research/writing projects or quizzes which are submitted electronically and evaluated by faculty. Students also benefit from examinations throughout the academic year.

Our faculty believes that regular and substantive interaction with students is an important element of the learning experience. Therefore, through electronic message boards, email or by telephonic means, faculty is regularly available throughout the academic year. The learning modality also allows, but does not require, students to communicate directly with each other.

The Program also offers optional real-time *Electronic Classroom* sessions. However, all required assignments are completed asynchronously. (Students are not required to login at a specific time.)



Taft Law School

The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

ADMISSION TO
PRACTICE IN A
STATE OTHER
THAN CALIFORNIA
Concluded

The *Program* utilizes materials available at virtually every elite law school in the United States. In addition to casebooks, of equal importance are treatises, outlines, and audio/video lectures, and other study aids. Simple “busy work” found in many programs is eliminated. Students, with the advice of faculty, are encouraged to emphasize the study methods they find most beneficial.

Certain assignments require the use of the LEXIS® online library. (Students have access to LEXIS® through the Internet with no hourly usage charges.) This library, which includes online tutorials, can be accessed through a personal computer from any location that has Internet access. The service contains major archives of United States federal and state case law, continuously updated statutes of all 50 states, state and federal regulations, administrative rulings, law review articles, and numerous other legal resources.

As a general rule, midterm and final examinations constitute 60% of a course grade. The electronic assignments and class participation make up the other 40%. For most courses, final examinations consist of essay and multiple-choice questions patterned after prior California Bar Examination questions.

ADMISSION TO PRACTICE IN A STATE OTHER THAN CALIFORNIA

Most states require graduation from a law school approved by the American Bar Association or approved or accredited by that state’s Supreme Court or examining committee as a prerequisite to taking the bar examination in that state. The School has not previously sought approval from the American Bar Association and has no plans to seek such approval in the future.

California is the only state which will accept graduation from a distance education law school as the qualifying standard for admission to their bar examination. However, some states will permit graduates from non-ABA schools to sit for their bar examination after a California attorney has practiced for a period of time (generally five years). Applicants who intend to seek admission in a state other than California should consult the admitting authority in that state to determine if study at this school will be accepted.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The tuition for the *JDATSM Program* is \$365.00 per unit (\$8,760.00 per year for 24 semester units). **Tuition rates are “locked” for four years at the time of matriculation.** An enrolled student will be protected from future tuition increases during this period of time. Additional information on financial aid and tuition financing is set forth in the *General Catalog* and on the School’s website.

Fee Schedule

Application Fee	(non-refundable)\$35.00
Registration Fee	(non-refundable)\$75.00
Library Fees (Per Year)	\$225.00
<i>(Applies Only to Matriculating Students)</i>	
Late Payment Fee	\$25.00
Transcript Fee	\$10.00
<i>(Two Provided at No Charge)</i>	
Graduation/Diploma Fee	\$75.00



■ The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

The cost of required books and materials is not included in the tuition. The current average annual costs for these materials is approximately \$1500.00 (somewhat greater in the first year). Most books and materials may be purchased through any legal book store. However, students will always be provided with mail and/or online sources for obtaining any required materials. Taft Law School does not sell books or study aids.

HOW TO ENROLL

To apply for admission to the *Juris Doctor-Attorney TrackSM Program*, an applicant must first complete Taft Law School's *Application for Admission* form on the School's website and submit it to the Admissions Office. For regular applicants there is an application fee. Applicants seeking transfer credit for courses completed at other law schools must also provide, a transcript documenting all prior law study and pay a \$100.00 evaluation fee.

It is not necessary to submit official transcripts at the time of application. However, official transcripts must be received by the School and the Committee of Bar Examiners within 30 days of enrollment. The School can provide students with a form which may be used for this purpose.

If the applicant is accepted for admission to the *Program*, a registration fee is received by the Admissions Office, a formal enrollment agreement will be prepared and sent to the applicant for review and signature. All payments submitted for tuition and fees must be payable in U.S. dollars. Payments may be made by major credit cards (MasterCard®/ Visa®/American Express®/ Discover Card®) or personal/business checks.

1. Q. What books and other materials are utilized in the Program?

A. Taft Law School students use many of the same casebooks and outlines as students at traditional universities such as Harvard, Stanford, and other American Bar Association approved law schools. In addition, Taft students benefit from professionally prepared course outlines, law summaries, and recorded video/audio lectures.

Many courses have incorporated video lectures into the lesson assignments. Certain lectures are delivered by Taft Law School faculty while others are delivered by outstanding professors from American Bar Association accredited law schools.

2. Q. Does Taft Law School use the "case method" of study in the Program?

A. The case method, also often referred to as the Socratic Method, is a method of learning first implemented in the early 20th century by Harvard and Columbia law schools. The case method requires students examine ("brief") and discuss actual court decisions. In recent years a growing number of legal educators have expressed dissatisfaction with this model. In 2007 the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education released a report which recommended sweeping changes in how law was taught. These recommendations included de-emphasizing the case method of instruction.

While the Carnegie report questioned the value of the case method in classroom programs, our experience has shown that it has even less value in a distance learning program. Historically the greater emphasis a distance law school places on the case method, the lower the bar examination pass rate. Most Taft Law School courses utilize "casebooks," but of equal importance are treatises, outlines, recorded lectures and other study aids.



■ The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

ANSWERS TO THE
MOST FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS
Concluded

3. Q. How are grades and final examinations handled?

A. In required courses, there are no lengthy research or term papers. As a general rule, the final examination grade constitutes approximately 50% of the course grade. Final examinations, which must be proctored, consist of essay and multiple-choice questions patterned after prior California Bar Examination questions. The examinations are written and graded by faculty with years of experience in grading bar examination style questions.

4. Q. What type of preparation is advisable for the study of law?

A. Successful law students and outstanding attorneys have come from all walks of life and educational backgrounds. Consequently, Taft Law School does not prescribe a specific course of study or employment experience for admission. Any person who has the ability to learn, is well motivated, has reasonable writing skills, and possesses a logical mind has the basic tools necessary to become a successful Taft student and attorney.

5. Q. Can the JDATSM Program be completed in less than four years?

A. No. The *Program* is designed to meet the requirements of the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California. The *Program* consists of four academic years. The final examinations are taken during the 11th or 12th month of each academic year. For example, a student commencing study on July 1st of this year would take final examinations in May and June of next year.

6. Q. Can a student take more than 4 years to complete the JDATSM Program?

A. Yes. A student may take a leave of absence between academic years. However, once study has commenced, the academic year must be completed within the 48 to 52 week time period. All degree requirements must be satisfied within seven years from the date of original enrollment.

7. Q. How soon do I need to select an area of specialization?

A. A common misconception about law school is that students must specialize in particular areas of the law while pursuing the first law degree. The volume of basic material essential to professional competence and required to pass the bar examination is too great to allow specialization within the *JDATSM Program*. A major focus is to prepare students for the California Bar Examination. For attorneys wishing to specialize in particular areas of the law, the Continuing Education of the Bar and many private organizations offer hundreds of outstanding programs annually.

8. Q. What financial aid is available?

A. Student loans are available to those who qualify. Up to date information on loan alternatives can be found on the Taft Law School website. (*Financial Aid*)

In addition, special grants-in-aid are available to outstanding prospects such as graduate degree holders and certain members of professional groups such as CPA's, members of the military and law enforcement personnel. These grants are generally equal to 5% - 10% of the tuition.



■ The Juris Doctor – Attorney TrackSM Program (A Distance Education Directed Study Program)

ANSWERS TO THE
MOST FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS
Concluded

9. Q. How soon can I get started?

A. First year students may commence formal study in January, April, or September. Second and third year students may commence study in June or October. Fourth year students may commence study in June or December. To allow sufficient time to obtain books and materials and initiate the login process, all enrollments must be finalized at least five business days before formal study can commence. An enrollment can be finalized only upon the receipt by the School of a properly executed Enrollment Agreement.

10. Q. Is there ever a need to come to California?

A. Only for the bar examinations. Academic and administrative procedures are carefully designed so that students can complete all requirements for graduation entirely through distance education without unreasonably disrupting their professional or family lives. Students may elect to take final examinations at one of over 363 approved testing sites. If a testing site is not convenient to a student, procedures are in place for the student to nominate a proctor.

