



## PIJD Program Elements

**1. Program Admission and Scholarships.** Candidates may only be admitted to the PIJD program prior to the 1L year (but not thereafter). Some candidates may be eligible for Public Interest scholarships. These scholarships will be awarded at the time the candidate is presented with an offer for admission into the program. Candidates who opt out of the PIJD program will no longer be eligible for Public Interest scholarships.

Beginning at matriculation, candidates may use the designation “Public Interest Scholar.”

**2. Orientation.** Candidates are required to attend a special PIJD orientation session before the beginning of 1L year, where careers in public interest law will be explored. The PIJD orientation session is separate from the Flex and Day program orientation sessions.

**3. Mentors.** Candidates will be assigned up to two (2) attorney mentors. Candidates will generally meet with each mentor one or two times per year. At least once during the three years of law school, candidates should arrange a shadow day or other field trip experience with a mentor.

**4. Law School Advisor.** Candidates will be assigned a law school advisor, which may be either a faculty or staff member. Candidates must meet with the advisor at least once per year. The advisor will review the candidate’s progress towards graduation and the PIJD graduation requirements.

**5. Career Advisor.** Candidates will be assigned a career advisor in the Office of Career Management who has expertise in helping candidates find public interest job placements.

**6. Career and Academic Planning.** Candidates will create and maintain both a career plan and an academic plan. See Requirements for Public Interest JD Graduates for details.

**7. Experiential and Academic Learning.** Candidates will complete at least sixteen (16) units of public interest coursework, including at least three (3) semesters of experiential learning. Candidates will complete at least six (6) milestones demonstrating public interest experience.

**8. Certificates.** Certificate requirements must be completed prior to graduation. Candidates cannot earn both the PIJD certificate and another certificate. Candidates are eligible for other graduation honors and awards (such as Pro Bono Awards, Dean’s Leadership Awards, etc.) The program directors have authority to waive certificate requirements. Waivers will be granted only in exceptional cases.



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**9. Opt Outs and Termination.** The program directors may terminate a candidate's participation in the PIJD program if they believe that the program may jeopardize the candidate's completion of graduation requirements and/or bar passage. Candidates may opt out of the program at any time. A candidate who has opted out will not be eligible for re-entry into the program. A candidate who is terminated from the program or withdraws from the program may not continue to use the Public Interest Scholar designation.