

## **Juris Doctor (Law)**

This Juris Doctor program takes an innovative approach to legal education, with two years of mandatory coursework, a semester of electives and a semester devoted to a required professional placement. The focus is on the future success of the program's graduates and their future clients and employers, by providing the tools necessary to succeed in a multi-disciplinary, global, fast-paced and ever-changing society. The curriculum stresses equity and diversity issues, particularly as they relate to access to justice, and has an entrepreneurial focus in both content and approach, combining traditional academic and scholarly standards with a comprehensive practice-based focus. Technology is leveraged, both to enhance educational impact and as a substantive tool that is becoming vitally necessary to ensure future success in the legal services sphere. Finally, experiential learning in all its forms is stressed throughout the student's education.

The Law Program's innovation-focused approach will equip graduates with the real-world skills and competencies needed to meet the present and future needs of consumers of legal services. Some of the mandatory courses to be offered at the Ryerson Law School demonstrates the different approach to training between Ryerson and existing Ontario law schools: Technology Innovation Bootcamp; Financial Bootcamp; The Business of Lawyering; Social Innovation and the Law; Coding Bootcamp; Legal Innovation; IP and Privacy; Access to Justice Solutions; and Professional Placement. A set of required courses provides a grounding in issues related to access to justice and social innovation that will make the Ryerson program distinctive in terms of core curriculum. These mandatory courses include: Ryerson Law School Bootcamp; Indigenous Law in Canada; Social Innovation and the Law; Advocacy and ADR; Legal Innovation; Access to Justice Solutions; and Emotional Quotient//Cultural Quotient Bootcamp.

Ryerson's Law Program will train lawyers differently. The ten guiding principles are as follows:

1. Focus on curricular innovation  
The proposed program's curriculum will provide added value with an orientation towards practice readiness and change management.
2. A rethinking of content delivery and assessment methods  
The mode of delivery in much of the coursework will feature collaborative co-teaching between faculty and practitioners.
3. Incorporation of legal technology  
Specific technologically related trends currently operating in the legal profession will guide the curriculum: growth of AI and QLP; general counsel as legal supply chain and legal process manager; emergence of process efficiency as a competitive advantage; expanding role of start-ups; and a growing concern with access to justice and the affordability of legal services.
4. Attention to communications and relationship-building skills
5. The building of mentorship relationships
6. An alignment with existing Ryerson strengths, including law-related areas
7. An educational reach across the GTA and beyond
8. A progressive social justice-oriented emphasis
9. Incorporation of elements of the Legal Innovation Zone and the Law Practice Program
10. A commitment to uncompromising quality

Approved by Ryerson University Senate June 5, 2017

Approved to Commence COU Quality Council November 2, 2017