

In addition to full-time and part-time traditional JD courses of study, Southwestern established SCALE, **the oldest two-year JD program in the country**. A trailblazer since 1974, SCALE integrates substantive knowledge and professional skills instruction in an accelerated curriculum, a model that is just now being incorporated into curricular reforms at many other law schools in response to the call for more practical skills training in legal education.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The SCALE academic calendar differs from semester-based traditional JD programs:

- Instruction begins in **mid-June**
- The program is divided into **three parts** over the two years:

SCALE I  
(Periods 1-4)

Mandatory  
10-week  
Summer Session

SCALE II  
(Periods 5-8)

“The small class size and personalized learning in SCALE enabled me to obtain caseload experience from participating in mock trials to preparing briefs and memos to developing compelling evidentiary support. That training has really helped me in the courtroom and in the boardroom.”

– Stefanie Schaeffer '99, winner of “The Apprentice,”  
General Counsel and Director of HR, Imperial Toy



SCALE uniquely incorporates legal theory and practical skills training in a structured yet flexible 2-year JD curriculum.

## SCALE I CURRICULUM

The first year of SCALE provides students with a solid grounding in the substantive coverage typically found in first- and some second-year traditional courses, exposure to the interrelationship among legal concepts, and instruction in the development of legal writing and beginning lawyering skills. The SCALE I curriculum utilizes a variety of skills exercises in multiple courses both to teach lawyering skills and to reinforce substantive content. For example, in Evidence Law and Practice, students participate in small groups and apply recently learned rules of evidence.

SCALE students become more familiar with each other as they work together, have the benefit of feedback from numerous faculty members, and gain a deeper understanding of concepts as they develop comfort and experience in oral advocacy. SCALE I students are tested at the end of each period. Frequent testing and feedback on oral and written exercises allow for enhanced learning and academic support intervention when necessary.

## SCALE CURRICULUM

| SCALE I   |       |
|---|-------|
| Course  | Units |
| <b>PERIOD 1 (12 weeks)</b>  |       |
| Introduction to Lawyering   | n/a   |
| LAWS I <sup>1</sup>   | 3     |
| Torts   | 4     |
| Contracts I   | 3     |
| <b>Period 2 (12 weeks)</b>  |       |
| Contracts II  | 2     |
| Evidence Law and Practice I   | 3     |
| Legal Reasoning   | 2     |
| Criminal Law  | 3     |
| <b>PERIOD 3 (12 weeks)</b>  |       |
| Property  | 4     |
| Evidence Law and Practice II  | 3     |
| Civil Litigation  | 3     |
| LAWS II <sup>1</sup>  | 2     |
| <b>PERIOD 4 (10 weeks)</b>  |       |
| Criminal Procedure  | 3     |
| Copyright or Defenses in the Law <sup>2</sup>                                       | 3     |
| Jurisdiction  | 3     |
| Legal Profession  | 2     |
| Lecture Series on the Profession <sup>3</sup> (ungraded)                            | n/a   |
| <b>Summer Session (10 weeks)</b>  |       |
| Independent Study on the Profession   | 2     |
| Options:<br>Summer Elective Course(s)<br>Summer Externship<br>Summer Abroad Program | 2+    |

Learn more about the SCALE experience from the students, faculty and alumni at [www.swlaw.edu/scalestories](http://www.swlaw.edu/scalestories).

| SCALE II                       |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Course                         | Units |
| <b>PERIOD 5 (10 weeks)</b>     |       |
| Legal History                  | 2     |
| Business Associations          | 4     |
| Property Transactions Practice | 3     |
| <b>PERIOD 6 (10 weeks)</b>     |       |
| Constitutional Law I           | 3     |
| Remedies                       | 3     |
| Tort Litigation Practice       | 3     |
| Community Property             | 2     |
| <b>PERIOD 7 (10 weeks)</b>     |       |
| SCALE Intersession Course      | 1     |
| Wills and Trusts               | 4     |
| Constitutional Law II          | 3     |
| Criminal Law Practice          | 3     |
| <b>PERIOD 8 (10 weeks)</b>     |       |
| Guaranteed Externship          | 5     |
| Trial Advocacy                 | 2     |

1 Legal Analysis, Writing and Skills

2 Defenses in the Law will be an alternative to Copyright for selected students.

3 Units for the Independent Study Paper satisfy 2 units of the 4-unit Summer Session requirement and will be based on the Lecture Series on the Profession.

**Note:** The above chart represents a sample schedule. SCALE course titles and schedule subject to change.

### SCALE 2.5 YEAR PROGRAM

The SCALE Program provides a required modified curriculum to those students whose GPA (grade point average) is 2.7 or below at the end of the first year of SCALE. Under the modified curriculum, students will have fewer units during each period in their second year of SCALE and will have additional academic support courses to strengthen their skill set. Students will complete the program following an additional semester of Fall classes and will be eligible to graduate in December resulting in a 2.5 year program. No additional tuition will be charged for the modified curriculum. Any SCALE student at the end of the first year of SCALE may request to participate in the 2.5 year program.

SCALE is ideal for intellectually mature individuals who are "self-starters," who thrive under intensive study, and who enjoy working in small groups.

## SCALE II CURRICULUM

SCALE II focuses on more advanced substantive courses and transactions similar to those conducted by attorneys. Through a “hands-on” approach, students build on concepts learned during the first year and are able to acquire and practice additional lawyering skills. SCALE II courses cover skills such as interviewing, counseling and negotiation; preparation of a client opinion letter, evidentiary motions and other legal memoranda; trial preparation and conducting a trial.

Externships also provide an opportunity for students to utilize lawyering skills introduced in the SCALE program as well as a rich opportunity for networking, career exploration, and further professional development. Students have two opportunities to participate in an externship, first during the mandatory Summer Session where students may participate in an externship in government, public interest, judicial or in-house legal departments, and then during Period 8 of SCALE II where students participate in a guaranteed externship which may include, in addition to the summer options, a private firm placement. SCALE offers a wide range of externship placements such as the U.S. District Court, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, the District Attorney’s Office, State and Federal Public Defender’s Offices, various public interest venues, private firms and entertainment studios.

## SCALE MANDATORY SUMMER SESSION

During the Summer Session, SCALE students choose from several options and are also required to write a paper on the lecture series:

- Participation in an externship
- Enrollment in one or two summer school electives
- Participation in a summer abroad program
- Paid or volunteer work with a professor as a research assistant



“In SCALE II, I developed the skills necessary to apply the material learned in law school to real-world settings. This proved immensely helpful in my externship and my judicial clerkship.”

– Stephen Sullivan '06, Counsel, O'Melveny & Myers and Former Judicial Clerk, Nevada Supreme Court

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Through the SCALE program, students have unique opportunities including:

- Courses arranged into shorter, focused segments
- Smaller class size fostering a close student community
- A “mini” focus area selected during the Summer Session, additional electives and externship placements (e.g., in entertainment, international, criminal or public interest law)
- A guaranteed full-time externship
- Eligibility to apply for positions in Southwestern’s honors programs- Moot Court, Negotiation and Trial Advocacy honors programs; and Law Review or Law Journal (approximately 25-40% of SCALE students participate in honors programs)
- A network of more than 1,000 SCALE graduates who currently practice in more than 40 states and internationally
- A legacy of prominent alumni including 20+ judicial officers; partners in major law firms; entertainment and media executives; federal, state and local prosecutors; general counsels; and elected officials
- JD completed in two years



From the outset, SCALE students develop essential lawyering skills such as oral and written communication, fact-gathering, case planning, counseling, negotiating, litigating and interpersonal relations.

## SCALE STUDENT COMMUNITY

There is tremendous cohesiveness among SCALE students fostered by:

- small class cohort for the full two-year program
- small group projects
- study groups
- SCALE student/alumni networking receptions and presentations

In recent years, SCALE incoming classes have varied in size from about 35 to 60 students; the average age is 28, with a range from 20 to over 50; and the class is made up of a relatively equal percentage of men and women. Approximately 20 percent of the incoming students enter SCALE directly from college, and it is not uncommon for entering SCALE students to have graduate degrees in a variety of disciplines.

A typical class includes graduates of more than 30 undergraduate institutions around the country and is diversified in areas of interest,

foreign languages spoken and work experience. Students in recent classes have included a research scientist from the Mayo Clinic, a patent agent and former director of intellectual property, a former U.N. Human Rights activist, an assistant to a U.S. congresswoman and a Tony Award winning performer.

Because of the unique curriculum and accelerated pace of the program, every SCALE applicant must engage in a personal interview to determine if the SCALE Program is the right fit.

“SCALE made me a creative lawyer. Because of the way I was taught, I am able to find things that others may not readily see. I’m a real cheerleader for Southwestern because as a student, I saw a way of teaching that truly made a difference in the way I practice law.”



– Barry Groveman '77, partner, Musick, Peeler & Garrett

### 3-YEAR SCALE JD/MBA

For SCALE students interested in business and management, an accelerated **3-year concurrent JD/MBA degree program** is offered in partnership with The Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management, part of Claremont Graduate University and one of the top management graduate schools in the country. This new program is one of only a few nationwide and the first on the West Coast to offer students the opportunity to earn both degrees in just three years.



Students in the SCALE JD/MBA program spend their first year at Southwestern, their second year at The Drucker School, and their third year taking courses from both schools. The course requirements of the two degrees are satisfied by units that are cross applied and by specially designed externships and joint courses that incorporate classroom instruction in law and management with hands-on skills training.

During the summers of both the first and second years of the program, students have significant flexibility in tailoring their curriculum to their individual interests through elective courses, externships or summer abroad programs.

[www.swlaw.edu/drucker](http://www.swlaw.edu/drucker)

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