

J.D. Advantage Careers

A Guide to What They Are and How to Find Them

What's In This Guide

- Overview and Employment Statistics
- Types of Jobs and Skills
- Timelines and How to Spend Your Summers
- Finding Networking Contacts and J.D. Advantage Employers
- Additional Resources

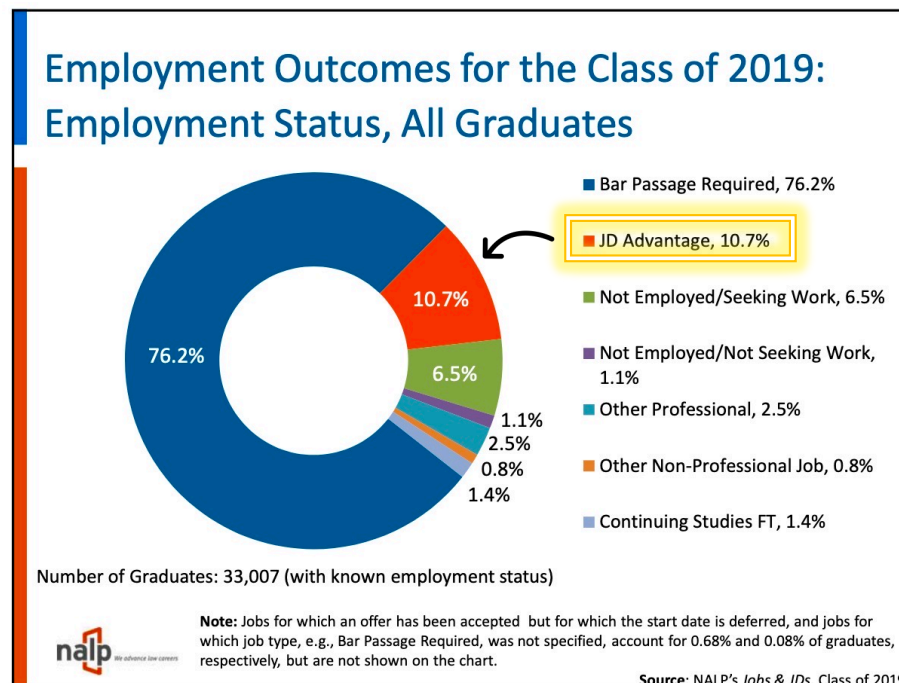
Overview

J.D. Advantage careers are best defined as jobs for which legal training is not required, but the J.D. does make you a more competitive candidate and enhance your ability to perform the role at a high level.

These roles do not necessarily require bar licensure, though bar licensure may be a plus for some employers.

Employment Statistics

Nationally, a sizeable number of graduates are employed in J.D. Advantage jobs.



Types of J.D. Advantage Jobs

This is not an all-inclusive list!

- Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Management
- Contract, Vendor, and Procurement Management
- Consulting
- Cyber Security and Data Privacy
- Education
- Financial Services
- Government Relations, Policy, and Public Affairs
- Legal Operations, Innovation, and Technology
- Nonprofit Management and Administration

J.D. Advantage Job Skills

Law school provides specialized training, but it also ensures you acquire a balanced set of transferable, general skills that employers are seeking.

- Effectively **identify problems**
- **Analyze** arguments and issues, **evaluate** effective and realistic approaches to problems, and **formulate** conclusions and advice
- **Develop creative and innovative approaches** to problems
- **Advise clients** and develop relationships to address client needs
- **Research** to identify issues and derive solutions
- **Orally communicate** issues in an articulate manner consistent with the issue and audience being addressed
- **Draft** clearly, efficiently, and persuasively
- **Listen actively** to understand what is being said both directly and indirectly
- **Persuade** others of position and win support
- **Ask relevant questions** to obtain needed information
- **Negotiate** to resolve disputes
- **Plan and strategize** to address goals
- **Present** complex material to business leadership
- **Analyze and assess** appropriate risk mitigation
- **Maintain core knowledge** of the substantive area
- **Prevent or manage conflict***

Timelines

1L Year

- Start researching and networking to begin understanding different types of J.D. Advantage careers.
- Search for summer roles that will help you build a broad set of transferable skills.
- Begin to understand yourself, and what types of jobs combine your interests and strengths.

2L Year

- Network with alumni currently working in J.D. Advantage jobs, begin to narrow your career paths of interest, and understand the best geographical locations for the career areas you are exploring.
- Hone in on 3-4 career areas of interest, and make sure to consider the type of environment you want to be in, not just the kind of work you want to do.
- Search for summer roles where you can build practical skills.

3L Year

- Continue networking, and begin applying to positions (likely in the spring) that combine your strengths with what you love to do.

How to Spend Your Summers

- You do not need to spend your summer in a J.D. Advantage position to be competitive when applying for those roles after graduation.
- It may make sense to focus on a particular environment (higher education, working at a business, etc.), but that isn't a requirement.
- J.D. Advantage positions are skills-based, so focus on developing the skill set that will transfer over to the fields you're interested in.

Finding Networking Contacts

Speak with your career advisor about how best to use these tools and contact alumni.

- LinkedIn
- UR Online: The University of Richmond Online Alumni Portal

J.D. Advantage Employers

The following is a sample of J.D. Advantage Employers with a Richmond Law Alumni Presence:

- Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
- Markel
- McKesson
- WayForth
- Allianz Partners
- CapCenter
- Dominion Energy
- Truist
- United States Postal Service
- Wells Fargo
- Capital One
- Genworth
- Altria
- West Creek
- Davidson College
- Cresco Labs
- Atlantic Union Bank
- Department of Defense
- FBI
- Anthem
- CarLotz
- North Carolina Department of Information Technology
- Facebook
- Navy Federal Credit Union
- Subaru of America
- USAA
- FoxGuard Solutions
- CrowdStrike
- Consilio
- Credit Suisse
- PenFed Credit Union
- Palladium Investment Advisors
- Wealth Forge
- Simpler Trading
- The Salvation Army
- Voices for Virginia's Children
- NORML
- Oracle Utilities
- Capital Results
- Congressional House and Senate Committees
- Humana
- Association of American Publishers
- Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- North Carolina State University
- McGuire Woods Consulting
- Americans for the Arts
- AT&T
- Ameriprise Financial
- American Express
- Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
- CarMax
- Amazon
- Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Paypal
- Walmart
- Freddie Mac
- Call Federal Credit Union
- WestRock
- California Department of Technology
- Several State & Federal Employers



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Additional Resources

General Resources

- [The Career Development Office's Student Portal for J.D. Advantage and Emerging Careers](#)
- [The Career Development Office's blog post, *Alumni Advice on Starting Your J.D. Advantage Career*](#) (July 8, 2021)
- [*Change of Plans*, Richmond Law Magazine](#) (July 16, 2021)
- [NALP, *JD Advantage Career Guide*](#) (Spring Edition 2020)
- [NALP, Advice and Testimonials from Law Graduates Who Chose Not to Practice Law](#)
- [The ABA's Student Lawyer Blog Posts on the Topic of "Alternative Careers"](#)
- [The ABA's Career Center Posts on the Topic of "Alternative Careers"](#)
- [21st Century Legal Careers Series](#) – physical copies available at the CDO
- [The Career Development Office's Panel on Alternative Career Paths](#) - video
- [O*Net Online](#)
- [Law School Toolbox, *Emerging Legal Careers: The Ever Expanding JD Advantage Market*](#) (February 13, 2019)
- [NALP, Handling Tough Interview Issues](#)

Career Area Specific Resources

- The [Career Development Office's Student Portal for J.D. Advantage and Emerging Careers](#) includes one-page resource guides for a variety of career areas, including information on where to look for internships and full-time jobs
- [The Richmond Law and Business Forum](#)
- [The Richmond Legal Business Design Hub](#)



Contact your career advisor or the CDO to learn more

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