Cornell Law School Grading Policy for JD Students
Faculty grading policy calls upon each faculty member to grade a course, including problem courses and seminars, so that the mean grade for JD students in the course approximates 3.35 (the acceptable variation can range between 3.2 and 3.5). This policy is subject only to very limited exceptions.

Class Rank
As a matter of faculty policy we do not release the academic rankings of our students. Interested individuals, including employers, have access to the top 10% approximate cumulative grade point cut off for the most recent semester of completion. In addition, on October 1 of the students third semester, and subsequent semesters thereafter, the top 5% approximate cumulative grade point average is also available. Additionally, on October 1 of the third semester, and subsequently thereafter, the top five students in the Class are ranked and are notified of their rank.

Class of 2014 [six semesters]:
5% - 3.8740; 10% - 3.7972
Class of 2015 [four semesters]:
5% - 3.8360; 10% - 3.7700
Class of 2016 [two semesters]:
10% - 3.7721

Dean’s List
Each semester all students whose semester grade point average places them in the top 30% of their class are awarded Dean’s List status. Students are notified of this honor by a letter from the Dean of Students and a notation on their official and unofficial transcripts.

Charles Evans Hughes Scholars: This honor recognizes students whose cumulative MPR places them in the top 30 percent of their class at the completion of their second year of law school. Students are notified of this honor by a letter from the Dean of Students.

Academic Honors at Graduation
The faculty awards academic honors at graduation as follows: The faculty awards the J.D. degree summa cum laude by special vote in cases of exceptional performance. The school awards the J.D. degree magna cum laude to students who rank in the top 10% of the graduating class. Students who rank in the top 30% of the class receive the J.D. degree cum laude unless they are receiving another honors degree. For the graduating Class of 2014, the gpa cut off for magna cum laude was 3.7972 and for cum laude was 3.6182. Recipients are notified by a letter from the Dean of Students and a notation on their official and unofficial transcripts.

The Order of the Coif is granted to those who rank in the top 10% of the graduating class. To be eligible for consideration for the Order of the Coif, a graduate must take 63 graded credits. (The Order of the Coif is a National Organization that sets its own rules.)