

# LAW/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION - JOINT DEGREE (JD/MPA)

Offered jointly with the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences' School of Public Service, the JD+Masters in Public Administration (MPA) promotes effective management of government agencies and fosters development of sound public policies affecting the delivery of social services. The MPA program balances theoretical and applied approaches to contemporary challenges of administration and policy analysis, and offers courses such as ethical leadership and government financial administration. Following the tradition of St. Vincent de Paul, the Public Administration program devotes special attention to policies and practices that promote social equity through delivery of affordable, quality services to those in greatest need.

Traditional JD students must complete 86 credit hours to graduate from the College of Law. However, under a joint degree program, a student earns the JD degree after completing a minimum of 76 credit hours. The College of Law applies up to 10 credit hours toward the JD degree for work completed in the other graduate degree program. Traditional Public Administration students must complete 52 credit hours to receive the MPA degree. However, under the joint degree program, students are required to complete a minimum of 36 credit hours. The Public Administration program will accept up to 16 credit hours for work completed in the College of Law. A joint degree student may not receive credit for courses that create a redundancy in coursework.

Students pursuing the JD+MPA will complete the core requirements of the MPA degree and not pursue a concentration. Please visit the Public Administration catalog for complete program information.

Program Requirements	Semester Hours
JD Requirements	76
<b>Total hours required</b>	<b>76</b>

  

Program Requirements	Quarter Hours
MPA Requirements	36
<b>Total hours required</b>	<b>36</b>

## Learning Outcomes

JD Students will be able to:

- Solve legal problems by applying foundational knowledge of civil procedure, constitutional law, contracts, criminal law, property law, and torts.
- Solve legal problems by applying foundational knowledge of the rules regulating the legal profession.
- Identify and apply relevant legal authority.
- Communicate clearly in speech and writing.
- Demonstrate the fundamental professional lawyering skills for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of cross-cultural competence in the legal profession and the obligation of lawyers to promote a justice system that provides equal access and eliminates

bias and all forms of invidious discrimination, including racism, in the law.

Master of Public Administration Students will be able to:

- Apply leadership and organizational management skills and concepts in an ethical manner amidst an ever-changing public sector.
- Analyze and interact with governance structures, jurisdictional boundaries and the public policy and implementation processes.
- Analyze and synthesize data regarding an existing public affairs issue and use empirical analysis to prepare solutions for informed, decision-making in the public sector using critical thinking.
- Articulate in written or oral forms a commitment to ethical service to all people with a focus on social justice, professionalism, efficiency, cultural sensitivity, and transparency.
- Integrate the social justice lens in delivery of services and programs to a diverse public and workforce.

## Degree Requirements

A joint degree program allows a student to complete two graduate degrees concurrently in less time than it takes to finish each program individually. As a specified number of credit hours apply toward both degrees, students also pay less in overall tuition by combining programs.

Before beginning a joint degree program, both full-time and part-time law students must complete the required first-year curriculum and achieve a minimum grade point average of 3.00 in those courses. Full-time students earn 29 credits the first year, while part-time students must earn at least 29 credits within the first three semesters of the law program.

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## Admission

Students seeking a joint degree with a college outside of the College of Law must independently apply and be admitted to the other graduate degree program. Full-time law students typically apply to the other graduate program in the summer prior to their second year of law school. Part-time law students typically apply to the other graduate degree program in the spring semester of their second year.

After admission to the other graduate program, joint degree applicants should submit a copy of the acceptance letter and law school transcript to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at the College of Law. The transcript and acceptance letter should be accompanied by a cover letter from the student requesting that the student's program be changed from Juris Doctor to the appropriate joint degree program. The letter should include the student's full name, student identification number, mailing address, email address and phone number. The joint degree candidate should also schedule a meeting with the appropriate adviser in

the other college to which the student has been admitted to discuss the curriculum.

## **Combined Credits and Expenses**

Full-time joint degree students generally complete the program in four years. Part-time applicants generally complete the joint degree program in five years. A student may accelerate the program by taking classes in the summer or by taking more courses during the academic year. By doing so, a student may complete both programs one-half year earlier.

Once enrolled in a joint degree program, students no longer pay the College of Law package tuition; instead, students pay by the credit hour for law classes and classes taken in the other program.

## **Grading Standards**

Joint degree students must meet the grading standards of the College of Law and the respective graduate degree program in order to remain in good standing. Grades are recorded on the transcript under the college in which the courses are taken, and the combined degree is recorded after graduation. Students who are dismissed from either program may be able to continue studies in the other program. Students must satisfy the normal program requirements of the other school to receive the degree; no double counting of credits is permitted after a dismissal from one college.

## **Leaves of Absence/Withdrawal**

Students must receive permission from both colleges to take a leave of absence from the joint degree program or to withdraw from the joint degree program. A leave of absence is granted for a maximum of one year. If a student does not enroll in classes after one year, he or she will be permanently withdrawn from both programs and only may re-enroll by applying to the admission offices of both colleges as a new student.

## **Graduation**

To receive the joint degree, a student must graduate from both schools on the same date, in the same semester/quarter and in the same year. Double counting of credits occurs only after concurrent completion of both programs.

For a December graduation, all requirements must be completed at the end of the fall semester and fall quarter. For a spring graduation, all non-law requirements must be completed at the end of the spring quarter and all law requirements at the end of the spring semester. Students who complete non-law requirements in the spring that they expect to graduate may not have their degrees granted in time to be certified for the July bar exam. A student will not be eligible to graduate, cannot be certified for admission to the Bar, and cannot sit for bar examinations until all degree requirements are met and degrees conferred.