INFORMATION FOR JOINT DEGREE CANDIDATES

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

For J.D. candidates, the Law School offers joint degree programs with five other GW divisions:

**School of Business**
- JD/MBA (57 credits, up to 12 cross credits allowed from MBA to JD and 14 cross credits allowed from JD to MBA)

**Columbian College of Arts and Sciences**
- JD/MA (36 credits, up to 12 cross credits from MA to JD and 6 cross credits allowed from JD to MA)
- Three Areas of Study:
  - American Legal History;
  - Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (Liberal Arts);
  - Public Policy (concentration in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies).

**The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration**
- JD/Master of Public Administration (MPA) (40 credits)
- JD/Master of Public Policy (MPP) (40 credits)

**Elliott School of International Affairs**
- JD/MA (40 credits, up to 12 cross credits to and from each program)
- Ten Areas of Study: Asian Studies; European and Eurasian Studies; Global Communication; International Affairs; International Development; International Trade and Investment Policy; International Science Technology and Policy; Latin American & Hemispheric Studies; Middle Eastern Studies; and Security Policy Studies.

**Graduate School of Education and Human Development**
- JD/MA (36 credits, up to 12 cross credits to and from each program)
- Two Areas of Study:
  - Education and Human Development in the field of Education Policy Studies
  - Higher Education Administration

**Milken Institute School of Public Health**
- JD/MPH (45 credits, up to 8 cross credits allowed from JD to MPH, up to 12 MPH credits allowed to JD)
- JD/Public Health Certificate (18 credits, 6 credits to and from each program)

**JOINT DEGREE STATUS**

Students must be admitted separately to both the Law School and to the school that will confer the master’s degree. Each school must approve a student’s application to pursue a joint degree program. Once admitted to the law school, the first year of study must be devoted exclusively to the first year law curriculum. Students can normally complete the two degrees in four years of full-time study.
CREDITS

After the first year of law study, the Law School will allow joint degree students to count a maximum of 12 credit hours of course work completed in a master’s program toward completion of the 84 credit hours required for the law degree of which 67 law credits must be for a letter grade. The grade of Credit (CR) or No Credit (NC) will be recorded on the Law School transcript for each master’s program course and a student must receive a grade of at least B- to receive a grade of Credit. Grades of Credit resulting from courses taken in other master’s programs will count toward the total of 17 credit hours under the Credit/No Credit option allowed after completing the first year of law school. (Note students transferring into the GW Law program are limited to a maximum of 8 Credit/No Credits.) Under American Bar Association guidelines, law students receive 1 credit hour for each 700 minutes of scheduled class time in a semester; therefore, a law student may in some cases earn only 2 credits for a course offered by another graduate program at the University for 3 credits.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The joint degrees must be conferred simultaneously and only after all requirements for both degrees have been met. The Records Office in consultation with the Dean of Students Office will transfer up to 12 credits to the Law School transcript in the final month before graduation. It is the responsibility of each joint degree student to ensure that grades from the final semester or summer of study are transferred to the Law School for credit to be cleared for graduation. Capstone projects, language requirements, and/or any other requirements must be fully met before the law degree will be conferred. Eligibility to sit for a state bar exam is usually contingent on completing the law degree, which will only occur when the master's degree requirements have also been fulfilled.

REGISTRATION GUIDANCE

With the exception of the MBA program, which requires one year of exclusive residency and enrollment, joint degree students may enroll in a combination of law and master’s level courses each semester after the first year of law study is complete. Students must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits to be full-time, and a maximum of 15 credits. Any combination of law and master’s level credits is acceptable. Joint degree students may be part-time (less than 12 total credits). The Law School tuition rates govern, unless a joint degree student is enrolled exclusively in master’s program courses. In such semesters or summer sessions when a student is enrolled solely in the other school, that master’s program rate will apply.

CAREER PLANNING GUIDANCE

For advice and additional information on how pursuing a joint degree relates to career planning, please contact the Office of Professional Development and Career Strategy at 202-994-7340 to schedule an appointment with one of the career counselors.

FINANCING THE JOINT DEGREE

As a rule, law students are eligible to apply for three years of financing through law school funds, four years if a student is enrolled in the part-time program. Students interested in pursuing the joint degree are advised to meet with a representative of the Law School Office of Financial Aid as well as representative of the Financial Aid Office at the other school for specific guidance on funding available to joint degree students whose enrollment will exceed the established matriculation periods.

Please consult the Law School or Master’s Program web page for more joint degree information and schedule an appointment with a counselor in the master’s program in which you have interest.

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