



## **School of Law and School of Public Policy JD/MPP Joint Degree Program Law & Public Policy Studies**

The JD/MPP Joint Degree Program in Law and Public Policy provides students with an opportunity to master the fundamentals of legal and policy analysis. It provides students with full legal training and a solid understanding of public policy, preparing them for careers in legal academia, government and policymaking.

Upon completion of the graduation requirements of both schools, students of the joint degree program will receive both a JD from the School of Law and an MPP from the School of Public Policy. Both degrees can be achieved on a full-time basis in approximately four years, instead of the five years that would be required if each degree were pursued sequentially.

Students interested in pursuing the joint degree should begin their studies in the School of Law. The program expects students to complete either the first-year or first-year and a half required coursework in the School of Law and apply to the joint program either in the spring of the first year or fall of the second year. If admitted to the joint degree program, students will spend either the entire second year or the spring of the second year and the fall of the third year pursuing the MPP in the School of Public Policy, and the third or remaining third and fourth years completing the JD plus any remaining MPP coursework.

### **Basic Requirements for the JD**

Joint degree students admitted to the School of Law must earn a minimum of 80 credits toward the JD. Joint degree students entering the School of Law must complete all 40 credits of the required law curriculum (see accompanying table). Forty additional law credits are required in upper division coursework in order to complete the JD. Students must fulfill the upper-level writing requirement within these forty additional law credits.

### **Basic Requirements for the MPP**

The MPP requires a total of 36\* credit hours. Joint degree students must complete all 27 credits of the required curriculum (see accompanying table). Nine additional policy credits are required in upper division coursework in order to complete the MPP. Any student entering the program without relevant work experience will also be expected to complete a three credit policy related internship.

School of Law Original Curriculum Required Courses	Credit Hours	School of Public Policy Original Curriculum Required Courses	Credit Hours
Introduction to Legal Research, Writing & Analysis (LRWA)	2	PUBP 700 Theory and Practice in Public Policy	3
Contracts I	2	PUBP 502 Governance and Policy Processes	4
Torts	4	PUBP 503 Culture, Organization, and Technology	4
Property	4	PUBP 704 Stat Methods in Policy Analysis	3
Economic Foundations of Legal Studies	3	ITRN 503 Investment and Macroeconomics	4
Civil Procedure	4	PUBP 720 Managerial Econ & Policy Analysis	3
The Founders' Constitution	2	PUBP 741 U.S. Financial Policy	3
Introduction to LRWA II	3	Advanced Methods (705, 711, 712, or 713)	3
Contracts II	3		
Criminal Law	3		
Appellate Writing	2		
Constitutional Law I	4		
Legal Drafting	2		
Professional Responsibility	2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>
Electives	49	Electives	12
		Professional Experience	3*
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Joint Program New Combined Total = 116 Credit Hours</b>			
<b>Required Coursework</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Required Coursework</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Electives</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Law</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>Total Public Policy</b>	<b>36* or 39*</b>
<b>New Combined Total</b>		<b>116</b>	<b>New Combined Total</b>

### Additional Requirements

Applicants should apply to the joint degree program in either the spring of their first year of law school or the fall of their second year of law school. Applications will consist of the Joint JD/MPP Degree Supplemental Admissions Form, a current resume, and a 500-word statement addressing why the applicant would like to pursue the joint degree. Applications should be sent to the School of Law Admissions Office by June 1 for a fall start in the MPP program or by December 1 for a spring start in the MPP program. Applicants may not receive a decision on their application until the grades for the semester of application have been posted. Joint degree applicants must qualify for admission in the respective programs according to the standards independently established by the School of Law and the School of Public Policy. Those who have already earned either the JD or the MPP are not eligible for the combined degree program.

Upon admission to the joint degree program, students will pay tuition at the School of Public Policy rate for two semesters beginning with the semester in which they enter the Public Policy program and will pay tuition at the School of Law rate for all other work in the law or joint degree program – even

if the student is taking additional classes in the School of Public Policy during the time of that work.

Students will have five years from matriculation in the School of Law to complete the JD requirements and six years from matriculation in SPP to complete the MPP requirements. At the beginning of the final year of study, the Combined Degree Electives Reduction Form must be submitted by the student for approval from both schools, as the joint degree program reduces the total number of credit hours needed for graduation from 131 (89 law, 42 public policy) to 116 (80 law, 36\* public policy).

Students in the joint degree program will not receive a cumulative GPA, but instead will have two separate transcripts maintained by the separate departments. If a student decides at any point to abandon the joint degree program and pursue one degree or the other, the credit reduction will not remain and students will be expected to complete the entire credit load to receive the degree (89 hours for the JD and 42 hours for the MPP).

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Law School admissions information:**

Alison Price, Associate Dean and Director of Admissions  
George Mason School of Law  
Admissions Office  
3301 Fairfax Drive – MS 1G3  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-993-8010  
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#### **School of Public Policy admission/registration information:**

Tennille Haegele, Director of Graduate Admissions  
School of Public Policy, Graduate Admissions  
3401 Fairfax Drive - MS 3B1  
Arlington, Virginia 22201  
703-993-8099  
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Web Site: [policy.gmu.edu](http://policy.gmu.edu)

\*Students who do not meet the professional work experience requirement of the School of Public Policy will be expected to complete a 3 credit internship that does not count towards the 36 credit degree completion total.