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 Policy, Government and International Relations (SPGIA). 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 the first-year or first-year and a half required coursework in the School of Law and apply to the joint program 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 SPGIA, 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 33* credit hours. Joint degree students must complete all 21 credits of the required curriculum (see following table). Twelve 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 be expected to complete a policy related internship.
Additional Requirements:
Applicants should apply to the joint degree program in either the spring of their first year 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 after spring law class grades 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 SPGIA. 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 SPGIA rate for two semesters beginning with the semester in which they enter the SPGIA program. Students will pay tuition at the School of Law rate for their first, for all other work in the law or joint degree program - even if the student is taking additional classes in SPGIA 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 SPGIA 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 128 (89 law, 39 public policy) to 113 (80 law, 33* 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 39 hours for the MPP).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Law School admissions information:
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*Students that do not meet the professional work experience requirement of the School of Policy, Government and International Affairs will be expected to complete a 3 credit internship that does not count towards the 33 credit degree completion total.