

JURIS DOCTOR/MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

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Students interested in earning both a Juris Doctor (JD) and a Master of Social Work (MSW) may earn both degrees on an accelerated basis by enrolling in the Dual-Degree JD/MSW program.

The two degree programs, if completed separately, require 146 credits – 86 for the JD and 60 for the MSW. Students in the dual-degree program are required to complete only 131 total credits.

Dual-degree students earn:

1. The JD with 77 law credits and 9 social work credits (from courses approved in advance by the associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Law); and the
2. MSW with 54 social work credits and 6 law credits (from courses approved by the director of the MSW program).

The two programs, which require five years of study if taken separately, can be completed in 4½ years or in 4 calendar years (if 11 law credits are earned during summer semesters).

Students must apply and be accepted separately to each program. Ideally, students would apply to both programs before starting either degree, but a student enrolled in either program could, during the first year (and possibly later), apply for and be accepted to the other program. Upon admission to the dual-degree program, the enrolled student must meet with the director of the MSW program and the law school associate dean for academic affairs.

Students may begin their study in either the MSW or JD program but must complete the first year in each program before any advanced courses can be taken in that program. Students will obtain each degree upon completion of all graduate requirements for that degree.

Dual-Degree JD/MSW Program of Study

The curriculum for the professional courses in the program are subject to modification as deemed necessary to maintain a high-quality educational experience and keep current with best practices in the profession.

Scheduling Options: Beginning with the MSW

MSW Generalist Curriculum (30 credits). Note: 3 of these credits also count toward the law degree.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall Semester		
SW 500	Generalist Field Education Practicum I (w/ seminar (16 hours per week in field placement)	3
SW 501	Social Work Practice I: Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families	3
SW 504	Social Welfare and Social Policy	3
SW 505	Social Work Research	3

SW 511	Human Behavior in the Social Environment I: Theories for Practice for Individuals and Families	3
Credits		15
Spring Semester		
SW 502	Generalist Field Education Practicum II (w/ seminar (16 hours per week in field placement)	3
SW 503	Social Work Practice II: Practice With Groups and Communities	3
SW 507	Issues of Diversity and Oppression	3
SW 512	Human Behavior in the Social Environment II: Theories for Groups, Organizations and Communities	3
SW 580	Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis	3
Credits		15
Second Year		
Fall Semester		
JD Required First-Year Curriculum		15
Credits		15
Spring Semester		
JD Required First-Year Curriculum (cont.)		15
Credits		15
Summer Semester		
Students have the option of earning law credits during the first summer.		
Credits		0
Third Year		
Fall Semester		
MSW Specialized Curriculum (6 credits count toward the law degree)		
SW 600	Specialized Practice Field Education Practicum in Health/Mental Health I	3
SW 601	Social Work Practice III: Specialized Clinical Social Work Practice	3
SW 604	Evaluation Research Work Programs and Practice	3
Law School Elective		3
Clinical Elective course		3
Credits		15
Spring Semester		
SW 602	Specialized Practice Field Education Practicum in Health/Mental Health II	3
SW 603	Social Work Practice IV: Specialized Organizational Social Work Practice	3
Law School Elective		3
MSW Elective course (2)		6
Credits		15
Summer Semester		
Students may earn law credits, if needed.		
Credits		0

Fourth Year**Fall Semester**

JD Upper-Level Curriculum, including all other graduation requirements	15
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Credits	15
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Spring Semester

JD Upper-Level Curriculum (cont.)	15
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Credits	15
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Summer Semester

Students may earn law credits, if needed.	
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Credits	0
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Total Credits	120
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Scheduling Option: Beginning with the JD

Code	Title	Credits
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First Year

Required JD First-Year Courses	30
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Summer

Students may earn course credit	
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First Year: JD Required First-year Curriculum (30 credits).

Summer: Students may earn law credits during the first summer.

Second Year: MSW Generalist Curriculum (30 credits). Note: 3 of these credits will count toward the law degree.

Summer: Students may earn law credits during the second summer.

Third Year: JD Upper-level Curriculum, including all other graduation requirements (30 credits). Note: 6 of these credits will count toward the MSW.

Summer: Students may earn law credits during the third summer, if needed.

Fourth Year: MSW Specialized Curriculum (30 credits). Note: 6 of these credits will count toward the law.

Note: While it is possible to enroll for two years in one program and then two years in the other, an alternating schedule is recommended.

Admission to Dual-Degree JD/MSW Program

Students interested in earning both a Juris Doctor (JD) and a Master of Social Work (MSW) may earn both degrees on an accelerated basis by enrolling in the Dual-Degree JD/MSW program. Students must apply and be accepted separately to each program. Ideally, students would apply to both programs before starting either but a student enrolled in either program could, during the first year (and possibly later), apply for and be accepted to the other program.

To qualify for admission to the MSW program, students must have earned a bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association, with a preferred minimum GPA of 3.00 and at least 20 semester credits in liberal arts.

Background Check and Drug Screening

To ensure their safety and maintain high-quality care of patients, clinical affiliates of the university require that students have a criminal background check. All students entering the Quinnipiac JD/MSW program are required to undergo a criminal background check (through the university vendor) prior to beginning classes. This is a mandatory component of the program. In addition, MSW students may be required to undergo a criminal background re-check and/or drug screen prior to any of their field placements. The results are made available to the student through their own personal and secure online portal. Whenever a Quinnipiac JD/MSW student may need proof of criminal background check for field placements, the student will release the information directly from their personal portal to the clinical site. The cost of the criminal background check and any re-checks and/or drug screens is the responsibility of each individual student.

Additional Program Costs

As a clinical education program, the MSW program requires some expenses that go beyond standard university tuition and fees:

1. **Clinical/Fieldwork Education Travel** (e.g., gas, parking, public transportation): Students are responsible for the costs associated with travel to and from field internships. **Cost: variable.**
2. **Background Check:** Quinnipiac University and its clinical affiliates require that all students undergo a criminal background check, through the university vendor, prior to beginning classes (University Criminal Background Check Policy (<http://catalog.qu.edu/university-policies/background-checks/>)). Please note that placement sites may require that students participate in the agency's background check, in addition to the one required by the university.
 - a. University background check – **Cost: \$63 for all domestic addresses for the past 7 years or \$158 for students who have resided in New York state in the last 7 years due to NY state surcharge.**
 - b. Some students may be required to do an annual recheck one year after the initial background recheck. **Cost: \$32 per annual recheck.**
3. **Drug Screening:** Some sites require physical and/or substance use drug screens as well as fingerprinting. MSW students are expected to comply with all agency requirements prior to beginning field internships.
4. **Liability Insurance:** All students have liability insurance coverage through the university, free of charge, while performing required clinical activity. Students may choose to purchase additional coverage at their own expense.
5. **Exxat and APPROVE:** Students enrolled in the MSW program must enroll in Exxat and APPROVE.
 - a. Exxat is the clinical tracking and assessment program used by the School of Health Sciences. **Cost: one-time payment of \$150 per student enrolled in the MSW program (students are responsible for this cost).**
 - b. APPROVE is the program within Exxat that tracks all student health and safety records, provides documentation to prospective clinical sites and provides notification of impending expiration dates. **Cost: \$35 - first year, after which it is \$10 per year.**