

DUAL-DEGREE JD/MSW

Students interested in earning both a JD degree and a Master of Social Work degree 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 degree and 60 for the MSW degree. Students in the dual-degree program are required to complete only 131 total credits. Dual-degree students will earn 1) their JD degree with 77 law credits and 9 social work credits (from courses approved in advance by the law school associate dean for academic affairs); and 2) their MSW degree with 54 social work credits and 6 law credits (from courses approved by the social work faculty). The two programs, which require five years of study if taken separately, can be completed in 4½ years in the ordinary course, 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 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 program but must complete the first year in each program before any advanced courses can be taken in that program. To obtain either degree, students must complete all graduation requirements for both degrees, including the core upper-level law courses, legal writing requirements, lawyer professional responsibility course, experiential law credits, and the social work field work requirements.