



Syracuse University College of Law

Joint Degree Programs

Syracuse University College of Law students who desire a greater degree of specialization have a wide range of interdisciplinary opportunities from which to select. In a joint degree program, a student may pursue a J.D. and a related master's or doctoral degree concurrently. The joint degree programs are structured so students can earn both degrees in substantially less time than would be required to earn each degree separately. Students enrolled in a joint degree program must complete their first year of study in the College of Law. Students must apply and be admitted to both programs separately. Because a joint degree program involves reciprocal application of electives, students are not awarded either degree until the requirements for both degrees are completed.

Juris Doctor and Master of Arts in Political Science Juris Doctor and Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

The Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Political Science and Juris Doctor/Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science are joint degree programs which may be conferred by the College of Law and the Syracuse University Department of Political Science. Students enrolled in these programs may obtain their J.D. and M.A. or Ph.D. in Political Science in substantially less time than would be necessary if both programs were separately pursued. Applicants for the joint Law/Political Science programs must file with the College of Law Office of Student Affairs a Student Services Request Form requesting approval for admission to the joint program. Each applicant may wish to consult a College of Law advisor who can assist in the preparation of the petition.

Although there is not a formal program of joint studies between Law and Political Science, students interested in a Law/Political Science program may individually arrange a joint degree program with the College of Law and the Syracuse University Department of Political Science. Credit hour and other degree requirements for joint degree candidates should be discussed with the Political Science Department; the College of Law would allow 15 credit hours toward the J.D., taken in Political Science, if pursuant to an approved joint program. The basis for awarding credit hours is set out in the College of Law Handbook of Academic Rules

The M.A. requires completion of 30 hours of course work (no thesis) with a B average. The M.A. requires the completion of 30 hours of graduate course work of which no more than nine hours may be credits earned at another institution. However, 96 credit hours minimally must be completed to earn the J.D./M.A. in Political Science (72-Law and 24-Political Science), rather than the 117 credits required if the degrees were independently pursued. One of these courses must be PSC 693, Introduction to Quantitative Political Analysis, or PSC 694, Qualitative Political Analysis. There is no thesis requirement for the M.A. The student's course work, which may include one or more courses from other Maxwell departments, is planned in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, who must approve the program of study. A Ph.D. is available in Political Science.

An interested applicant to the joint degree program must submit an internal admission form, 2 letters of recommendation, and a personal statement expressing interest in the joint degree. Applicants to the M.A. program may submit the LSAT test scores in lieu of the GRE. There is no application deadline for law students and the acceptance standards are flexible.

Questions and inquiries should be directed to Professor Seth Kincaid Jolly, 540 Eggers Hall (skjolly@maxwell.syr.edu). Current students with general questions and inquiries concerning procedures regarding joint degrees should contact the Office of Student Affairs at lawstudentaffairs@law.syr.edu; prospective students should contact the Office of Admissions at admissions@law.syr.edu.