



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's of Arts in Economics
Juris Doctor and Doctor of Philosophy in Economics

The Juris Doctor and Master's of Arts in Economics and the Juris Doctor and Doctor of Philosophy in Economics are joint degrees that may be conferred by the College of Law and the Syracuse University Department of Economics. The students enrolled in these programs may obtain their J.D. and M.A. in Economics in substantially less time than would be necessary if both programs were separately pursued. A student interested in a joint Juris Doctor and Ph.D. program should discuss the specifics of such a plan with the College of Law advisor and the Department of Economics advisor prior to making any specific plans.

Students who want to be considered for admission to the J.D./M.A. in Economics program must first gain admission to the regular program of each participating academic unit. The most common pattern of entry is one in which a first-year law student applies for admission to the M.A. in Economics program by submitting to the Department of Economics an application, letters of reference from your College of Law application and transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate work which may be obtained through your College of Law application, including any coursework at the College of Law. Students must either take the GRE or provide other basis for a solid background in quantitative techniques. There is no application deadline. Admission is not automatic but is based on criteria established by the Economics Department. A background in economics, calculus and statistics in undergraduate education is recommended to be considered for admission. Successful completion of the economics degree is also based on satisfactory completion of degree requirements as established in the Economics Department for conferring of the economics degree. Students should clarify these matters with their advisor in the Economics Department as well as the College of Law. Once the student has been admitted to the M.A. in Economics program, s/he must contact the Office of Student Affairs to begin the College of Law approval process. Students must be approved through both the department of the joint degree program and the College of Law. The approval request is submitted through the Student Services Request Form and must include a comprehensive plan outlining how the student will meet each program's requirements throughout their time at the College of Law.

The Juris Doctor and Master's Degree Program is designed to educate lawyers in the basics of economics so that they can practice in areas of law that rely on economic information and understanding. Students interested in the Juris Doctor and Master's in Economics Degree program may individually arrange a joint degree program with the College of Law and the Syracuse University Department of Economics. Credit hours and other degree requirements for joint degree candidates would be discussed with the Economics Department; the College of Law allows 15 credit hours toward the J.D., taken in Economics, 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 30 credits of course work, 24 credits of which must include courses offered by the Economics Department. The remaining 6 credits should involve courses with content relating to the study of economics but which can be taken outside the Syracuse University Economics Department, either within

or outside of the Maxwell School. To ensure receiving credit towards the MA Economics degree students should discuss their course selection with their Economics Department advisor. Thus, minimally 96 credit hours must be completed to earn the J.D./M.A. in Economics (72-Law plus 24-Economics) rather than the 117 credits required if the degrees were independently pursued.

In an effort to clarify the law courses that qualify for credit towards the M.A. degree, we provide the following guidance:

In general, students may use the courses in 'Law and Market Economy', and 'Law, Economics, and the State' to count as law classes acceptable for the economics degree. However, students may take pre-approved courses outside of the College of Law. Please speak to your Economics advisor for details.

Other courses that can be counted should have some direct connection to the areas of law in which economic knowledge is important. This includes courses in areas such as commercial law, corporations, securities, real estate transactions, finance, regulation, environmental and land use law, and international and trade law. This is not meant to be a full listing of specific courses that meet the requirement in economics. This is meant to provide guidance to students and to advisors on the general subject areas of courses that have a strong and direct connection to economic and market considerations.

Courses that generally do not count include such classes as first year law classes, classes on trial practice and procedure, clinical law classes, professional responsibility, and classes on lawyering skills.

Questions and inquiries may be directed to Professor Duke Kao, Economics Department, 323 Eggers Hall (dkao@maxwell.syr.edu) or Professor Robin Paul Malloy, College of Law (rpmalloy@law.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.