



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 such that 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 Business Administration Juris Doctor and Master of Science in Accounting or Finance

The Juris Doctor/Master's of Business Administration and Master's of Science in Accounting or Finance are joint degrees that may be conferred by the Martin J. Whitman School of Management and the College of Law. Students enrolled in these programs may obtain their J.D. and M.B.A or M.S. in Accounting or Finance in substantially less time than would be necessary if both programs were separately pursued. Students who want to be considered for admission to the J.D./M.B.A. or J.D./M.S. programs in Accounting or Finance 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.B.A. or M.S. in Accounting or Finance program by submitting to the Martin J. Whitman School of Management an internal Whitman application which consists of one essay, one letter of reference, resume and unofficial transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate work, including any coursework at the College of Law. The GMAT or GRE is required of all applicants. Once the student has been admitted to the Whitman School of Management, the student must contact/visit 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.

Law and Master of Business Administration: The J.D./M.B.A. Program requires four full-time academic years. J.D./M.B.A. students must complete 42 credit hours in the Whitman School of Management. The Whitman School of Management accepts 9 credits from the College of Law and waives its Law and Public Policy course.

The College of Law will accept a maximum of 15 credit hours toward the J.D. degree for courses in the Whitman School of Management, if pursuant to an approved joint degree program. The basis for awarding credit hours is set out in the College of Law *Handbook of Academic Rules*. Accordingly, 114 credit hours must be completed to earn the J.D./M.B.A. degrees (72-Law and 42-M.B.A.), rather than the 141 credits required if the degrees are pursued independently.

Law and Master of Science in Accounting or Finance: Requirements for the J.D./M.S. in Accounting or Finance vary according to a student's prior academic background in accounting and management courses. The program in accounting requires between 30 and 63 credit hours in the Whitman School of Management; the program in finance requires between 30 and 43 credit hours in the Whitman School of Management. The specific number of credits required for the M.S. degree will depend on each student's previous academic background in management-related course work. Reciprocal credit arrangements vary according to the program. The 30 credit program for each degree is designed for students who had a major in accounting for the MS in Accounting or a major in finance or economics for the MS in Finance.

The **GMAT** is required for admission to the Whitman School of Management. The LSAT cannot be substituted for the GMAT. The program begins accepting applications in October with the final deadline of April 19th and any applications submitted after April 19th will be reviewed on a space available basis only.

Law and Master of Science in Media Management: Co-sponsored by the Whitman School of Management and by the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, this program provides the communication and management skills necessary for management positions within the television, radio, newspaper, and magazine industries. This 42-credit hour program includes coursework that is distributed equally between Whitman and Newhouse. Further information about this program is included in the graduate prospectus of the S.I. Newhouse School.

Please read the provisions of the *Handbook of Academic Rules* for the College of Law relating to joint degree programs. Note particularly rules regarding submission of a written work product evidencing the synthesis of the two disciplines involved in the joint programs. Normally, the masters or doctoral thesis or the two semester law school writing requirement (required by Rule A.3(b)) will integrate the student's learning in both disciplines and therefore satisfy the requirements of Rule E.6(j) as well. Students must complete all requirements for each degree program (J.D. and M.B.A.; J.D. and M.S.) prior to the awarding of the two degrees. One degree may not be received prior to the other.

Questions and inquiries may be addressed to Dr. Shri Ramakrishnan, Assistant Director, Whitman School of Management, Suite 315 (443-3497; sramak01@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.