



**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 degree. 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 Science in Cultural Foundations of Education  
with a Certificate of Advanced Study in Disability Studies**

This joint degree program was approved in January 2003 and offers students the opportunity to earn a J.D. and M.S. in Cultural Foundations of Education, together with a New York State – approved Certificate of Advanced Studies(CAS) in Disability Studies. Disability Studies applies social, cultural, historical, and philosophical perspectives to the study of disability in society. The partnership between the College of Law and the School of Education to offer this joint degree is the first of its kind in the nation. Law students who graduate with a J.D./M.S. joint degree from the College of Law and the Cultural Foundations of Education are prepared to play leadership roles in the field of disability and education law and policy in such settings as federal and state government agencies, community service agencies, advocacy organizations, school districts, and public interest and private law firms specializing in disability and/or education law.

Students who want to be considered for admission to the J.D./M.S. in Cultural Foundations of Education Program, must first apply to and be accepted by the College of Law. First-year law students typically apply for admission to the joint degree program by March 1 of the Spring semester of their first year. In some cases, students may be permitted to apply later and in the Fall semester of their second year. Students apply for the M.S. in Cultural Foundations of Education by submitting an internal application form and a personal statement of approximately two pages explaining their interests in the program. Applicants also must arrange for their College of Law transcripts to be forwarded to the School of Education as part of their application. (Transcripts may be requested through the Transcript Office in Steele Hall). Students also are required to receive the prior approval of Professor Kanter, Director of the DLPP, and the Office of Student Affairs. Once the application materials are completed, they should be delivered to Professor Alan Foley, c/o Mary Ann Barker, in Room 350 of Huntington Hall. After the student is notified of admission to the M.S. in Cultural Foundations of Education program (and the CAS in DS), usually in April, the student must receive the final approval from the COL Office of Student Affairs to confirm that the student is in good academic standing. As part of the approval process, the student must complete a comprehensive plan outlining how each program's requirements will be met throughout his or her time at the College of Law. This information should be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs through the Student Services Request Form. Students are welcome to meet with any of the contact individuals listed below to discuss their course planning.

The College of Law allows 15 credit hours of coursework taken in the School of Education toward the J.D., 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*. The School of Education awards the M.S. degree to law students who have completed 30 credits of coursework, which includes 6 credits from courses taken at the College of Law that are applied to the M.S. degree. No fewer than 96 credit hours must be completed to earn the J.D./M.S. in Cultural Foundations of Education (72 Law and 24/30 Education), rather than the 113-117 credits required if the degrees were pursued independently.

Questions and inquiries about this Joint Degree Program may be addressed to Professor Arlene Kanter at the College of Law ([kantera@law.syr.edu](mailto:kantera@law.syr.edu)) and Professor Alan Foley at the School of Education ([afoley@syr.edu](mailto:afoley@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](mailto:lawstudentaffairs@law.syr.edu); prospective students should contact the Office of Admissions at [admissions@law.syr.edu](mailto:admissions@law.syr.edu).