



**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 Science in Engineering and Computer Science

The Juris Doctor and Master's of Science are joint degrees which may be conferred by the College of Law and the Syracuse University L. C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science (LCS). A J.D./M.S. from one of the many graduate programs that are offered through LCS could significantly enhance the scope of a student's legal education in areas such as intellectual property, technology, computers, health care, and environmental law. Students enrolled in these programs may obtain their J.D. and M.S. degrees in substantially less time than would be necessary if both programs were separately pursued.

Students who want to be considered for admission to the joint degree program with the College of Law and any discipline within LCS 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.S. program by submitting to the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, an application, letters of reference, and transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate work, including any coursework completed at the College of Law. The LSAT will generally be accepted in lieu of the GRE. Once the student has been admitted to the M.S. 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.

LCS will accept 6 credits from the College of Law toward the M.S. degree. The College of Law will allow 15 credits from the M.S. program toward the law degree. The joint J.D./M.S., therefore, requires 102 credits (72-law and 30-M.S. credits) instead of the 117 credits required if the programs were pursued independently, with the following exception. The joint program with Engineering Management (normally 36 credits) requires 123 credits. The basis for awarding the credit hours is set out in the College of Law *Handbook of Academic Rules*. There is no application deadline for law students.

Questions and inquiries may be addressed to Assistant Dean Kathleen Joyce at the College of Engineering and Computer Science (315-443-2219; kmjoyce@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.