



**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.

**Juris Doctor and Forensic Science (General Forensic Track or Forensic Laboratory Track)**

The Master's of Science in Forensic Science and Juris Doctor degrees are conferred by the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Law. For those entering the legal profession, an understanding of the scientific analysis of evidence can greatly contribute to their effectiveness both in and out of court. Both forensic science methods and their handling in court proceedings have undergone marked changes over recent years, and knowledge of both aspects will best prepare students for their future encounters with forensic evidence. The joint program can be completed as quickly as three years, requiring only 100 credits instead of the 123 credits if the programs were pursued independently.

When planning to apply for the joint program, keep in mind:

- Students must apply and be admitted to both programs separately.
- Students enrolled in the joint degree program must complete their first year of study in the College of Law.
- Because the joint degrees involve reciprocal application of elective credits, students are not awarded either degree until the requirements for both degrees are completed.

**Admissions For Existing Law Students**

Students will most often enter the joint degree program as first year law students. Applicants should submit the following materials directly to the forensic science program:

- Internal application for admission
- Personal statement
- Updated resume
- New letter of recommendation
- Copies of all previous materials submitted with the application to the College of Law
- The GRE requirement for the M.S. in Forensic Science application is waived for existing law students.

Once the student has been admitted to the forensic science degree program, the student will complete a Student Services Request Form through the Office of Student Affairs of the College of Law requesting approval for admission to the joint J.D./M.S. program.

**Admissions For New Applicants**

New applicants can choose to initially apply separately to both programs. Once accepted, they can defer admission into the Forensic Science Program for one year while completing the first year of law school. They should then file their joint program petition with the College of Law's Office of Student Affairs.

**Contact**

<p>Law Admissions:</p> <p>College of Law Admissions and Financial Aid Suite 100 College of Law Syracuse, NY 13244-1030 Phone: (315) 443-1962 Fax: (315) 443-9568 Web: law.syr.edu Email: admissions@law.syr.edu financialaid@law.syr.edu</p>	<p>Forensic Science Admissions:</p> <p>Christine Woods Heslin Administrative Assistant Forensic &amp; National Security Sciences 120 Life Sciences Building Syracuse, NY 13244 Phone: (315) 443-0360 Fax: (315) 443-4070 Web: forensics.syr.edu Email: forensics@syr.edu</p>	<p>Specific questions and inquiries about joint law programs:</p> <p>Current Students: Office of Student Affairs lawstudentaffairs@law.syr.edu</p> <p>Prospective Students: Office of Admissions admissions@law.syr.edu</p>
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