



**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 History**

The Juris Doctor/Master's of Arts in History is a joint degree that may be conferred by the College of Law and the Syracuse University Department of History. The students enrolled in this program may obtain their J.D. and M.A. in History in substantially less time than would be necessary if both programs were separately pursued. Candidates for admission to the joint degree program must first gain admission to the regular program of each participating academic unit.

Although there is not now a formal program of concurrent studies between law and history, students who want to be considered for admission to a joint degree program in Law and History program may individually arrange a joint degree program with the College of Law and the Syracuse University Department of History. The most common pattern of entry is one in which a first-year law student applies for admission to the M.A. in History program by submitting to the Syracuse University Department of History, an application, letters of reference, and transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate work, including any coursework at the College of Law. Once the student has been admitted to the M.A. in History 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. Credit hours and other degree requirements for joint degree candidates would be discussed with the History Department; the College of Law allows 15 credit hours toward the J.D., taken in History, 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 Department of History awards the M.A. degree to students who have completed either 30 hours of course work (including 3 required seminars) and a comprehensive exam, or who have completed 24 hours of course work (including 3 required seminars) and a 6 hour thesis. Students must also pass a written exam in one foreign language prior to taking the Master's examination or the submission of a thesis. Although no formal rule defines transfer or credit for college of law work to the History Department, the Department traditionally credits up to 9 hours to the M.A. degree from courses taken outside the department. This outside coursework must pertain to their area of study in History. Thus, 96 credit hours minimally must be completed to earn the J.D./M.A. in History (72-Law and 24-History), rather than the 117 credits required if the degrees were independently pursued.

Questions and inquiries should be directed to Professor Alan Allport at [aallport@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:aallport@maxwell.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 [admission@law.syr.edu](mailto:admission@law.syr.edu).