



**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 Philosophy
Juris Doctor and Doctor of Philosophy**

The Juris Doctor/Master's of Arts in Philosophy and Juris Doctor/Doctor of Philosophy are joint degrees which may be conferred by the College of Law and the Syracuse University Department of Philosophy. Students enrolled in these programs may obtain their J.D. and M.A or Ph.D. in Philosophy in substantially less credits 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. If a student has been accepted through the Philosophy Department for one of the joint Law/Philosophy programs, then 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 a 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 Philosophy Department; the College of Law allows 15 credit hours toward the J.D., taken in Philosophy, 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 M.A. in philosophy requires 24 hours of course work plus a defense of a 6-credit thesis; or, with departmental permission, completion of all pre-dissertation requirements for the Ph.D. Because of the relatively modest credit hour requirements for the M.A. degree, the Philosophy Department does not generally transfer credit hours toward the M.A. in Philosophy for work taken elsewhere. Transfer credits from the School of Law are negotiable, however, depending on specific courses taken. 102 credit hours must be completed to earn the J.D./M.A. in Philosophy (72-Law and 30-Philosophy), rather than the 117 credits required if the degrees were independently pursued.

Credit hours arrangements between the J.D./Ph.D. in Philosophy may be more flexible. The application deadline is early March (early January for financial aid consideration). The LSAT score is generally accepted in lieu of the GRE.

The Ph.D. ordinarily requires at least 3 years of full time coursework (54 hours) in philosophy. The remaining 18 credit hours required for the Ph.D. are allocated to the dissertation. While there is no formal rule that governs the number of credits transferable from the College of Law to the Department of Philosophy for Ph.D. candidates, the two degrees may be earned jointly in substantially less time than it would take to earn them independently. Even with the reduction in time, however, one should expect to take at least six years to complete the J.D. and Ph.D. degrees.

Questions and general inquiries should be directed to Professor Janice Dowell, Philosophy Department, 530 Hall of Languages (443-5826; jldowell@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.