



## 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 Public Communications**

The Juris Doctor/Master of Science and Master of Arts in communications are combined degrees which may be conferred by the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and the College of Law. A student who is admitted to one of these programs has the opportunity to obtain both the J.D. degree and the M.S. or M.A. communications degree in substantially less time than would be required were the two degrees to be obtained independently.

Students who want to be considered for admission to a joint degree program with the School of Public Communications 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 a M.S. or M.A. program. In this situation, the applicant will submit an Internal Application for Admission, along with a personal statement, an updated resume, a College of Law transcript, a new letter of recommendation from a faculty member at the College of Law, GRE scores (may be optional, depending on program; confirm with Newhouse for the specific program to which you are applying), and copies of all previous materials submitted with the application to the College of Law directly to the Newhouse School's Graduate Records Office. Once the student has been admitted to one of the master's degree communications 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 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.

There are several graduate programs offered by the Newhouse School which include Advertising; Arts Journalism; Broadcast and Digital Journalism; Magazine, Newspaper and Online Journalism; Media and Education; Media Studies; New Media Management; Photography; Public Diplomacy; Public Relations; and Television, Radio and Film. Newhouse will accept six credits from the Law School toward the M.S. or M.A. degree, and the College of Law will allow 15 credits from the Master's program toward the law degree. The joint J.D./M.S. or J.D./M.A. therefore requires 99-108 credits (72-J.D. and 27-36-Master's) instead of the 114-123 credits required if the programs were pursued independently. The basis for awarding credit hours is set out in the College of Law *Handbook of Academic Rules*.

The GRE is required for most programs; confirm with Newhouse prior to applying to determine if you will need to submit GRE scores. The application deadline is January 15. Applications received after January 15 will be considered on a space-available basis only.

Questions and inquiries should be directed to the Graduate Records Office, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, 330 Newhouse 2 (315-443-4039; [pcgrad@syr.edu](mailto:pcgrad@syr.edu)) or visit [newhousemasters.syr.edu](http://newhousemasters.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).