



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 of Social Work (M.S.W.)

The Juris Doctor/Master of Social Work is a joint degree which may be conferred by the College of Law and the Syracuse University School of Social Work. Students enrolled in these programs may obtain their J.D. and M.S.W. 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. Applicants for one of the joint Law/Social Work programs must file a Student Services Request Form requesting approval for admission to the joint degree program from the College of Law. The petition must state the proposed program's objective and include a comprehensive plan of proposed study.

Although there is not now a formal program of joint studies between law and social work, students interested in the Law/Social Work program may individually arrange a joint degree program with the College of Law and the Syracuse University School of Social Work. Credit hours and other degree requirements for joint degree candidates would be discussed with the Social Work Department; the College of Law allows 15 credit hours toward the J.D., taken in Social Work, 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.S.W. requires 48 credits of classroom course work plus twelve credit hours of field instruction (for a total of 60 credits). Field instruction involves 1000 hours of supervised social work practice, typically in two different community agencies, over four semesters (two academic years). Twelve credits from the law program may be applied to the M.S.W. degree. Therefore, the J.D. and M.S.W. can be completed in 120 credit hours (72-Law and 48-Social Work), rather than the 147 credits required if the degrees were independently pursued. While it is possible for the M.S.W. to be completed in conjunction with the J.D. in 3 years of full time study, including summer coursework, students will be required to delay graduation and sitting for the bar if requirements are not completed by the end of the spring semester of a student's third year of law school. Persons with an accredited B.S.W. are eligible for the Advanced Standing program in social work. When combined with Law, these students must complete 30 credits for the M.S.W.

The application deadline is March 15th and acceptance standards are flexible for law students. Interested students would need to complete a paper copy of the David B. Falk College graduate application for the School of Social Work, the internal admissions form, include a resume with human service experience, coursework from the first semester of work at the College of Law along with three letters of recommendation and copies of undergraduate graduate coursework, which can be obtained from their application to the College of Law.

Questions and general inquiries should be directed to Adrienne Renfroe, LMSW, Coordinator of Graduate Admissions, 268 White Hall (443-1443; alrenfro@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.