

The University of Michigan Law School  
Dual Degree Program

**Law & Natural Resources and Environment  
JD/MS**

The Law School and the School of Natural Resources & Environment offer a dual degree program, allowing interested students the opportunity to study concurrently for the Juris Doctor (JD) and the Master of Science (MS) in Natural Resources & Environment degrees. The goal of this program is to encourage more effective integration of knowledge of natural resources and environmental problems with the methodology and skills of a lawyer. The program is designed so that all requirements for both degrees can be completed in four years.

Most students enrolled in this dual program begin at the Law School. They then take a mixture of Law and Natural Resources coursework during the remaining three years of the program, which concludes with the master's project (thesis or practicum may be permitted by petition) required for the Master of Science degree. During the third and fourth years of the program, students are permitted to elect courses in both schools.

Career options for program graduates are varied. Among the alumni, one has served as an attorney for the U.S. Department of the Interior, supervising the implementation of natural resource laws and regulations; another has been a member of the legal staff of a large power company; and a third has served as director of a major state environmental action council. The dual JD/MS program might also be attractive to students interested in the practice of law for corporate clients who are engaged in the use of natural resources, and to students who foresee careers in trial practice in which use of expert witnesses in the fields of ecology and natural resources may be necessary.

For students admitted to this dual degree **prior to May 2006**, tuition will be assessed at a blended rate, combining the tuition rates of both schools, during the entire time the student is enrolled in either school. For students admitted to this dual degree **in May 2006 or later**, tuition will be assessed at either the Law School or the Graduate School rate, whichever is higher, when courses toward both degrees are taken in one term.

**Basic Requirements for the JD**

Students entering the Law School must complete the required first-year law curriculum.

Students admitted to the Law School must earn a minimum of 82 credits toward the JD, at least 70 of which must be earned in Law School courses.

Law students are required to complete a seminar, a course in professional responsibility, transnational law, and an upper-class writing requirement.

Twelve (12) credit hours may be taken from the satisfaction of requirements toward the MS degree. Instructions for requesting Law School credit for non-law courses are posted on the CTools site for dual degree students.

**Basic Requirements for the MS**

Completion of a total of 42 credit hours along with a master's Opus (project, practicum, or thesis) is required for the Master of Science degree.

Up to 9 of the required 42 credit hours may be earned for appropriate environmental law courses taken in the Law School.

## **Additional Requirements**

Applicants must gain separate and independent admission to both the Law School and the School of Natural Resources and Environment, affiliated with the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, and should contact the admissions office of each school for application and admission information. The applicant's LSAT score may be used in place of the GRE. However, a valid GRE score is preferable.\*

Students must satisfy the requirements of each school for each degree and should consult with advisors in each school for the precise graduation requirements for each degree and for information about course offerings. Students will find a few courses available in the School of Natural Resources and Environment during the summer, but should not expect any Law School courses beyond first-year courses to be offered in the summer term. Students will not receive credit toward the JD for coursework taken prior to matriculation at the Law School. Students should consult with the advisor at the School of Natural Resources and Environment concerning credit toward the MS for Law course work.

**At the beginning of their final year of study in the combined program, students should consult with their Rackham academic advisor and the Law School Registrar regarding forms that need to be completed prior to graduation. Also at this time, students should submit a Dual/Joint Degree Election Form (<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/downloads/oard/forms/dualjoint6010.pdf>) for approval from both the Law School and the School of Natural Resources and Environment.**

The combined degree is not open to those who have already earned either the JD or the MS. Students who are registered in the first or second year at the Law School or the first year of the SNRE's program may apply for admission to the dual degree program.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Law School Admissions application materials:**

Admissions Office  
University of Michigan Law School  
726 Oakland  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-3031  
734.764.0537  
Email: [law.jd.admissions@umich.edu](mailto:law.jd.admissions@umich.edu)  
Web Site: [www.law.umich.edu](http://www.law.umich.edu)

### **Law School Dual Degree Programs:**

Office of Student Affairs  
University of Michigan Law School  
307 Hutchins Hall  
625 South State Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215  
734.615.0019  
Email: [law.dual.degrees@umich.edu](mailto:law.dual.degrees@umich.edu)

### **School of Natural Resources and Environment application materials and admission/registration information:**

Adam Ancira, Recruiting and Admissions Coordinator  
School of Natural Resources and Environment  
1520 Dana Building  
440 Church Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1041  
734.764.6453  
Email: [snre.admissions@umich.edu](mailto:snre.admissions@umich.edu)  
Web Site: [www.snre.umich.edu](http://www.snre.umich.edu)

\* Information contained herein is valid as of 7/22/08 and is subject to change. Contact with the appropriate admissions office is advised.