

The University of Michigan Law School Dual Degree Program

Law & Information JD/MSI

The Law School and the School of Information offer a dual degree program that enables qualified students to pursue concurrent work in both schools that leads to the Juris Doctor (JD) and the Master of Science in Information (MSI) degrees. The program is designed so that all requirements for both degrees can be completed in eight terms of enrollment.

This dual degree program is one of only a few of its type offered by comparable educational institutions. Although the applications of this dual degree are numerous, the program is most desirable to those wishing to develop expertise in the field of intellectual property as it relates to cyberspace and other technological advances. Career opportunities for students who complete the program can be found in both the public and private sector, from the U.S. Department of Justice to the “boutique” intellectual property firms across the nation. Those planning a career in library science or information services will also find this program of special interest.

The Law School offers numerous courses of interest to JD/MSI students. Among these courses are copyright, intellectual property, patent law, international law, antitrust, labor law, trademarks and unfair competition, and protection of technology. The Law School also offers a number of relevant seminars, including cyberspace and the law, financing intellectual property, and property theory.

Students admitted to this dual degree program are required to earn credit in each school. Beyond the basic requirements, students generally are not restricted in their selection of courses in the Law School.

Students are required to take the complete sequence of first-year courses in one school during the first year of the dual program, and complete the sequence of first-year courses in the other school during the second year of the program. Each school will apply its own deferred admission standards to students who elect to take the first year in the other school.

Basic Requirements for the JD

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

The JD requires a minimum total of 82 credits earned between Law School courses and courses through the School of Information, which is affiliated with the Rackham School of Graduate Studies. Students must earn at least 70 credits toward the JD through courses taken in the Law School.

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 earned through courses taken in the School of Information. Instructions for requesting Law School credit for non-law courses are posted on the CTools site for dual degree students.

Basic Requirements for the MSI

Students must complete a total of 48 credit hours in the School of Information, including the SI core foundation requirements, and 8 additional hours of practical engagement. SI students should work closely with their advisors to be sure they are meeting all SI requirements.

Up to 15 of the required 48 credit hours required for the MSI may be earned for courses taken in the Law School.

Additional Requirements

Applicants must gain separate and independent admission to both the Law School and the School of Information, 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. *

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 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 companion school concerning credit toward the MSI for Law coursework.

During the third and fourth years of the program, students are permitted to elect courses in both schools. 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.

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 Information. Students should review the completed sample forms on the CTools page prior to filling out the form. Students may also consult with the Office of Student Affairs if there are any questions regarding completion of this form.

The combined degree is not open to those who have already earned either the JD or the MSI. Students who are registered in the first or second year at the Law School or the first year of the School of Information'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
Web Site: 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

School of Information application materials and admission/registration information:

School of Information Admissions Office
304 West Hall
1085 S. University Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092
734.763.2285
Email: si.admissions@umich.edu
Web Site: www.si.umich.edu

Further Dual Degree Program information at the School of Information:

Xiao-Wen Zou, Senior Academic & Financial Aid Advisor
School of Information
234A West Hall
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092
734.763.2286
Email: zxwen@umich.edu

* Information contained herein is valid as of 7/15/09 and is subject to change. Contact with the appropriate admissions office is advised.