

The University of Michigan Law School Dual Degree Program

Law & Japanese Studies JD/MA

The University of Michigan Law School and the Center for Japanese Studies within the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies offer a dual degree program that will lead to both the Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Arts (MA) degrees. Through this program, all requirements for both degrees can be completed in 3.5 to 4 years of concurrent enrollment.

With this program, the University of Michigan Law School has become one of the nation's leading centers for the study of Japanese Law. The Law and Japanese Studies dual degree recognizes the growing need for specialists who combine training in law with substantive knowledge of the language, culture, and history of Japan. Students completing this dual degree will be better prepared to operate in an international environment.

Students admitted to the dual degree program in Law and Japanese Studies 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 at the Center for Japanese Studies through 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 course in professional responsibility, transnational law, and an upper-class writing requirement.

Twelve (12) credit hours may be earned through courses taken in the Center for Japanese Studies. Instructions for requesting Law School credit for non-law courses are posted on the CTools site for dual degree students.

Basic Requirements for the MA

Students must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of approved courses in the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, in addition to any credit hours needed to satisfy the language requirement.

Six (6) credit hours may be earned through courses taken in the Law School with prior approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Additional Requirements

Applicants must gain separate and independent admission to both the Law School and the Center for Japanese Studies, 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. Students should not expect any Law 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 and obtain approval of the Japanese Studies Director of Graduate Studies concerning credit toward the MA for Law course work.

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 both their CJS Director of Graduate Studies 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 Center for Japanese Studies. 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 dual degree program is not open to those who have already earned either the JD or the MA in Japanese Studies. Students who are registered in the first or second year at the Law School 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

Center for Japanese Studies application materials and admission/registration information:

Center for Japanese Studies
University of Michigan
1080 South University Ave., Suite 4640
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106
734.764.6307
Email: cjsadmissions@umich.edu
Web Site: www.ii.umich.edu/cjs/

* Information contained herein is valid as of 8/19/09 and is subject to change. Contact with the appropriate admissions office is advised.