

# JD / MA

## LAW & CHINESE STUDIES

**T**HE LAW SCHOOL AND THE CENTER FOR CHINESE 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 three-and-a-half to four years of concurrent enrollment.

With this program, the University of Michigan Law School combines with the world-renowned Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies at Michigan to become one of the nation's leading centers for the study of Chinese Law. The Law and Chinese Studies dual degree recognizes the growing need for specialists who combine training in law with substantive knowledge of the language, culture, politics, economics, and history of the Chinese world. Students completing the dual degree will be better prepared to operate in an ever globalizing world.

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

### **BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JD**

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Students entering the Law School must complete the required first-year law curriculum. Fall starters must take one elective course of three or four credit hours during their second semester. All students must complete the following before graduation: at least one international or comparative law course of two or more credit hours, at least one upper-level course with a rigorous writing component, one statutory or regulatory course of three or more credit hours, one course in professional responsibility of two or more credit hours, and two credit hours of experiential learning. Separate courses must be taken to fulfill the upper-level course with a rigorous writing component, the professional responsibility course, and the experiential learning course.

The JD requires a minimum total of 83 credits, earned between Law School courses and courses at the Center for Chinese 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.

Twelve (12) credit hours may be earned through courses taken in Chinese Studies. Credits may be counted as long as they represent work for graduate level courses in which a B- or better is earned. 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**

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Students must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours in Chinese 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. Students must complete a master's thesis or final project to be awarded the MA in Chinese Studies.

### **MASTER'S PROJECT**

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Students may choose among a range of options for a final project that best reflects their training, interests, and plans for future development. The final project may take the form of a traditional thesis or be developed in a different format such as an annotated translation, a creative exhibition project, or a PowerPoint presentation supported with a written document and annotations. Two shorter research papers based on prior work for a graduate class may also be submitted (see Graduate Student Handbook for details). In all cases, solid research, familiarity with Western-language literature and Chinese sources, and scholarly contributions are expected. The proposal for a final project must be reviewed and approved by a committee (usually consisting of two CCS faculty members) before the student may start working on the project itself. The same committee will provide supervision in the next stage and submit a written evaluation when the project is finished.

**GENERAL DUAL DEGREE  
ITEMS OF NOTE**

*Any JD who enrolls concurrently in another degree program will be awarded the JD degree after completing all of the requirements for the dual, joint, or combined degrees. (As a practical matter, this means that the student will receive the JD degree either after or at the same time as he or she receives the degree(s) in the other program(s).) This policy will not affect the student's class year for purposes of the Law School's commencement ceremony or alumni events, and it will not apply if a student discontinues the other degree program(s). A law student who believes that he or she will experience some hardship as a result of this policy may petition the Associate Dean for Academic Programming for an exception.*

*JD courses traditionally have a later grading deadline than other degree programs. In some occasions, this later JD grading deadline may affect a student in his or her final term if another degree program desires all of the student's grades prior to the JD grading deadline.*

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must gain separate and independent admission to both the Law School and the Center for Chinese 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 degree program and should consult with advisers 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 their Chinese Studies adviser 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. FLAS and other language support fellowships may be available for study abroad language studies.

**At the beginning of their final year of study in the combined program, students should consult with both their Rackham academic adviser 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 ([www.rackham.umich.edu/current-students/policies/academic-records/dual-joint-degree-programs](http://www.rackham.umich.edu/current-students/policies/academic-records/dual-joint-degree-programs)) for approval from both the Law School and the Center for Chinese 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 Chinese 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 Office  
University of Michigan Law School  
South Hall, Suite 2200  
701 S. State St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215  
734.764.0537  
Email: [law.jd.admissions@umich.edu](mailto:law.jd.admissions@umich.edu)  
Website: [law.umich.edu](http://law.umich.edu)

**LIEBERTHAL-ROGEL****CENTER FOR CHINESE STUDIES:**

Center for Chinese Studies  
University of Michigan  
Weiser Hall, Suite 300  
500 Church st.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106  
734.764.6308  
Email: [ii-gradadvising@umich.edu](mailto:ii-gradadvising@umich.edu)  
Website: <http://ii.umich.edu/lrccs>

**DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Office of Student Life  
University of Michigan Law School  
316 Hutchins Hall  
625 S. State St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215  
734.764.0516  
Email: [law.dual.degrees@umich.edu](mailto:law.dual.degrees@umich.edu)

*\* Information contained herein is valid as of 2/7/18 and is subject to change. Contact with the appropriate admissions office is advised.*