

JD/MSI

LAW & INFORMATION

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

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MSI

Students must complete a total of 48 credit hours, with a minimum of 33 credits required in the School of Information (SI credit). Up to 15 of the required 48 credit hours required for the MSI may be earned for courses taken in the Law School.

Students must complete all MSI degree requirements, including a mastery course (3 credits) or master’s thesis (6 credits), and an approved internship (6 credits). Students should note that each mastery course has a series of prerequisite courses that must be taken in advance of the mastery course and requires advanced planning.

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 School of Information, and should contact the admissions office of each school for application and admission information. There is no graduate level exam required for admission to the MSI program. *

Students must satisfy the requirements of each school for each degree and should consult with advisers 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 adviser 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 School of Information 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 School of Information academic adviser and the Law School Registrar regarding progress toward graduation.

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 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
Website: law.umich.edu

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION

Admissions Office
University of Michigan School of Information
3360 North Quad
105 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1285
734.763.2285
Email: umsi.admissions-edu@umich.edu
Website: si.umich.edu

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

Office of Student Life
University of Michigan Law School
316 Hutchins Hall
625 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215
734.764.0516
Email: 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.*