

JD / MA

LAW & WORLD POLITICS

THE DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM IN LAW AND WORLD POLITICS LEADS TO TWO DEGREES: a Juris Doctor (JD) and a Master of Arts (MA) in World Politics. The program is designed to prepare students for careers in world affairs. Students can complete all requirements for both degrees in three-and-a-half years.

Careers might be pursued with internationally oriented law firms, national ministries of defense or foreign affairs, international governmental organizations, multinational corporations, and the news media.

Students usually devote the first year to the complete sequence of first-year courses in Law School. The second and third years are normally devoted to a mix of both disciplines. At the outset, students are encouraged to work closely with an academic adviser in both schools.

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 in the Department of Political Science within 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 taken from the satisfaction of requirements for the MA. Instructions for requesting Law School credit for non-law courses are posted on the CTools site for dual degree students.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MA

The MA requires a minimum of 24 credit hours, including core courses.

Six (6) credit hours may be satisfied by appropriate courses taken in the Law School.

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 schools. Applicants may apply to Rackham only after completing their first year of Law School **and six credit hours in graduate school courses in Political Science**. Applicants 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 degree requirements of each school, 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 non-law coursework taken prior to matriculation at the Law School. Students should consult with the Political Science academic 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.

At the beginning of their final year of study in the combined program, students should consult with 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) for approval from both the Law School and the Department of Political Science. 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 MA in World Politics. Students who are registered in the first or second year of Law School may apply 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
734.764.0537
Email: law.jd.admissions@umich.edu
Website: law.umich.edu

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE:

Admissions Office
5700 Haven Hall
505 S. State St.
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-7045
734.764.6313
Email: polisci@umich.edu
Website: lsa.umich.edu/polisci/

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

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