



Joint & Dual Degree Student Handbook

2013-2014

PURPOSE

The purpose of this handbook is to educate Law School students about available Joint Degree and Dual Degree programs, and to help students navigate the administrative issues associated with Joint Degree and Dual Degree programs. Please note that this handbook is not all-inclusive, and the rules and policies described in this handbook and other University publications are subject to revision at any time. While we do our best to notify you of such changes in a timely manner, it is best to check if you are unsure. **Any students contemplating a Joint Degree and Dual Degree must contact the other program for clarification as to that program's requirements and policies, since this handbook solely addresses issues from the Law School's perspective.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Is a Joint Degree or a Dual Degree Program?

Joint Degree and Dual Degree programs both allow students to pursue two degrees in two separate disciplines. Joint Degree programs are programs in which two divisions of the University formally agree to an arrangement that allows a student to obtain both degrees in less time than it would take to earn the degrees separately. A Dual Degree allows a student to pursue two degrees in two separate divisions of the University that do not have a formal joint degree program. In some instances, Dual Degree students may earn both degrees in less time than it would take to earn the degrees separately. Law School students may obtain Joint and Dual Degrees (including M.A. and Ph.D. degrees) in divisions throughout the University.

Who Should Think about a Joint Degree or a Dual Degree Program?

Joint Degree and Dual Degree programs are a great option for students who desire a career path in which their law degrees would be complemented by gaining more extensive knowledge in another field. For example, students interested in a career in international law may wish to pursue a dual degree with the Committee on International Relations as a means of gaining a deeper understanding of international history, theory and policy. Similarly, students desiring to focus their careers on business-related issues may wish to pursue a joint degree with the Booth School of Business as a means of learning how to approach complex business-related problems.

What Joint Degree or Dual Degree Programs Are Available at the University?

Law students may apply for Joint Degrees with the Booth School of Business, the Harris School of Public Policy Studies, or the Divinity School. Law students also may apply for Dual Degrees with any other graduate or professional division of the University of Chicago. Any law student wishing to earn a Joint Degree or Dual Degree must apply and gain admission to the graduate or professional division in which he or she wishes to obtain the Joint or Dual Degree.

How Does Funding Work?

Any law student who enters into a Joint Degree or Dual Degree program must obtain funding for the non-Law School program through the other graduate or professional division.

J.D. REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive a J.D., a student must meet the following Law School requirements:

- Complete 105 credit hours
- Pay tuition at the Law School for 8 quarters
- Be in residence for 9 quarters, with no fewer than nine credit hours per quarter
- Complete a professional responsibility course
- Complete a professional skills course
- Complete two substantial pieces of writing (the SRP and WP)

For purposes of these requirements, being “in residence” for a quarter means that a student is taking a minimum of nine credits and taking at least one class at the Law School. That does not require a student to take all of his or her courses at the Law School, however; in fact, a student may pay tuition and fees at the Law School for a term and take most of his or her courses at another school (e.g., Harris School or Booth). That term will still count towards the Law School’s residency requirement, even if all of the credit hours taken at the other school do not count toward the 105 credit hour requirement. **It is important to alert both schools near the end of each term as to where you wish to be in residence the following term to ensure proper residency and correct charges.**

The Law School will accept up to four classes (for a total of 12 credits) taken outside of the Law School and in a dual or joint degree student’s other discipline for credit towards a student’s J.D. degree, subject to the restrictions set forth in Section 1.11 of the *Student Handbook*.¹ **Importantly, the classes may not have substantial overlap with any courses taken at the Law School.**

In addition, students must complete the other school’s degree requirements; **it is solely the student’s responsibility to confirm with the other school that he or she has met that school’s degree requirements.**

¹ Joint and Dual Degree students are not subject to the prohibition against taking more than two non-Law School courses per quarter. In addition, in some circumstances, the Law School may accept up to 25 credits of coursework taken outside of the Law School and in another division of the University if taken in pursuit of a Ph.D. For additional information, please go to p.5.

JOINT DEGREE/DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

The following Joint and Dual Degree programs are most popular among students, although students may pursue a Joint or Dual Degree with any other professional or graduate division within the University:

Law & Business: A student may earn a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree from Booth School of Business in conjunction with a J.D. The Law School accepts up to 12 credit hours in courses taken at Booth toward the J.D.* A student may be able to earn both the J.D. and the M.B.A. degrees in four calendar years.

Law & Public Policy: A student may earn a Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) degree from the Harris School of Public Policy in conjunction with a J.D. The Law School accepts up to 12 credit hours in courses taken at the Harris School toward the J.D.* A student may be able to earn both the J.D. and the M.P.P. degrees in four calendar years.

Law & International Relations: A student may earn a Master of International Relations (A.M.) degree from the Committee on International Relations in conjunction with a J.D. The Law School accepts up to 12 credit hours in courses taken at the Committee on International Relations toward the J.D.* A student may be able to earn both the J.D. and the A.M. degrees in eleven quarters.

Law & Religious Studies: A student may earn a Master in Divinity (M.Div.) from the Divinity School in conjunction with a J.D. The Law School accepts up to 12 credit hours in courses taken at the Divinity School toward the J.D.* A student may be able to earn both the J.D. and the M.Div. degrees in five calendar years.

Law & Medicine: A student may earn a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree from the Pritzker School of Medicine in conjunction with a J.D. Students typically complete the first two years of medical school before matriculating at the Law School. After completing the J.D. requirements, M.D./J.D. students return to Pritzker for the final two clinical years of the medical degree. A student may be able to earn both the J.D. and the M.D. degrees in seven calendar years.

*Subject to the restrictions set forth in Section 1.11 of the Student Handbook. Please note that Joint and Dual Degree students are not subject to the prohibition against taking more than two non-Law School classes per quarter.

J.D./Ph.D. DEGREES

Although there currently are no formal joint J.D./Ph.D. degree programs with other areas of the University (with the exception of the J.D./Ph.D. in Business), candidates who wish to earn the J.D. in the Law School and a Ph.D. concurrently in another area of the University have been able to facilitate and expedite a dual course of study.

Students who are enrolled in concurrent J.D. and Ph.D. programs at the University of Chicago can count up to 25 credits earned outside the Law School towards their J.D. degrees. This credit will only be awarded for graduate coursework: (1) undertaken in a Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago; (2) after a student has matriculated at the Law School; and (3) approved by the Deputy Dean in consultation with the Dean of Students. Students permitted to count up to 25 credits toward their J.D. degrees also must pay tuition to the Law School for six quarters and be in residence at the Law School for six quarters. **These benefits are limited to students who complete both degrees. Students who have not earned a Ph.D. by the time they receive their J.D. may apply no more than 12 credits earned outside the Law School towards their J.D. degrees, must pay tuition at the Law School for at least eight quarters, and must be in residence at the Law School for nine quarters.**² Students who began their studies in a Ph.D. program before matriculating at the Law School are eligible to count up to 25 credits earned outside the Law School toward their J.D. degrees only if they have matriculated at the Law School within three years of beginning their Ph.D. programs.³

² The Law School will typically accept one quarter that a student is registered in his or her other program towards residency at the Law School, provided that the student is enrolled full-time, earns at least nine credits, and at least one of the classes taken during that quarter is a LAWS-prefixed class.

³ This credit would only be awarded for graduate coursework undertaken *after* a student has matriculated at the Law School.

Students in J.D./Ph.D. programs who began their law studies at the Law School need to complete at least 80 credits of coursework at the Law School to obtain their J.D.s. These 80 credits may be earned during two years of intensive study at the Law School. All J.D./Ph.D. students who transferred to the Law School from another law school must earn at least 90 credits at the Law School to obtain their J.D.

As of the time of this rule's adoption in 2012, any J.D./Ph.D. students planning to seek admission to the New York Bar must earn 90 credits at the Law School because of that state bar's rules for admission. J.D./Ph.D. students planning to practice outside New York should research the rules of the state bar to which they are hoping to be admitted. In addition, any student wishing to pursue a J.D./Ph.D. must keep in mind that American Bar Association rules require all J.D. degrees to be completed within 84 months of a student's matriculation to law school.

The Law School is flexible in giving students leaves of absence so that they may register full-time in other areas of the University, so long as such a leave will not prevent the student from finishing the J.D. within the ABA's 84-month time limit. Some J.D. candidates working concurrently on Ph.D. dissertations with a law-related component have found that their studies in the Law School may enable them to complete their dissertations in a shorter time than other Ph.D. students.

FINANCIAL AID

Keep in mind that any financial aid you receive from the Law School (whether in the form of scholarships or loans) is non-transferable and cannot be applied to any other division of the University. It is each student's responsibility to determine whether he or she is eligible for aid outside of the Law School and to obtain aid to cover the costs of tuition and living expenses incurred while pursuing the non-Law School degree.

Please also keep in mind that each division of the University has different costs associated with attendance. For example, another division of the University may have less expensive tuition and a lower cost of living. These differences may result in your loans being reduced while you are enrolled in the other division of the University.

It is imperative that you let Student Loan Administration and the financial aid offices at both the Law School and the other division know in which division you will be enrolled prior to the beginning of each quarter in order to assure that your financial aid is applied correctly each quarter.

Students also should pay close attention to application deadlines, as each school has different requirements. Keep in mind that each student's situation is unique, so it is important that you stay in contact with the financial aid offices in both divisions.

The Law School has established a special and generous fellowship program to support students pursuing a J.D./Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. Through this program, the Law School reserves a number of special financial aid packages for top J.D./Ph.D. candidates. Students may qualify for either partial or full tuition scholarships as well as a stipend for living expenses.

Students admitted to the Law School and to a Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago may qualify for one of these financial aid packages. Funding is not contingent upon obtaining a particular form of employment after graduation. Decisions regarding funding will be made by the J.D./Ph.D. Committee after admission. For additional information regarding J.D./Ph.D. funding, please contact Law School Associate Dean for Admissions & Financial Aid Ann Perry.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications to the Law School and all other schools must be submitted separately, and students can either apply to another division concurrently with the initial application for admission to the Law School or after the student completes the first or second year of Law School or at another school or division of the University. **Please note that no coursework completed prior to matriculation at the Law School will count towards the J.D.**

Students should note that the decision whether to admit a particular student is solely within the discretion of each school. Consequently, admission to the Law School does not automatically guarantee admission to any other graduate or professional division at the University, and admission to another school or division of the University does not guarantee admission to the Law School.

Any student contemplating pursuing a Joint Degree or a Dual Degree should consult with the school to which the student is seeking admission to determine the school's application procedures. **It is important to note that many divisions of the University will not defer admission.**

GRADES

The grading scale at the Law School is as follows:

180-186 A
174-179 B
168-173 C
160-167 D
155-159 F

Grades are recorded as numerical grades. Grades for classes taken at other schools will be recorded as traditional letter grades (A-F). Grades for non-Law School classes do not count toward a student's Law School grade point average.

LAW REVIEW & JOURNAL PARTICIPATION

Students contemplating pursuing a Joint or Dual Degree should take into consideration the timing of journal participation, as many of the Law School's journals do not allow deferrals of membership. Any student with questions about journal membership should speak with the Dean of Students.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Academic Calendar

Students pursuing Joint or Dual Degrees should keep in mind that the Law School's academic calendar may differ from that of other schools or divisions of the University, and class schedules, exam schedules, and break schedules may not always be in sync. In particular, 3L students who take classes outside of the Law School the quarter they graduate must ensure that their non-Law School grades are submitted by the Law School's graduating student grade submission deadline. **It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with both schools' calendars and to minimize potential scheduling conflicts.**

Registering for Classes

Joint and Dual Degree students register for classes at the Law School using the same procedure that all law students use.

Advising

Any student contemplating pursuing a Joint or Dual Degree should meet with the Law School's Associate Director of Student Affairs or Dean of Students, as well as the designated joint or dual degree advisor at the other school. In addition, all students pursuing Joint or Dual Degrees should meet with the Associate Director of Student Affairs or the Registrar at least once a quarter to verify the student is on track to graduate by the desired date.

Changing Residence

A student intending to change his or her residence within the University from one term to another should inform the Law School's Associate Director of Student Affairs and the Registrar, as well as the designated joint or dual degree advisor at the other school, in order to ensure that the student is properly coded in the University's student information system.

Lockers & Parking Passes

Joint and Dual Degree students who are not in residence at the Law School normally do not have access to Law School lockers, nor can they enter the lottery

for Law School parking passes. Questions about lockers should be directed to Amanda Gordon in the Law School's Office of the Registrar.

LAW SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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