

Juris Doctor, JD

Combined Programs

JD/Graduate Degrees

Some students want to explore areas beyond the law, whether it is to maximize their skill sets for future careers, gain in-depth knowledge in a second subject matter, or simply broaden their minds. Combined degree programs allow students to pursue two degrees simultaneously, taking advantage of synergies between degree requirements while gaining significant exposure to a second area of study. Juris Doctor students may pursue combined degree programs with most graduate and professional programs at the University of Iowa. Students may earn a JD degree and another graduate or professional degree in a shorter amount of time than if the two degrees were pursued independently.

Admissions Qualification

To pursue a combined degree, students must apply to and be accepted separately into the JD program and another graduate or professional program. Students typically seek admission to the second degree-granting program after matriculation at the College of Law by applying to the graduate program of interest during their first year of law school. In some cases, it is possible to apply to both programs simultaneously. Students who have already begun graduate work at the University of Iowa may apply to the College of Law. Once students have been accepted into the JD program and another graduate or professional program, they must obtain permission from the associate dean for student affairs or the dean of the College of Law to be classified as a combined degree candidate. Prospective students interested in a combined degree program should contact the admissions offices of both programs to discuss the proposed program of study.

Students who wish to pursue a combined degree program and obtain admission into one college but not the other may enter the college in which they were admitted. However, they are not granted combined degree status. Likewise, combined degree students who terminate work toward one of the degree programs may typically continue to work toward the other degree.

Admissions Procedures

Prospective combined degree students must submit separate applications to the College of Law and the graduate program of interest. They must take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and comply with all College of Law admissions requirements. Students must also meet the admission requirements of their other graduate program by taking tests such as the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Prospective students should inform the admissions offices of both programs that they are applying to a combined degree program to confirm the admissions requirements for the other program.

Students interested in a combined degree program at the beginning of their legal studies should indicate they are seeking a combined degree on their application. Students who are admitted to both colleges will receive separate letters of admission from those colleges as well as an official

notification of being admitted to the combined degree program from Admissions.

Admission information for the Juris Doctor (JD) is available on the College of Law Admissions page. For information about other graduate programs of interest, visit Academics on the University of Iowa home page.

Shared Credit Policies

Students enrolled in a combined degree program must satisfy the semester hours and course requirements that all students must satisfy for each degree separately. However, they have the option of using credit for some courses toward both degrees. These courses are typically electives in each discipline. For example, students enrolled in a combined JD/MPH program may be able to count the family law and introduction to U.S. health care system courses toward the graduation requirements of both the JD and MPH degrees.

The amount of shared credit that may be applied toward both programs of study varies by program. Generally, combined degree program students may apply up to 12 s.h. earned in their second program of study toward the JD provided that the courses satisfy the College of Law policy on non-law courses. The JD/MPH degree permits up to 12 s.h. of specific College of Law courses to count toward MPH graduation requirements. Some degree programs allow students to count up to 6 s.h. of College of Law courses toward a non-law degree. Details on the Graduate College policy may be found in the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website. Prospective students should check with their graduate or professional program of interest to determine the law semester hours that count for both programs as well as other rules or restrictions concerning the counting of courses toward both degrees with the College of Law.

Additional details about College of Law graduation requirements and other policies may be found in the College of Law Student Handbook. Students considering a combined degree program should be aware that the first-year program in the College of Law consists of required courses and they typically may not take courses outside the College of Law.

Student Tuition Assessment Policy

Students in a JD and a graduate/professional degree combined program are assessed tuition at the College of Law rate if the tuition in the other college is lower than in the College of Law, except for any semester or summer session in which they are not enrolled in any law courses and none of the semester hours being earned in other colleges are applied toward their JD degree. All combined degree students pursuing a JD degree are assessed at least six semesters of law school tuition.