The College of Law and the College of Social Work's joint-degree program in Law and Social Work, J.D./M.S.W., permits completion of both degree programs concurrently. Following admission to both colleges or departments, a joint-degree student is required to submit the necessary joint-degree application and receive approval from the faculty advisor at the College of Law and the faculty advisor in the College of Social Work to pursue the joint degree. Interested applicants normally begin their study at the College of Law. A joint-degree student who wishes to enroll for any coursework in the other college or department before completing the first year of law school must obtain the prior written approval of the College of Law faculty program advisor. Current law students may also apply to the joint-degree program by the end of their first year in law school. Once enrolled in the first-year law curriculum they will then complete all necessary documentation for the application process through the College of Social Work as well as a joint-degree application before June 1st for the traditional program or July 1st for the advanced placement program. All required documents should be returned to the College of Law Office of Admissions.

Applicants to the College of Social Work must have a bachelor’s degree and an upper division (junior and senior) grade point average of 3.0 or better. Applicants must take the GRE to be considered. Applicants should contact the College of Social Work directly to obtain specific information on the necessary GRE requirements.

Office of Admissions • Florida State University College of Law
Telephone: 850.644.3787 • E-mail: admissions@law.fsu.edu
Social Work Curriculum

The College of Social Work programs require two internships for the traditional program and one internship for the advanced placement program. Students in the joint-degree program would complete their final M.S.W. internship in a law and social work placement, such as the College of Law’s Children’s Advocacy Clinic or the Attorney General’s Office. Approved internship sites are coordinated through the Office of Field Education at the College of Social Work. There would need to be access to both an attorney and a M.S.W. supervisor at the internship site. Students who choose the Children’s Advocacy Clinic for their internship may not take the course for law school credit.

The following law courses have been approved to count toward the M.S.W. degree as electives:

- LAW 6545 Employment Law Survey
- LAW 7710 Family Law
- LAW 7723 Genetics, Ethics, Law and Policy
- LAW 6720 Health Law and Policy
- LAW 6235 Women and the Law
- LAW 6520 Administrative Law
- LAW 6510 Alternative Dispute Resolution
- LAW 7722 Bioethics and the Law
- LAW 7510 Civil Rights Survey
- LAW 7549 Employment Discrimination

Questions

The joint-degree must be completed within five years, although most students complete the program in four years. For further information about curriculum requirements, please contact:

Manuel A. Utset, Jr., William & Catherine VanDercreek Professor & Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Florida State University College of Law
(850) 644-3400
mutset@law.fsu.edu

Tracy Bestor, Academic Program Specialist, MSW Academic Advisor
Florida State University College of Social Work
(850) 645-6932
tbestor@fsu.edu

Conferring of Degrees

Students in joint-degree programs receive both degrees concurrently. Students may not be certified as a graduate without having completed the graduation requirements in both colleges. This includes the Law upper-level writing requirement, the skills training requirement, and the pro bono requirement.

Residency Requirement

Unless otherwise approved by both advisors and the College of Law Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, students enrolled in joint-degree programs must earn a minimum of seven semesters of residence credit. Based on the College of Law formula for determining residency, one semester of residency credit is earned for every 12 credit hours of courses taken in the College of Law and the College of Social Work. All requirements for both degrees must be completed within five calendar years.