

JD/MSW Program Description

I. Introduction

The JD/MSW Program allows students to obtain both degrees simultaneously. Because of the ability to use credits earned in one of the programs in the other, the amount of time to earn the joint degree is less than would be possible without the joint program.

The purpose of this document is to state the Law School's policies concerning the program.

II. Graduation Requirements

The graduation requirements for the JD degree do not change because of a student being in the program. To be awarded the JD degree, a student must meet all of the normal graduation requirements of the Law School within 84 months of Law School matriculation.

III. MSW Program Courses that Serve as Electives at the Law School

Up to nine credits (of the 90 needed to be awarded a JD) can be earned in courses that are offered in the Bridgewater State University Masters in Social Work program if the course has been approved in advance by the Law School. The list of currently approved courses is set forth in part A below.

Students should note that these credits are not offered at the Law School and cannot be used to satisfy the requirement that at least 65 credits of their education must be obtained by attending regularly scheduled classes at the Law School. The grades in courses taken in the MSW program will not be included in a student's law school GPA. The course will not count toward the JD unless the student earns a grade of at least 3.0.

A. Currently Recognized Courses

SCWK 541 Research: Evaluating Practice
SCWK 572 Social Policy III: Mental and Physical Health Care Policy
SCWK 550 Social Work Practice III
SCWK 551 Social Work Practice IV

B. Procedure for Adding Courses

A Faculty Member, Dean or appropriate Associate Dean of either the Law School or the School of Social Work may submit a request to the Curriculum Committee of the Law School to have a new course added to the list of approved courses or to strike a course that no longer is suitable. The Curriculum Committee will determine if the proposal fits the educational objectives of the Law School.

IV. Law School Courses Accepted for Credit toward the MSW Program

Up to nine credits of electives that are taken at the Law School can be used to satisfy the requirements to obtain the MSW degree (or up to six credits for students admitted under the MSW Advanced Standing Option). The list of currently approved courses is set forth below.

A. Currently Recognized Courses

LAW 653 Domestic Violence Law
LAW 652 Education Law
LAW 658 Family Law
LAW 672 Landlord-Tenant Law
LAW 689 Elder Law
LAW 705 Family Law Practice
LAW 771 Special Education Law

B. Additional Elective

In addition, a joint degree program student who has taken only two of the above listed courses may seek approval from the School of Social Work to enroll in a different law school course to fulfill the single MSW elective requirement.

V. Timing of Coursework

Under ABA Standards, JD programs may not accept credits from non-JD programs until the student has matriculated in law school. Thus, although a student may commence either JD or MSW studies first, joint degree students must complete the first year of the JD before enrolling in any MSW course for which the student will seek transfer credit toward the JD degree. Students may vary from the recommended curriculum in ways that are consistent with the joint degree program guidelines and the program requirements of each degree program. Students may take no more than 30 credits of online courses during their JD course of study, and may take no more than 10 credits of online courses during the first one-third of their JD study.

A model curriculum for course sequencing is available from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to assist students in planning their progress through the joint degree program. Students may vary from the model curriculum in ways that are consistent with these guidelines and the program requirements of each degree program.