

JD/MPP Program Guidelines

I. Introduction

The JD/MPP 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 and the Department of Public Policy'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.

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

Up to six credits (of the 90 needed to be awarded a JD) can be earned in courses that are offered in the Public Policy program if the course has been approved in advance by the Law School, provided that the student takes the courses after matriculating at the Law School. The list of currently approved courses is set forth in part A below. Additional courses offered in the Public Policy program may be added if, in the opinion of the Associate Dean and Curriculum Committee, they cover materials that will prepare its students for admission to the bar or for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession.

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. In addition, under ABA Standards, 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. The grades in courses taken in the Public Policy program will not be included in a student's law school GPA.

A. Currently Recognized Courses

POL 500: Public Institutions and the Policy Process

POL 530: Policy Analysis

POL 541: State and Local Public Finance

POL 663: Ocean Policy and Law

MGT 600: Corporate Social Responsibility and Business Law

MGT 675: Managing Across Cultures

MGT 677: Lead, Motivate, & Empower

B. Procedure for Adding Courses

A Faculty Member, Dean or appropriate Associate Dean of either the Law or Public Policy School 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 Public Policy Program

Up to nine credits that are taken at the Law School can be used to satisfy the requirements to obtain the MPP degree. Students are not required to be matriculated into the MPP program prior to taking law courses that may count towards the MPP degree. However, law courses must be completed within five years of completing MPP degree requirements in order for the courses to count. Also, for a law course to count, the student must achieve a grade of C (not C minus) or higher. Any grade below a C will not be capable of being transferred to fulfill MPP degree requirements. The grades of law courses that do transfer to fulfill MPP requirements will not be included in the student's MPP GPA. The list of currently approved courses is set forth below.

A. Currently Recognized Courses

Law 560: Administrative Law (substituting for POL 611: Administrative Law)
Law 652: Education Law (substituting for POL 542: Law and Education)
Law 618: Environmental Law (substituting for POL 661: Environmental Law)
Law 639: Field Placement or Law 640: Community Development Clinic
(substituting for POL 599: Internship)

B. Additional Elective

In addition, a joint degree program student who has taken only two of the above listed courses (six credits), may seek approval from the Department of Public Policy to enroll in a different law school course to fulfill the single public policy elective requirement.

V. Timing of Coursework

Under ABA Standards, no course may count for transfer credit toward the JD before the student has matriculated in law school. Thus, although a student may commence either legal or public policy studies first, joint degree students will need to complete the entire first year of JD studies prior to enrolling in any public policy course for which the student will seek to transfer credit toward the JD degree.

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.