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## Dual Degrees F.A.Q.

University of Michigan Law School

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# Dual Degrees

## F.A.Q.

**M** | LAW

# The University of Michigan Law School

encourages interested students to pursue dual degrees in law and other areas of study, and provides significant opportunities for doing so. In obtaining a dual degree, students can benefit from the reputation and prestige not only of Michigan Law but that of numerous other University of Michigan programs; act on their personal intellectual interests; maximize the interdisciplinary perspective of a Michigan Law education; broaden their career options; and enhance their attractiveness to potential employers. To make the dual degree option even more realistic—and convenient—the Law School is located at the heart of the University campus, with the schools of Business, Social Work, Education, and Public Policy located within one block, and others within easy walking distance.

Dual degree students are uniquely prepared to take advantage of dramatically expanding career opportunities in and beyond law. Even for students interested in traditional legal careers, a dual degree can deepen their understanding of law and broaden opportunities throughout a professional lifetime. Michigan Law is famously interdisciplinary, and dual degrees are a popular option. In any given year, 5 to 10 percent of our student body is formally enrolled in a dual degree program; that number does not include the substantial number of students pursuing coursework outside the Law School on a non-degree basis.

## **Q. How do I apply?**

**A.** Admissions procedures at each school are independent. Students must apply to and gain admission to both schools separately. However, the Law School is happy to waive the JD application fee for applicants who are simultaneously applying to one of the formalized dual degree programs. You must check with individual programs to ascertain their application requirements, including any standardized testing that may be required. Unfortunately, the Law School cannot waive its LSAT requirement.

## **Q. How can I earn two degrees in a dual program in less time than it would take me to earn the degrees separately?**

**A.** Each school will count a specified number of credits from the other school. This double counting results in a time and cost savings. While the number of law credits that may be applied toward the external degree varies from school to school, the Law School will always apply up to 12 credits taken in graduate-level courses.

## **Q. Is it possible to do an “ad hoc” dual degree program either at UM or with another institution?**

**YES**

**A.** Students interested in such programs should consult with Darren Nealy, Director of Student Services, at 734.615.0019 or [law.dual.degrees@umich.edu](mailto:law.dual.degrees@umich.edu).

## **Q. Must I apply to both programs/schools at the same time?**

**A.** Except for the Law and Economics PhD program, law students are free to apply to another program in their first, or sometimes even second, year of law school. If you do apply to both programs in the same admissions cycle, you must be sure to check with each separate admitting office about enrollment schedules. Typically, dual degree students will spend the first year in the Law School, the second year in the companion school, and the final terms taking a combination of credits in both schools. Whatever schedule best fits your goals, be sure to check with the admitting offices of both schools to ensure that they can accommodate your preference.

## **Q. Can I enroll in a dual degree program after completing requirements for one of the degrees?**

**A.** The dual degree programs are not open to students who have already completed requirements for one of the degrees.

## **Q. Can I count credits from another UM unit earned prior to starting at the Law School?**

**A.** The American Bar Association, our accrediting organization, prohibits the granting of credit for work completed prior to enrollment in a JD program. For this reason, it is often preferable to begin a dual program at the Law School to assure that you can take full advantage of the double counting of credits.

## **Q. How does tuition work?**

**A.** If classes are taken exclusively at one school in any given semester, tuition is paid to that school at that school's rate. However, in any semester when classes are taken in both schools, tuition will be assessed at either the Law School or the companion school rate, whichever is higher.

## **Q. May I take classes in the companion school during the first year of law school?**

**A.** Except in very rare circumstances, only law courses may be taken during the first year of law school.

## **Q. What if, after starting a dual degree program, I decide to "drop out" and pursue only the J.D.?**

**A.** The Law School counts up to 12 credits taken in a companion school even if a student is not registered for a dual degree, and imposes no penalty on a student who opts to discontinue a dual-degree program.

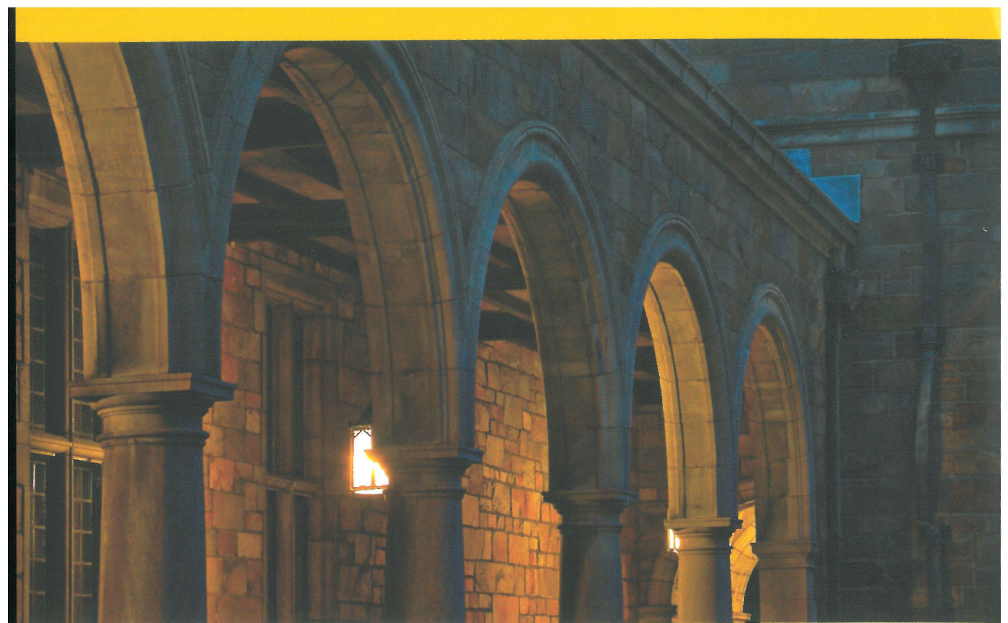
## **Q. Can dual degree students also complete a Law School externship for credit?**

**A.** Academic regulations make it difficult for dual degree students to do an externship. However, practical or hands-on opportunities may be available for credit through the Law School's clinical program or the companion school. Summer jobs and school-year pro bono activities are other great ways to gain practical experience.

## **Q. What can I do with a dual degree?**

**A LOT**

**A.** While some people want to pursue a dual degree simply out of academic interest, most students are thinking about the potential career benefits that might accrue. Those vary, of course, depending on the degree. Our most common dual degree is the JD/MBA, from which people often pursue corporate law placements in the largest firms, or work in consulting firms; graduates with a JD/MPH might pursue work at a private sector law firm working on health care regulations, or for the Food & Drug Administration, or in an industry support organization; those with a JD/MPP are well-suited to a wide array of positions at nonprofits or in the government. A recent grad with a JD/MA in Middle Eastern and North African Studies went on to a position at a foreign policy think tank, and someone else leveraged a JD/MSI to get a position at a leading technology rights organization. Whether a degree beyond the JD makes sense for you will depend on your specific career goals, but if you're so inclined, there are very few universities with more departments to choose among that are as highly regarded as those at Michigan.



**Michigan offers 14 dual degrees;  
we also allow you to design your own.**

Recent student-created dual degrees blended the study of law with graduate programs in American culture, kinesiology, and philosophy.

*Law and Business Administration (JD/MBA)*

*Law and Economics (JD/PhD)*

*Law and Chinese Studies (JD/MA)*

*Law and Information (JD/MSI)*

*Law and Japanese Studies (JD/MA)*

*Law and Modern Middle Eastern & North African Studies (JD/MA)*

*Law and Natural Resources (JD/MS)*

*Law and Public Health (JD/MHSA or JD/MPH)*

*Law and Public Policy (JD/MPP)*

*Law and Russian & East European Studies (JD/MA)*

*Law and Social Work (JD/MSW)*

*Law and Urban & Regional Planning (JD/MUP)*

*Law and World Politics (JD/MA)*

Visit our website at [www.law.umich.edu/curriculum/dualdegrees](http://www.law.umich.edu/curriculum/dualdegrees)  
or e-mail us at [law.dual.degrees@umich.edu](mailto:law.dual.degrees@umich.edu).

**At Michigan Law, we've made pursuing interdisciplinary coursework administratively easy—and our location at the heart of campus means it's geographically easy, too!**



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| 1 Law and Business Administration                          | 8 Law and Public Health  |
| 2 Law and Economics  | 9 Law and Public Policy  |
| 3 Law and Chinese Studies                                  | 10 Law and Russian & East European Studies                                   |
| 4 Law and Information                                      | 11 Law and Social Work   |
| 5 Law and Japanese Studies                                 | 12 Law and Urban & Regional Planning<br>(located on North Campus, not shown) |
| 6 Law and Modern Middle Eastern<br>& North African Studies | 13 Law and World Politics  |
| 7 Law and Natural Resources                                |  |

The University of Michigan Law School **Admissions Office**  
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