

Combined Degree Policies

University of Minnesota Law School

[Resources at the Law School](#)

[Definitions](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Degree Requirements](#)

[Advising and Planning](#)

[Determination of Single or Dual Career Status](#)

[Course Registration](#)

[Academic Records and Transcripts](#)

[JD Academic Performance, Honors, and Awards Eligibility](#)

[Scholarships, and Other Support \(Fellowships, Assistantships, etc.\)](#)

[Tuition and Fees](#)

[Financial Aid \(Loans\)](#)

The following policies govern the University of Minnesota Law School's administration of combined degree programs.

Resources at the Law School

The following offices provide advising and administrative support for combined degree candidates within the Law School:

1. **Dean of Students Office.** The Dean of Students Office (lawdos@umn.edu) provides general advising and oversight of combined degree students and implements Law School and University Rules and protocols as reflected in these policies. The Dean of Students Office also approves credit transfers of non-Law credits towards the JD degree.
2. **Admissions Office.** The Admissions Office is responsible for allocation and administration of Law School scholarship support in keeping with the policies herein and the initial terms of the student's scholarship award.
3. **Joint Degree Programs Office.** For students pursuing combined degrees in science, technology and health fields, advising support is provided through the [Joint Degree Program in Law, Science and Technology](#).
4. **Registrar's Office.** The Registrar's Office (lawreg@umn.edu) assists combined degree students with Law course registration and other key processes, including preparation of combined degree transcripts, calculation of ranks, quartiles and honors, clearing students for graduation and certification for the bar, and responding to a range of student records requests.

Definitions

1. **Career of registration (or enrollment).** Within the University of Minnesota's student record system, the term "Career" denotes the "home" of registration for each degree being pursued (i.e. Law Career, Graduate Career, etc.). The Career determines: the official transcript upon which coursework appears and where credit and grade totals are compiled; the tuition and fees incurred for credits taken under that Career; and eligibility

for scholarships, fellowships, assistantships or other support available through a degree program. Starting with the 2014-2015 academic year, students pursuing combined degree programs are enrolled in either the Single Career or Dual Career enrollment systems:

- a. **Single Career enrollment.** For each semester of enrollment, all coursework -- whether in Law, the partner program, or both -- is consolidated into a single Career in the student record. In most cases for combined degree students, the Career is the school where the student is taking the greatest number of credits. In a given semester under Single Career enrollment, all courses, grades, and GPA points are reflected *only* on the degree transcript associated with the Career of enrollment, even if coursework is taken in multiple degree programs. Students are charged tuition and fees associated with the Career of enrollment, and students are only eligible for scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, or other support available through that Career. The Single Career enrollment option is being phased out and is not available to students who began their Law studies before August 2014.
 - b. **Dual Career enrollment.** Under [Dual Career enrollment](#), adopted widely by the University in 2012, combined degree students enroll in multiple Careers in a given semester. In a given semester under Dual Career Enrollment, courses, grades, and GPA points are reflected on the separate degree transcripts for each Career; students are charged separate tuition and fees for each Career of enrollment; and students may be eligible for scholarships, fellowships, or other support in multiple Careers in a given semester.
2. **Combined Degree Program.** (Law School Academic Rule 8.3) A program of study in which a student is accepted to and pursuing requirements for both a JD degree and another graduate or professional degree at the University of Minnesota, and where the student is entitled to apply some credits towards degree requirements in both programs. Within the Law School, combined degree programs have two categories:
- a. **Dual Degree.** All combined degree programs not governed by the Joint Degree Program in Law, Science and Technology are considered “dual degrees.” Dual degrees combine a JD with a graduate or professional degree in another collegiate unit of the University. Dual degree students are advised at the Law School by the Assistant Dean of Students, Assistant Director of Student Services, or other delegate with expertise in the partner degree program.
 - b. **Joint Degree.** The [Joint Degree Program in Law, Science and Technology](#) administers “joint degree” programs, which combine a JD degree and another graduate and professional degree in the areas of: Drug Research and Development; Environmental Studies; Medicine and Health Policy; Molecular Biology and Genomics; Science and Technology Policy; and other science-related programs. Each joint program is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement between the Law School and the partner graduate or professional program, which specifies the requirements for completing each degree. Joint degree students participate in a one-credit Law, Science & Technology Proseminar each year. Joint degree students are advised by the Director of Joint Degree Programs and program staff.
3. **Law School Work.** (Law School Academic Rule 3.3) All courses, seminars, or other credited exercises for which a student earns credit towards the JD degree. Credit for law

school work is only granted for courses taken while a student is a candidate for the JD degree, or in a partner program for a combined degree if such credits were earned *after* the student was accepted as a JD candidate. Law school work includes:

- a. Coursework and credited exercises in the Law School at the 6000 level or higher;
- b. Coursework and credited exercises that are cross-listed in Law at or above the 6000 level;
- c. Up to six credits of graduate- or professional-level coursework (5000-level or above) in the partner degree program that is approved as being “substantially law-related”;
- d. Up to six credits of graduate- or professional-level coursework (5000-level or above) that contributes towards partner degree requirements;
 - i. NOTE: students who began their combined degree program prior to 2013 may also include up to six graduate- or professional-level credits from *outside* their partner program OR foreign language acquisition credits, or a combination.
- e. Up to 35 credits of JD-level coursework earned while a JD candidate at another ABA-accredited law school, or pursuant to an approved program of domestic or international study away.

Admissions

1. **Eligibility.** (Law School Academic Rule 8.3) Students must apply to and be accepted separately by both the Law School and partner degree program. Students are not eligible to start a combined degree program with credit-transfer benefits if they have four or fewer credits remaining to be completed in either program.
2. **Where to apply.** Students must apply separately to the [JD program](#) and to the partner program through their respective Admissions Offices. Each school sets its own procedures, requirements, and timelines for applications and makes independent admission decisions using its own criteria.
3. **When to apply.** Students are encouraged to apply simultaneously to both the Law School and a partner program, though many programs accommodate application after a student has started the JD degree. Depending on the partner program, it may also be possible for a current graduate or professional student at the University of Minnesota to apply to the JD program while pursuing the other degree. Generally, it is best to apply as early as possible in each program’s annual admissions cycle to maximize eligibility for available scholarships or other support.
4. **Admission exams.** The Law School requires all applicants to submit LSAT scores and does not accept alternate entrance exams. The only exception is through the ABA-approved [Minnesota Advantage Program](#) administered by the Law Admissions Office. Partner degree programs set their own entrance exam requirements, which could include the GMAT, GRE, or other tests. While some partner schools will accept the LSAT in lieu of an otherwise-required entrance exam, students should consult directly with the partner program admissions office, as scholarship eligibility could be affected. The Law School does not exercise control or discretion over entrance exam requirements of other programs.
5. **Notification to Law School and partner program.** When admitted to both the JD program and a partner degree program, a student should send written notice to the Law School Registrar’s Office (lawreg@umn.edu) to identify the partner program,

administrative contact or advisor, and estimated dates of completion for both degrees. A law student may use the [Reduced Enrollment Form](#) as a mechanism of notifying the Law School of intent to pursue a combined degree.

Degree Requirements

1. **Separate degree requirements.** The Law School and partner program independently determine the requirements for each degree. Neither school has the ability to waive or add requirements for the other program's degree.
2. **Juris Doctor degree.** (Law School Academic Rules 2, 3, 4, 5) JD degree requirements are set forth in the [Law School Academic Rules](#), and may change in order to comply with American Bar Association (ABA) accreditation standards and Law faculty priorities. Requirements are summarized and regularly updated on the [Degree Requirements](#) webpage. Generally, the JD degree requires students to complete 88 credits of law school work - including required courses, three legal writing exercises, and skills training - over the course of six (6) semesters of full-time residency.
 - a. Of the 88 credits required for the JD:
 - i. At least 64 credits must be in Law courses with regular class meetings;
 - ii. Up to twelve (12) graduate- or professional-level credits in the partner program may be applied to JD credit totals. Of those non-Law credits, up to six (6) may transfer if certified as "substantially law-related" and up to an additional six (6) may transfer as part of the partner degree program;
 - b. Full-time residency includes any semester in which a student is enrolled in a total of at least 12 credits, so long as 6 or more of those credits qualify as law school work;
 - c. If Academic Rules relating to JD degree requirements change during a combined degree student's pursuit of the JD, the student will be held to the requirements that applied when the student began the JD program, unless the updated rules specifically reference impacted cohorts.
3. **Partner program degree.** The partner program determines the specific requirements for that degree, including which elements of the JD degree may contribute towards satisfaction of the partner degree. Combined degree students should review applicable academic rules for the partner degree and consult an advisor in the partner program about how to meet requirements.
4. **Memoranda of Agreement (or Understanding) with the partner program.** Some combined degree programs originate with Memoranda of Agreement (or Understanding) between the Law School and the partner program. Where these Memoranda pre-date changes in academic requirements for either degree, each program may enforce subsequently updated requirements as to their students. When current requirements differ from the original Memorandum, the Law School and appropriate representative of the partner program will determine the appropriate resolution with respect to an individual student and/or update the applicable Memorandum.
5. **Transfer of credit from partner program to JD degree.** Combined degree students may request that up to twelve (12) credits of non-law coursework from the partner program be applied towards the JD degree. Only partner program credits completed at a "C" (2.000) level or equivalent are eligible for transfer. Of these credits, up to six (6) must be established to be "substantially law-related". An additional six (6) credits may be transferred from graduate- or professional-level work completed as part of the partner

degree program. Procedurally, combined degree students must complete and submit a [Credit Transfer Request](#) memorandum to the Law School Dean of Students Office (lawdos@umn.edu). This credit transfer is most typically done in the last semester of enrollment prior to JD completion.

6. **Transfer of credit from JD to partner program.** The partner program sets the criteria and number of Law courses that may be applied towards partner degree requirements. Students should consult their advisor in the partner program for specific substantive and procedural requirements.

Advising and Planning

1. **General advising.** Once admitted to the Law School and the partner degree program, students should consult advisors in the Law School and partner program to review the proposed course of study, keeping in mind the timelines and requirements for each degree. It is helpful to devise an anticipated schedule for when requirements in each program will be completed. However, due to changes in curricula, course availability, academic rules, or student circumstances, periodic reassessment of the initial plan may be required.
2. **Advising in the Law School.** General advising within the Law School about rules and policies governing combined degree programs is offered through the Dean of Students Office (lawdos@umn.edu). In addition to individual advising, the Dean of Students Office periodically holds general advising sessions on registration and other rules and policies relevant to combined degree students. Students may also seek substantive curricular advising from [Law School Faculty members](#) with expertise in areas related to a student's combined degree program. Additional program advising is available for:
 - a. **Science and Technology degrees.** Students pursuing graduate or professional degrees in science and technology fields receive support and advising through the [Joint Degree Program in Law, Science and Technology](#).
 - b. **Business degrees.** Students pursuing Masters of Business Administration degrees receive support and advising through the [Corporate Institute](#).
 - c. **All other programs.** Students pursuing any combined degree programs may seek advising through the Dean of Students Office (lawdos@umn.edu).
3. **Advising in the partner degree program.** Advising practices vary in partner programs, but in most cases, students are assigned a faculty or staff advisor in the other program shortly after admission. While not necessary, it may be helpful to arrange a joint meeting of advisors so that the student and both schools have a clear understanding of the degree plan, and any required adjustments.

Determination of Single or Dual Career Status

1. **Adoption of Dual Career enrollment system.** Starting in Fall 2014, the Law School began transitioning to the University's [widely-used Dual Career enrollment system](#), under which combined degree students enroll in and maintain accurate, separate grade records in each degree program, and may enable students to receive support from each program in any semester of enrollment.
2. **Determination of Single or Dual Career status.** Determination of whether a student will enroll through the Single Career or Dual Career system will be made as follows:
 - a. Any combined degree student who has completed at least one year of Law study but has not taken coursework in both degree programs within a single semester

prior to August 1, 2014 will proceed under the Dual Career enrollment model, unless a waiver is granted. If a waiver is not granted during the 2014-2015 academic year, the student will proceed under the Dual Career enrollment system until both degrees are complete.

- b. Any combined degree student who, as of August 1, 2014, has previously enrolled in coursework from both degree programs within a single semester may EITHER continue under the Single Career enrollment model, or may opt in to the Dual Career system in subsequent semesters. Once a student has opted to use the Dual Career system, the student will remain in that system until all degree requirements are met. Requests to transition to Dual Career enrollment status should be routed to the Law School Registrar's office at lawreg@umn.edu at least one week prior to the start of a given semester.
 - c. Any combined degree student who begins Law studies after August 1, 2014, will proceed under the Dual Career enrollment model. Waivers are not available for this cohort.
3. **Waiver requests.** Combined degree students who have commenced Law coursework as a JD candidate prior to August 1, 2014, may request a waiver to remain under the Single Career enrollment system. Requests should be made in writing with a brief explanation to the Law School Dean of Students Office (lawdos@umn.edu).

Course Registration

1. **Law School registration rules and restrictions.** Students should carefully and regularly consult Law School Academic Rules relating to JD course requirements and registration procedures (See [Law School Academic Rules](#) 2, 3, 4, 5, 7.2, 7.3, 8.3, 10.1) Key rules include:
 - a. **First year JD coursework restrictions.** During the first year of law school, students may not take any other graduate or professional courses (except that joint degree students *only* are enrolled in a .5 credit Proseminar in Fall and Spring semester of the 1L year). After the first year, students may take coursework entirely at the Law School, entirely in the other program, or in both programs simultaneously.
 - b. **Maximum credit loads.** ABA accreditation standards for the Law School require that a JD candidate's total coursework may not exceed 17 credits in any semester in which the student is enrolled in Law School work (including non-Law coursework the student seeks to transfer to JD requirements). In summer sessions, total credits may not exceed 9 (See [Law School Academic Rule 7.3](#)).
 - c. **Minimum credit loads.** The JD degree requires six semesters of full-time residency, which is defined as twelve or more credits.
 - i. For combined degree students, a semester of residency is earned in any semester in which the student is enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credits, so long as at least six (6) credits qualify as "law school work".
 - ii. Combined degree students may also request a one-semester residency waiver under Academic Rule 4.32.
 - iii. **Students must maintain at least half-time registration in at least one career in order to maintain eligibility for federal financial aid, student health benefits, and other University student services.** Half-time status in Law is a minimum of 6 credits. Half-time for other programs depends on the credit thresholds for that degree. The financial aid system will NOT

consider combined credits taken across multiple careers when determining financial aid eligibility.

- d. Minimum of 64 “in class” credits in Law. Rule 3.1(b) requires all JD candidates to complete a minimum of 64 credits in Law courses with regularly scheduled class meetings. Non-Law credits are not considered “in-class” credits. **Combined degree students should carefully track progress towards the in-class Law credit requirement** to ensure compliance with this rule. Law coursework that does not meet the in-class credit requirements is listed [here](#).
2. **Registration timeline and procedures.** Before registering for classes each semester, students should determine whether they will be enrolled solely in one degree program or will be pursuing coursework in both programs.
 - a. For enrollment solely in one degree program in a given semester, the procedures and timelines for that program should be followed.
 - b. For enrollment in both degree programs in one semester, students may participate in the Law School's lottery registration process and the other program's enrollment process. In most cases, students intending to take Law coursework should participate first in lottery registration (usually in November and April) before enrollment in the other program; if they have already enrolled in non-Law coursework before the Law lottery, their lottery bids may be limited by credit or time conflicts with the non-Law courses. The Law School Registrar's Office works with students and staff from partner programs to ensure registration is successfully completed. After initial enrollment through the lottery, students may drop or add courses during the open enrollment period that follows the lottery.
3. **Registration under Single vs. Dual Career enrollment.** The following policies apply to students registering under Dual Career enrollment:
 - a. Select correct Career at initial registration. When registering, students should ensure coursework appears under the correct Career:
 - i. *Law lottery coursework.* All courses awarded through the law lottery registration process will automatically appear under the Law Career.
 - ii. *Non-Law courses and drop/add adjustments.* When registering for non-Law courses, or when dropping or adding any courses in either program after initial registration, students should ensure that the correct Career is selected for each course. Students cannot go back later and change it after registration. If a student is using a course as part of a degree program, the student must register for it under their correct degree program career. **Law credits that are not taken under the Law career will not appear on the official Law transcript and may not contribute towards JD degree requirements.**
 - b. Compare enrollment in both careers to avoid course time conflicts or exceeding total max credits. Time conflicts between any two courses, regardless of career, are not permitted, and students are limited to taking no more than 17 total credits (in any career) if any credits in that semester are considered “law school work”. The Law lottery will prevent a student from enrolling in time-conflicted courses, but during open enrollment, conflicts between courses in separate careers may occur. **Students are responsible for carefully and regularly reviewing their**

enrollment in all careers to ensure they do not have time-conflicted courses OR exceed total allowed credits.

- c. Continuous enrollment requirements for non-Law degree. If a degree program requires continuous enrollment (e.g., Grad 999 for Masters and PhD students), students will need to follow that requirement even when they were not planning to otherwise register in that Career.
4. **Registration assistance.** Students whose desired registration adjustments will take them below 12 Law credits in a given semester may enlist help from the Law Registrar's Office to drop courses, since the Law School registration system defaults to enforce enrollment in at least 12 Law credits. Requests for enrollment adjustments should be made in writing to lawreg@umn.edu and may take up to one week to process.
5. **Enrollment change deadlines and financial implications.** Combined degree students should proceed cautiously with enrollment changes after initial enrollment, proactively track their records, and promptly notify appropriate staff in both careers about changes.
 - a. Drop/Add and Tuition Refund deadlines. If considering registration changes after initial enrollment, a combined degree student should check the applicable [cancel/add and tuition refund deadlines](#), which may vary between the Law Career and partner program Career.
 - b. Tuition, fee, and financial aid changes. Combined degree students should exercise caution in making enrollment changes after the start of the semester and after financial aid and/or scholarships have been disbursed. **Enrollment changes - especially where the number of total credits in each career changes in a semester - may result in additional tuition and fees, or trigger a change in financial aid or scholarship eligibility.**
 - i. When considering changes to Law enrollment after the semester starts, combined degree students should email proposed changes to the Law School's Registrar (lawreg@umn.edu); Office of Student Finance Liaison (j-park1@umn.edu); and Admissions Office (ksnowdon@umn.edu).

Academic Records and Transcripts

1. **Official University of Minnesota records system.** Official University of Minnesota student records are maintained using the PeopleSoft enterprise system, which students access via the [MyU web portal](#) (x500 ID and password required). Using this system, students can access registration tools, account records, and course and grade records.
2. **Official transcripts.** Students may request unofficial or official transcripts for either their JD or partner program degree through the MyU web portal. **However, the accuracy of official transcripts may be impacted by the following system issues:**
 - a. The accuracy of official records varies depending on whether students have enrolled through the Single or Dual Career enrollment process, as follows:
 - i. Single Career enrollment. Grades and coursework appear only on the official transcript for the Career of enrollment for a given semester semester, even if coursework originates in the other program. For example, if a combined degree student takes a Law class while enrolled through the partner program Career, the student's official law school transcript will not reflect the Law course, credits, or GPA points earned in that semester.

1. *Law School transcript.* The Law School Registrar's office manually prepares special unofficial transcripts designed to remedy discrepancies caused by the single Career enrollment system. These specialized transcripts accurately reflect all coursework counting towards the JD degree and are used in calculating a correct grade point average for determinations of academic standing, honors, ranking, and other official purposes. To request a specialized transcript, complete the online [Student Records Request](#) form.
 2. *Partner program transcript.* Transcript policies vary by program. Check with your partner program advisor about whether special transcripts are prepared to reflect only work and grades that contribute to the partner program degree.
- ii. Dual Career enrollment. Grades and coursework originating in each degree program will appear on the transcript for that Career, so long as the student consistently registers for Law courses under the Law career, and partner courses under the partner career. For example, even when a student is pursuing courses in both programs in a given semester, the official Law transcript will reflect all courses, grades, and GPA points for Law credits taken under the Law career. The student will also have a separate official transcript reflecting courses, grades, and GPA points associated with the partner degree. Coursework applied from the other degree program to a student's JD requirements will be reflected as transfer credit, and will not impact cumulative Law grade point average calculations.
- b. *Cross-listed courses.* If a combined degree student takes a course cross-listed in Law and seeks to have the course credits and grades impact the Law GPA and graduation requirements, **the class should be taken under the Law course number AND, if enrolling under the dual career enrollment system, under the Law career.** If a cross-listed course is taken under the non-Law course number, the course and grade earned will not be reflected and the Law GPA will not be correctly calculated on the official Law transcript.

JD Academic Performance, Honors, and Awards Eligibility

1. **JD grade point average (GPA) calculation.** (Law School Academic Rule 12.3) The official cumulative GPA for Juris Doctor candidates, including combined degree students, reflects ONLY those grades earned in 6000+-level University of Minnesota Law classes evaluated on the A/F grading basis. All other grades and courses are excluded from the official GPA.
 - a. For students under the Single Career enrollment system, the official Law transcript and GPA will not reflect coursework, grades, or GPA point originating in the partner program career. For an accurate determination of Law School GPA, students should email lawreg@umn.edu to request a copy of the special joint degree transcript that reflects all work and grades that will count towards the JD degree and honors calculations.
 - b. For students enrolling under the Dual Career, the official Law transcript will accurately reflect the coursework, credits, and GPA calculation for Law courses,

taken under the Law registration number, under the Law career. Deviations will result in inaccuracies.

2. **Class rank and quartile calculation.** Combined degree student class rank calculations are adjusted depending on when they start work in the partner program and the number of law credits completed.
 - a. In the 1L year, joint degree students are ranked with their 1L class if the student has completed or has in progress 33 or fewer law credits at the time of ranking.
 - b. Students will continue to be ranked with their entering class until they commence coursework outside the Law School.
 - c. Combined degree students will be ranked with the current 2L class if they have commenced their graduate or professional coursework and have completed or have in progress between 34 and 55 credits towards their JD degree at the time of ranking, including applicable non-law course credits from the other degree program. Combined degree students are ranked with the current 3L class if they have completed or have in progress 56 or more credits towards their JD degree at the time of ranking, including applicable non-law coursework from the other degree program. If a combined degree student takes fewer than 4 graded law credits in an academic year, from Summer to Spring, the previous year's rank stands, and the student will not be included in the current year's calculation.

Scholarships, and Other Support (Fellowships, Assistantships, etc.)

1. **Scholarships and other support.** Combined degree students may be eligible to receive scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, or other support towards their educational costs. Generally, support offers are made at the time of admission in each program. Each program determines how to allocate support to combined degree students and whether/how support will be increased or suspended over the course of a student's progress towards degree completion.
 - a. **Non-scholarship support.** Partner programs may support students through fellowships, assistantships, or tuition reduction. Students should consult an advisor in the partner program about what support will be available while working towards that degree. While some students may be eligible to be hired by Law faculty as Legal Project Assistants, this work is compensated hourly and does not include scholarship or tuition reduction benefits.
2. **Law School support.** The Law School supports students exclusively via scholarships, which may be applied to tuition and in some cases, academic fees. Law School scholarships are awarded only at the time of admission and are not adjusted later, except for very limited situations associated with specific degree combinations. Students must maintain a minimum cumulative Law grade point average of 2.5 to remain eligible for scholarship support for the subsequent semester of enrollment.
3. **Allocation of Law School support.** Law School scholarships may be used for Law School study, only. The Law School Admissions Office grants initial scholarship support offers and oversees administration of scholarships over the course of a student's progress towards graduation. The manner in which a combined degree student draws from scholarship support varies depending on the career enrollment structure, but in no cases will scholarship funds exceed the total tuition charged under the Law Career in a given semester.

- a. Under Single Career enrollment, students are only eligible for scholarships, fellowships, or other support via the Career school in a given semester. In other words, students may receive Law scholarship funds only in semesters in which they are enrolled in the Law Career. The Admissions office allocates scholarship support to student accounts in which students are enrolled in the Law Career. Scholarship allocation in a given semester will not exceed one half (50%) of the annual scholarship amount, and students may not draw scholarship funds above and beyond what would normally be allocated to a student enrolled over 6 semesters in the JD program. Scholarship funds cannot be combined to increase one semester's allocation. Partner programs make independent determinations of students' eligibility for support through that program in semesters when a student is taking non-law coursework under the Law Career.
- b. Under Dual Career Enrollment, students may be eligible to receive scholarship, fellowship, and assistantship support in both careers in a given semester.
 - i. *Law Scholarships*: After a student has completed the 1L year, the Admissions Office calculates a per-credit scholarship rate based on the initial scholarship amount and number of credits remaining towards the JD degree. Scholarship support will then be applied to Law classes each semester on a per-credit basis, not to exceed the total Law tuition and fees charged in a given semester, though the allocation of scholarship support on a per-credit basis may in some cases exceed one half of the annual scholarship allocation. It is important that students finalize their enrollment as early as possible each semester to ensure the correct calculation of Law tuition and fees and correct allocation of per-credit law scholarship funds.
 - ii. *Partner program support*. Partner programs devise their own policies for applying support in any semester of enrollment in non-law credits. Students should consult an advisor in the partner program to determine how support from the partner program will be allocated.

Tuition and Fees

1. **Tuition**. Each degree-granting program determines its tuition and fee structures for students enrolled in a given semester. Many programs, including the Law School, employ a “banded” or “plateau” tuition charging structure, under which a flat tuition rate is charged so long as students are enrolled in a specified range of credits. Most programs also have a per-credit tuition charge that applies for credits taken below or above the plateau. University Regent-approved tuition rates are posted on the [OneStop site](#). Tuition is calculated differently under the Single Career and Dual Career enrollment structures:
 - a. Under Single Career enrollment, tuition is assessed in accordance with the tuition rates and structures for the Career of enrollment. For example, when a student is enrolled under the Law Career in a given semester, the Law School’s plateau rate will be assessed if the total credits, including those outside the Law School, range from 12 to 17 credits. If a student obtains permission to enroll in fewer than 12 credits in a semester under the Law Career, all credits, whether in the Law School or another program, are assessed the per-credit Law tuition rate. When a student is enrolled under the partner program career, that program’s tuition rates and

structure apply, even if the student enrolls in a combination of courses in the partner program and the Law School.

- b. Under Dual Career enrollment, tuition is assessed in accordance with the tuition rates and structures for each career of enrollment in any given term. Class credits count toward tuition bands and plateaus only if those credits are taken in the career for which the band or plateau applies. For example, a student who is enrolled in 17 total credits, with 14 credits in Law and 3 credits in the partner program, will be assessed the Law plateau tuition in addition to the partner program's per-credit rate for the three non-law credits. The student is still eligible in that semester to receive scholarship or other available support from both programs.
2. **Fees.** Fees are assessed each semester in each career of enrollment. A comprehensive list of student fees that may apply to combined degree students can be reviewed on the [OneStop site](#). Degree-seeking students are all charged the Student Services Fee each semester. Additional program, materials, and collegiate fees may be assessed depending on the enrollment structure:
 - a. Under Single Career enrollment, fees are assessed based on the Career of Enrollment. For instance, if a student is enrolled under the Law Career, the Law School collegiate fee will be assessed.
 - b. Under Dual Career enrollment, fees are assessed in each career in which a student is enrolled in a given semester.
 - i. The collegiate fees associated with each degree have [multiple tiers](#) in most cases. Law fees, for instance, have one rate that applies when a student enrolls in 6 or more credits, and a reduced fee structure that applies for combined degree students when a student is enrolled in five or fewer credits.

Financial Aid (Loans)

1. **Federal financial aid eligibility.** Students pursuing combined degree programs [may be eligible for federal financial aid](#), or may seek support through private loans.
 - a. Students MUST maintain at least half-time enrollment status in at least one career in order to be eligible for any federal financial aid.
 - b. The financial aid system does not look at total credits taken between careers when determining half-time status. Students seeking federal aid must instead ensure they are enrolled at least half time in at least one or both careers.
2. **FAFSA requirement.** To apply for federal aid, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year. Students should carefully review the FAFSA application guidance on OneStop. Questions regarding FAFSA applications can be referred to James Parker (j-park1@umn.edu) who serves as the Law School's liaison to the Office of Student Finance.
3. **Cost of attendance calculation.** The method of determining the cost of attendance (tuition, fees, living expenses, etc.) for financial aid purposes varies based on whether a student is registered through the Single Career or Dual Career process.
 - a. Single Career. Under Single Career enrollment, the cost of attendance each semester is consistent with the degree associated with the career of enrollment.

- b. Dual Career. For students taking classes in two concurrent degree programs, financial aid funds will be based on the career with the higher tuition rate, allowing the maximum financial aid awarded to the student.