How the Dual Degree Program Works

All dual degree students complete their entire first year of law school (32 credits) with their law school peers. After completing their 1L year, students may take coursework entirely at the Law School, entirely in the partner program, or in both programs simultaneously.

Law students pursuing a dual degree may count up to 12 credits from their partner program toward the JD degree. The partner program may similarly allow some JD credits to count toward that degree.

I completed both my JD and MBA in a total of four years (as opposed to five) and still got to take advantage of every opportunity both degree programs offered.
—JORGEN LERVICK, JD/MBA '18

Why did you pursue a dual degree?
I came into the program with a love of learning and a pretty clear idea of what I wanted and where I could find it. Some of the skills I needed to be successful could be taught in the Law School, others in the business school, and pulling from both programs was what was going to make my graduate experience the best it could be.

What is the value of a dual degree?
In the real world, no function—medicine, law, business, public policy, etc.—exists in a vacuum, and the dual degree program lets you get a jump-start on piecing it all together.

Would you recommend a dual degree to somebody contemplating one?
I have never regretted the dual degree and can say it has only helped me in my career, but it was also a lot of time and energy. I think that anyone considering a dual degree who is up for the challenge and is sure that it’s the right choice for him/her and his/her career aspirations should absolutely look into it.

Q&A with Courtney West, JD/MBA ’14

Courtney has worked for the last three years in Corporate Strategy & Business Development at Land O’Lakes Inc., one of the country’s premier agribusiness and food companies.

Why did you pursue a dual degree?
I was pursuing a JD/MBA because I wanted to combine the JD and MBA degree programs. I was interested in a career in business and law and saw the dual degree as a way to get a head start on the skills I needed for that career.

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Q&A with Courtney West, JD/MBA ’14
FAQs about Dual Degrees

How do admissions work?
A student interested in pursuing a dual degree must apply separately to both the Law School and the partner program. Admissions decisions are made independently by each program.

When is the best time to apply?
Students are encouraged to apply to the JD program and partner program simultaneously. However, students may also apply to a second degree program during their first year of law school.

How do scholarships and financial aid work?
Generally, support offers are made at the time of admission from each program independently. Students must maintain at least half-time enrollment status in at least one of their degree programs to be eligible for any federal financial aid.

For more information, please visit: law.umn.edu/dual-degrees
Or contact:
Admissions Office
University of Minnesota Law School
Mondale Hall
229 19th Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
jdadmissions@umn.edu
612-625-3487

The Law School's Career Center has supported me every step of the way through the dual degree program. My career counselor knew from my start at the Law School that I was planning to pursue a dual degree in law and public policy. When it came time to shift into a year of policy courses, we talked over how to best utilize the resources at both schools. Even when I was enrolled full-time in MPP courses, I worked with the Career Center at the Law School on choosing a summer internship and other career planning. They were knowledgeable about policy-focused work as well as traditional legal paths and how I could navigate both.

— ALANNA PAWLOWSKI, JD/MPP STUDENT

I can now enter the job market with an additional set of qualifications, and a body of expertise in different areas of law that I was able to study more deeply because of the joint JD/PhD. I believe that this will enable me to pursue a practice that is more tailored to my interests and expertise.

— LAURA MATSON, JD/PHD STUDENT (Geography, Environment, and Society)