

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Joint Degrees

Joint J.D./M.I.A. with Penn State Law

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-211 Joint Degree Programs (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-211-joint-degree-programs/>).

Penn State Law and the School of International Affairs (SIA) offer a joint degree program that enables a student to complete in four academic years both a Juris Doctor degree (J.D.) and a Master of International Affairs (M.I.A.). A J.D./M.I.A. graduate will have the education and skills background to practice law in the United States, to work in an international context, and to assume a leadership role in international affairs.

Admission Requirements

Students must apply to and meet the admission requirements of both the graduate program in which they intend to receive their graduate degree and the professional degree program. Upon the student's request and at the discretion of the program, LSAT scores may be accepted in place of GRE scores for joint degree admission purposes. Admissions requirements and applications for admission for Penn State Law are available at the J.D. Admissions (<https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/penn-state-law-jd-admissions/>) section of the Penn State Law website.

Students applying to the joint degree program must be admitted separately into both Penn State Law and the School of International Affairs.

Residency

A typical J.D./M.I.A. joint degree student will be in residence at Penn State Law for six semesters and at SIA for two semesters.

Liaisons

The respective liaisons for Penn State Law and SIA shall be as follows: the department and faculty liaisons for Penn State Law shall be the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the student adviser will be the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or such other faculty member(s) as may be designated by the Dean. The liaison for SIA shall be the Director or such faculty member(s) as may be designated by the Director.

Double-Counting of Credits

Penn State Law

A maximum of twelve credits of M.I.A. course work may be double-counted for credit toward the J.D. degree at Penn State Law. Courses eligible for double-counting towards the J.D. and M.I.A. include the courses on the M.I.A. Electives list and any other courses taken as M.I.A. electives with the express written permission of the M.I.A. and J.D. advisers. Students must obtain a grade satisfactory to Penn State Law for the course work to be credited towards the J.D. degree.

SIA

A maximum of twelve credits of law school course work may be double-counted for credit toward the M.I.A. degree. Courses eligible for double-counting towards the J.D. and M.I.A. include the courses on the M.I.A. Electives list and any other courses taken as M.I.A. electives with the express written permission of the M.I.A. and J.D. advisers.

Sequence

Joint Degree students will complete their SIA core courses by the end of the second year of the joint degree program. The third and fourth year

of the joint program will be in residence with Penn State Law and will include both required law classes and remaining electives to fulfill the M.I.A.

Recommended Program of Study and Advising

All students in the program will have two advisers, one from Penn State Law and one from SIA. Periodic interaction between the two advisers is encouraged. A program of study is developed for each student, taking into account the fact that some courses at both locations are offered on a rotating or intermittent basis. Many courses are offered every year but some are offered every two or three years. Advisers will have available a list of projected relevant courses or educational experiences in order to work with the student on an individualized program of study. The standard committee structure will apply to the SIA programs.

Tuition

Students will be charged the applicable Penn State Law tuition to cover the J.D. program and the applicable SIA tuition to cover the M.I.A. degree program. The Penn State Law tuition will be paid for the semesters that the student is in residence at Penn State Law, and the SIA tuition will be paid for the semesters that the student is in residence there. A student may take up to one course (3 credit hours) per semester in the school where the student is not in residence without any change in tuition, but must pay additional tuition to the non-residential program if he or she wishes to take additional course work in that program during that semester.

Financial Aid and Assistantships

Decisions on financial aid and assistantships are made by each school according to that school's procedures. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/credit-loads-graduate-assistants/>) set by The Graduate School.

Fulfillment of Degree Requirements and Graduation

A student in the program may complete the requirements for one of the degrees and be awarded that degree prior to completing all the requirements for the other degree; provided, however, that the student shall have successfully completed at least two semesters of work towards the other degree. All courses in one program that will count towards meeting the requirements of the other must be completed before the awarding of either degree. Students will be required to fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the inter-program transfer of credits. If students accepted into the joint degree program are unable to complete the J.D. degree, they are still eligible to receive the M.I.A. degree if all the M.I.A. degree requirements have been satisfied.

Important Note: If the joint degree student is using law (900-level) credits toward the graduate degree during their last semester of enrollment, they should be prepared to extend their graduate degree graduation to a subsequent semester (the following semester at a minimum). This is due to the graduate degree approval deadline falling before the law (900-level) course grading processes are complete.