



# joint-degree program law and family & child sciences

The College of Law and the Department of Family & Child Sciences joint-degree program in Law and Family & Child Sciences, J.D./M.S., permits completion of both degree programs concurrently. Interested applicants must first begin their study at the College of Law. Once enrolled in the first-year law curriculum they will then complete all necessary documentation for the Department of Family & Child Sciences application as well as a joint-degree application by the end of the first year at the law school. All required documents should be returned to the College of Law Office of Admissions.

For the joint-degree program, both the GRE and LSAT must be taken in order to be considered. Applicants to the Department of Family & Child Sciences program must have a bachelor's degree, an upper division (junior and senior) grade point average of 3.0 or better and a minimum combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative portions of the GRE. The College of Law's fall 2011 entering class median LSAT score and GPA were 162 and 3.5.

## • How To Apply

- 1. Visit the Florida State University College of Law Office of Admissions to obtain a joint-degree application and necessary documents for the Department of Family and Child Science.
- 2. Complete the documentation.
- 3. Return all documents to the College of Law Office of Admissions by July 1st.

• The student will need to provide:

- 1. Completed joint-degree application and M.S. application
- 2. Official GRE scores
- 3. Statement of purpose



## • Program Sequence

• The normal program sequence for a student in the joint-degree program is:

• 1st Year	30 hours of Law
• 2nd Year	24 hours of Family & Child Sciences
• 3rd & 4th Years	49 hours of Law
• Total Law Courses	79 hours
• Total FCS Courses	24 hours
• Cross Credit Courses	6 hours
• Total J.D./M.S. Courses	106 hours

• Specific J.D. degree requirements can be found online at [www.law.fsu.edu](http://www.law.fsu.edu).



## • Family & Child Sciences Curriculum

• There are two options for student interested in the joint-degree program. Those taking the thesis option will complete six required courses, a six credit thesis and six elective courses at the College of Law. Those taking the course option will complete six credits of required courses, six credits of family & child sciences electives, and nine credits of elective courses at the College of Law.

• Below is a list of required courses for the Family & Child Sciences portion of the joint-degree curriculum.

- CHD 5266 Advance Child Development (3)
- CHD 5617 Professional Development (1)
- FAD 5263 Advance Family Studies (3)
- FAD 5934 Applied Research in Human Sciences (4)
- CHD 5915 Research Methods I (4)
- CHD 6261 Theories—Child Development (3) OR
- FAD 6436 Family Science (3)

• Possible law electives include Family Law, Women in Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mediation, Arbitration, Reproductive Rights, and Estate Planning.



## • Questions

• The joint degree must be completed within five years, although most students complete the program in four years. For further information about curriculum requirements, please contact:

- Curtis Bridgeman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Florida State University College of Law  
(850) 644-4759  
cbridgem@law.fsu.edu
- Mary Ann Moore, Associate Dean  
Florida State University Department of Family & Child Sciences  
(850) 644-7221  
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## Conferring of Degrees

Students in joint-degree programs receive both degrees concurrently. Law students may not be certified as a graduate without having completed the degree requirements in both the College of Law and the Department of Family & Child Sciences.

## Residency Requirement

Unless otherwise approved by both advisors and the College of Law Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, students enrolled in joint-degree programs must earn a minimum of seven semesters of residence credit. Based on the College of Law formula for determining residency, one semester of residency credit is earned for every 12 credit hours of courses taken in law and the Department of Family & Child Sciences. All requirements for both degrees must be completed within five calendar years.