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. Following admission to either program, a joint-degree student is required to submit the necessary joint-degree application. Interested applicants normally begin their study at the College of Law. A joint-degree student who wishes to enroll for any coursework in the other college or department before completing the first-year of law school must obtain prior written approval from the College of Law. Current law students may also apply to the joint-degree program by the deadline during their first year in law school. Once enrolled in the first-year law curriculum they will then complete all necessary documentation through the Department of Family & Child Sciences as well as a joint-degree application before April 1st of the 1L year. All required documents should be returned to the College of Law Office of Admissions.

Applicants to the Department of Family & Child Sciences must have a bachelor’s degree and an upper division (junior and senior) grade point average of 3.0 or better. Applicants who have scored a 160 or better on the LSAT will have the GRE requirement waived.

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 & Child Science.
2. Complete the documentation.
3. Do not send or have documents sent to the Department of Family & Child Sciences. All documents must be returned to the College of Law Office of Admissions before April 1st of the 1L year.

Applicants will need to:
1. Provide a completed Joint-Degree Program Application form.
2. Provide an updated legal resume.
3. Have official GRE scores on file with the Florida State University if LSAT score is less than 160.
4. Provide a letter of intent.
5. Provide two letters of recommendation. Letters provided during application to Florida State University College of Law are acceptable.

Program Sequence
The normal program sequence for a student in the joint-degree program is:
1. 1st Year 30 hours of Law
2. 2nd Year 24 hours of Family & Child Sciences
3. 3rd & 4th Years 52 hours of Law
4. Total Law Courses 82 hours
5. Total FCS Courses 24 hours
6. Cross Credit Courses 6 hours of Law (Special Project Option) or 9 hours of Law (Thesis Option), and 6 hour of Family & Child Science
7. Total J.D./M.S. Courses 106 hours
8. Specific J.D. degree requirements can be found online at www.law.fsu.edu.
Family & Child Sciences Curriculum

There are two options for students interested in the joint-degree program. Those taking the special project option will complete six required Family & Child Sciences courses (18 credit hours), a Family & Child Sciences elective course (3 credit hours), a special project (3 credit hours), and six cross credits of appropriate courses at the College of Law. Those taking the thesis option will complete six required Family & Child Sciences courses (18 credit hours), a thesis (6 credit hours) and nine cross credits of appropriate 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 in FCS (1)
- FAD 5263 Advanced Family Studies (3)
- FAD 5934 Applied Research in Human Sciences (4)
- CHD 5915 Research Methods I (4), AND
- CHD 6261 Theories of Child Development (3) OR
- FAD 6436 Theories of Family Sciences (3)

Appropriate cross credit course at the College of Law may include courses such as Family Law, Women in Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mediation, Arbitration, Reproductive Rights, or Estate Planning.

Questions

The joint-degree must be completed within seven years, although most students complete the program in four years.

For further information about applying, please contact:

Joint-Degree Coordinator
Office of Admissions
Florida State University College of Law
(850) 644-3787
admissions@law.fsu.edu

For further information about curriculum requirements, please contact:

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Conferring of Degrees

Students in joint-degree programs receive both degrees concurrently. Students may not be certified as a graduate without having completed the graduation requirements in both the College of Law and the Department of Family & Child Sciences. This includes the Law upper-level writing requirement, the skills training requirement, and the pro bono requirement.

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 the College of Law and the Department of Family & Child Sciences.