The College of Law and Department of Urban and Regional Planning’s joint-degree program in Law and Urban and Regional Planning, J.D./M.S.P., 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 for the application process through the Department of Urban and Regional Planning as well as a joint-degree application before July 1st of the 1L year. All required documents should be returned to the College of Law Office of Admissions.

Applicants to the Department of Urban and Regional planning must take the GRE to be considered. Applicants should contact the Department of Urban and Regional Planning directly to obtain specific information on the necessary GRE requirements.

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 Urban and Regional Planning.
2. Complete the documentation.
3. Do not send or have documents sent to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. All documents must be returned to the College of Law Office of Admissions by July 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. Provide a completed Supplemental Form for Admission to All Master’s Degree Programs (URP) form.
4. Have official GRE scores on file with the Florida State University.
5. Provide three letters of recommendation from employers or college professors. Applicable letters provided during the application to the College of Law are acceptable.
6. Provide a 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 Planning
3rd & 4th Years  48 hours of Law & 9 hours of Planning
Total Law Courses  78 hours
Total Planning Courses  33 hours
Cross Credit Courses  15 hours of Law, 10 hours of Planning
Total J.D./M.S.P. Courses  111 hours

Specific J.D. degree requirements can be found online at www.law.fsu.edu.
Urban & Regional Planning Curriculum

A student enrolled in the joint-degree program must complete 33 credit hours of classes, 21 of which are core classes, from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. All students in the master's program are required to take the following core classes:

- URP 5101 Planning Theory and Practice
- URP 5125 Plan Implementation
- URP 5847 The Growth & Development of Cities
- URP 5211 Planning Statistics
- Two courses in Methods for Policy and Planning Decisions
- One course in Collaborative and Participatory Methods

Students must also complete and defend the capstone research paper, project or thesis. This requirement cannot be done until all core courses have been completed. Students will earn up to six credit hours, depending on which option they choose. Remaining credit hours may be fulfilled by taking additional courses within the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

In addition to the core courses, students are required to complete a 400-hour internship in a planning or planning-related agency. The internship may be paid or unpaid. In practice, the internships are generally paid positions.

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:

Shi-Ling Hsu, John W. Larson Professor & Associate Dean of Environmental Programs
Florida State University College of Law
(850) 644-0726
shsu@law.fsu.edu

Susan Taylor, Academic Program Specialist
Florida State University Department of Urban & Regional Planning
(850) 644-4510
sataylor2@fsu.edu

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 Urban and Regional Planning. This includes the Law upper-level writing requirement, the skills training requirement, and the pro bono requirement.

Residence 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 Urban and Regional Planning.