

Joint Degree Program JD/MSEd in Education Policy

1. Overview
 - a. The JD/MSEd is a joint program sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the Penn Graduate School of Education.
 - b. Students will have the opportunity to earn both degrees in three years (more on the sequencing of these years follows, below).
 - c. Students in this program will be prepared to assume positions of leadership in educational law and policy making in both the public and private sectors.

2. Application Process
 - a. Applicants will apply independently to each department through each program's specified admission process. The Law School and GSE will make independent judgments about each candidate.
 - i. While the Law School and GSE will make independent admissions decisions, each application will invite the applicant to indicate that they have applied, or been admitted, to the other program.
 - ii. Both programs will use materials submitted to the Law program for evaluation purposes.
 1. Applicants can use, if they wish, the Law letters of recommendation for GSE consideration.
 2. The Law School will cooperate with GSE to get these materials to GSE in as timely a fashion as possible.
 - b. Applicants will have two options as to applying for the joint degree program:
 - i. They may make contemporaneous applications to both programs prior to being accepted at either, in which case both the LSAT (for Law) and the GRE (for GSE) are required.
 - ii. They may apply to the Masters program in the first year of the Law program, in which case only the LSAT is required.

3. Degree Completion Requirements
 - a. In order for a student to receive both degrees, he or she must complete the independent degree requirements of each program.
 - i. For Law
 1. Law students must complete a minimum of 86 credits, 52 hours of which must be advanced credit completed in the second and third years of Law study. Students in the joint program may apply twelve credits (four courses)¹ from the GSE program

¹ A note on classes and credits: the Law School operates, in order to comply with accreditation standards, on a credit hour basis, while courses in the GSE program are typically worth 1.0 credit units (some half-semester courses may be worth 0.5 credit units). In converting between the two programs, a Law course will count as 1.0 credit units (or cu) in the GSE program, and a course in GSE will be worth three credit hours at the Law School.

toward that requirement, reducing their credit requirement for Law courses to 40 credits. These four courses are the total number of non-Law courses that a Law student can take in other departments of the University without exceptional permissions and tuition assessment. Law students enrolled in the joint program are not eligible to participate in Study Abroad Programs.

2. Students must also satisfy the requirement of the Public Interest Center's Pro Bono Program and fulfill their senior writing and professional responsibility requirements (more on these requirements can be found in the Law Student Guide to Policy and Procedures).
 - ii. For the Masters program
 1. Students must complete 10 course units (minimum) along with an acceptable master's research paper. Students in the joint program may apply four relevant course units from the law program toward that requirement, reducing their course requirement to six course units.
 2. Among those courses must be:
 - i. One foundation course
 - ii. Two methods courses
 - iii. Three policy courses
4. Program Sequencing
- a. The joint degree is best earned in the following sequence:
 - i. Year 1 spent at the Law School, completing the standard and required 1L curriculum, and Years 2 and 3 spent in residence² at the Law School but taking courses in both Law and in GSE.
 - b. Other sequences may be arranged on a case-by-case basis.
 - i. Law students are eligible to take one elective in the 1L spring semester in GSE. This course counts as one of the four for which J.D. credit can be granted.
 - ii. Students may be able to take some courses during the summer.
5. Tuition and Financial Aid
- a. Law School tuition is paid when the student is taking only Law courses, and GSE tuition is paid in the summer sessions when the student is taking only GSE courses.
 - b. In other years, while the student is in residence at the Law School, students pay Law School tuition. The Law School is then responsible for payment of tuition for up to four courses taken at GSE toward the completion of the joint degree.
 - i. Penn Law students will be charged for any courses taken in GSE over and above the four courses that are countable toward the JD degree.
 - ii. The Law School will not be responsible for any tuition or fees incurred for courses taken during the summer months.
 - c. Financial aid decisions are made independently by each school.

² Law School accreditation requirements require that JD recipients are "in residence" at the Law School for six semesters.

6. Scheduling Courses

- a. Students register for courses in one program in that program's registration period and according to that program's registration rules and procedures.
- b. Students must be aware of the differences in these procedures:
 - i. Students register for Law courses through the Law School's standard registration system.
 - ii. Students register for GSE courses through the University's registration period.
 - iii. These registration periods are typically held at the same time, but will require student action in the two systems.
 - iv. Oftentimes, students are able to resolve any issues which arise due to the registration differences during the drop/add period.
- c. The timing and location of course scheduling must also be considered so that students are best able to attend all classes.

7. Communication Issues

- a. Those with questions about the JD/GSE program can address them to the following persons:
 - i. *Prospective students with questions about the JD program:* Renee Post, Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, rpost@law.upenn.edu
 - ii. *Currently enrolled JD/GSE students with questions about course selection, scheduling, tuition concerns, etc.:* Gary Clinton, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, gclinton@law.upenn.edu
 - iii. *Currently enrolled JD/GSE students with questions about financial aid:* Anthony Henry, Director of Financial Aid, henry2@law.upenn.edu
- b. *Questions about the GSE program:* Janet White, Coordinator (Ed Policy), jawhite@gse.upenn.edu.
- c. Each year, this document will be reviewed and re-approved by representatives of both departments. Currently, that review will be handled by:
 - i. *For the Law School:* Jo-Ann Verrier, Vice Dean for Administrative Services
 - ii. *For GSE:* Richard Ingersoll, Professor and Chair (Ed Policy)

8. Issues Particular to the Program

- a. Students in the joint degree program may have particular career interests and goals. They are encouraged to meet individually with a counselor in the Career Planning & Placement Office at the Law School and with Career Services representatives via GSE.