

## **MSW/JD Joint Degree**

The LSU Law Center and the LSU School of Social Work offer a concurrent degree program through which a student may receive both a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) degree. Students successfully completing the concurrent degree program receive two separate degrees: a J.D. awarded by the Law Center and a M.S.W. awarded by the School of Social Work.

Although the two programs remain independent, the concurrent program accelerates the completion of both degrees because of each school's recognition of credit hours earned for course work completed in the other program. The Law Center accepts 9 credit hours completed in the School of Social Work as elective credits toward the J.D. degree and the School of Social Work accepts 9 credit hours completed in the Law Center as elective credits toward the M.S.W. The recognition of concurrent credit allows students to earn both degrees in approximately four years of full-time study (including summers).

Students wishing to participate in this program must meet the admission requirements for both the Law Center and the School of Social Work. Students must apply separately to the LSU Graduate School and the LSU Law Center, with appropriate test scores—GRE and LSAT—provided. Students may begin the program in either the Law Center or the School of Social Work, but students must complete both the first year of the J.D. program at the Law Center and the Foundation Year of the M.S.W. program at the School of Social Work during the first two years of study. Thereafter, students may take a combination of Law and Social Work courses, provided that they meet the degree requirements of each program.

Students participating in this program are required to complete a graduate thesis in the School of Social Work. Students may fulfill the Law Center's upperclass writing requirement with the satisfactory completion of a graduate thesis on a topic with a substantial legal component. Satisfaction of the upperclass writing requirement in this manner requires advance permission of the Law Center's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. In addition, at least one member of the Law Center faculty must serve on the committee under whose direction the thesis is completed. Students whose theses do not involve a substantial legal component must fulfill the upperclass writing requirement in the Law Center's prescribed manner.

### **A. Master in Social Work (M.S.W.) Degree Program**

The Master of Social Work degree requires two academic years of full-time study (approximately 15 hours of credit per semester for a total of 60 hours). The first year (30 hours) of the program is termed the Foundation Year, and the second 30 hours of study is termed the Advanced Year. As per accreditation guidelines, students must follow the prescribed sequencing of required courses and students may not take courses out of the prescribed order. They may not register for advanced instruction courses until they have completed all foundation courses. Students may not register for more than 15 credit hours

per semester. Full-time M.S.W. students complete the following courses in the prescribed sequence.

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
<b>Foundation Year (30 hours)</b>	
SW 7001 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	SW 7002 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II
SW 7003 Social Welfare History and Policy	SW 7004 Human Diversity and Oppression
SW 7005 Social Work Practice I	SW 7006 Social Work Practice II
SW 7007 Foundation Field Internship I (240 hours)	SW 7010 Differential Diagnosis
SW 7009 Social Work Research I	SW 7008 Foundation Field Internship II (240 hours)
<b>Advanced Year</b>	
SW 7501 Program & Practice Evaluation	SW 7503 Advanced Field Internship II (240 hours)
SW 7505 Advanced Direct Practice	SW 7504 Advanced Social Policy
SW 7502 Advanced Field Internship I (240 hours)	Elective/Thesis
SW 7506 Community & Agency Contexts for Direct Practice	Elective
Elective/Thesis	Elective

Students generally take four elective courses during their advanced year in the program. Students conducting thesis research will enroll in six hours of thesis credit and two other electives.

### **B. Juris Doctor (J.D.) Degree Program**

The Juris Doctor requires approximately three academic years of full-time study (approximately 15-16 hours of credit per semester for a total of 94 hours). The Law Center prescribes the first year curriculum of 32 credits. The current first year curriculum is set forth below.

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
<b>First Year (32 hours)</b>	
5001 Contracts (3)	5002 Obligations (3)
5003 Torts (3)	5006 Civil Law Property (3)
5007 Basic Civil Procedure I (2)	5008 Constitutional Law I (3)
5009	5010

Criminal Law (3)	Admin. of Criminal Justice I (3)
5015 Legal Traditions and Systems (3)	5017 Basic Civil Procedure II (2)
5021 Legal Research & Writing I (2)	5022 Legal Research & Writing II (2)

After successful completion of the two semesters of law school (32 credits), students presently must also complete the following required courses during the second and third years in order to fulfill graduation requirements: (a) Evidence (5605), (b) The Legal Profession (5721), (c) a seminar or individual supervised research to satisfy the upperclass legal writing requirement, (d) two hours of instruction in approved professional skills, clinics, and/or externship courses, and (e) a week-long Trial Advocacy program for rising 3L students.

#### **IV. Proposed J.D.-M.S.W. Dual Degree Program**

The proposed dual degree program will enable a student to earn a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) degree in approximately four years through concurrent enrollment in law and social work graduate courses. J.D./M.S.W. students will earn 9 hours of concurrent credit from both the Law Center and the School of Social Work.

To complete the required credit hours in four academic years, students must normally enroll in approximately 15 hours per regular semester and complete substantial summer coursework. The faculties of the Law Center and the School of Social Work expect that summer coursework will normally involve field work and/or thesis research, both of which are substantial components of the M.S.W. program.

Students may begin this concurrent degree program at either the LSU School of Social Work or the LSU Law Center. Students must complete the first-year curricular requirements for both the M.S.W. and the J.D. during the first two years of study. As discussed above, both the School of Social Work and the Law Center have prescribed first year curricular requirements. During the 1L year at the Law Center, students may not enroll in any electives during either the fall or spring semesters. However, the requirements of the Foundation Year at the School of Social Work allow students to enroll in up to three hours of elective credit in each of the fall and spring semesters.

Students who begin their training at the Law Center will enroll in the prescribed 1L curriculum during the fall and spring semesters of their first year of study. During the summer following the 1L year, students may earn elective credit in either the Law Center or the School of Social Work. (The School of Social Work permits students to earn up to six hours of elective credit toward the M.S.W. during the summer preceding the Foundation Year.) During their second year of study, students will enroll in the prescribed Foundation Year curriculum at the School of Social Work. In addition, students may enroll in up to three hours of elective credit in each of the fall and spring semesters of the Foundation Year. These elective credits may be earned in either the School of Social Work or the Law Center. During the summer following the second year of study, students will be encouraged to complete the Foundation Field Internship requirements of the

School of Social Work. Students must complete these requirements before they can enroll in Social Work advanced-year courses.

Students who begin their training at the School of Social Work will enroll in the prescribed Foundation Year curriculum during the fall and spring semesters of their first year of study. These students may earn elective credit toward the M.S.W. during the summer following the Foundation Year, an option that is available to all social work foundation-year students. During their second year of study, students will enroll in the prescribed 1L curriculum in the fall and spring. During the summer following the second year, students may earn elective credit in either program.

During the final two years of study, students may allocate their time between the School of Social Work and the Law Center in any manner provided that they meet the degree requirements of each program. All students completing the concurrent degree program will be required to complete a thesis (as opposed to a non-thesis capstone) in the School of Social Work.

The table below lays out a suggested sequence of courses for J.D./M.S.W. students, taking into account year-round enrollment.

<b>Year 1 (32)</b>		
<b>Law School 1L</b>		
<b>Fall Semester (16)</b>	<b>Spring Semester (16)</b>	
5001 Contracts (3)	5002 Obligations (3)	
5003 Torts (3)	5006 Civil Law Property (3)	
5007 Basic Civil Procedure I (2)	5008 Constitutional Law I (3)	
5009 Criminal Law (3)	5010 Admin. of Criminal Justice I (3)	
5015 Legal Traditions and Systems (3)	5017 Basic Civil Procedure II (2)	
5021 Legal Research & Writing I (2)	5022 Legal Research & Writing II (2)	
<b>Year 2 (35)</b>		
<b>Social Work Foundation Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester (15)</b>	<b>Spring Semester (14)</b>	<b>Summer Semester (6)</b>
SW 7001 HBSE I (3)	SW 7002 HBSE II (3)	SW 7007 Foundation Field Internship I (3)
SW 7003 Social Welfare History and Policy (3)	SW 7004 Human Diversity and Oppression (3)	SW 7008 Foundation Field Internship II (3)
SW 7005 Social Work Practice I (3)	SW 7006 Social Work Practice II (3)	
SW 7009 Social Work Research I (3)	SW 7010 Differential Diagnosis (3)	
5605 Evidence (3)	5721 The Legal Profession (2)	
<b>Year 3 (36)</b>		

<b>Fall Semester (15)</b>	<b>Spring Semester (15)</b>	<b>Summer Semester (6)</b>
SW 7501 Program & Practice Evaluation (3)	SW 7504 Advanced Social Policy (3)	SW Thesis
SW 7505 Advanced Direct Practice (3)	Elective (law or social work) (3)	SW Thesis
SW 7506 Community & Agency Contexts for Direct Practice (3)	Elective (law or social work) (3)	
Elective (law or social work) (3)	Elective (law or social work) (3)	
Elective (law or social work) (3)	Elective (law or social work) (3)	
<b>Year 4 (33)</b>		
<b>Fall Semester (15)</b>	<b>Spring Semester (15)</b>	<b>Summer Semester (3)</b>
Elective (law or social work) (3)	Elective (law or social work) (3)	
Elective (law or social work) (3)	Elective (law or social work) (3)	SW 7503 Advanced Field Internship II ( 3)
Elective (law or social work) (3)	Elective (law or social work) (3)	
Elective (law or social work) (3)	Elective (law or social work) (3)	
Elective (law or social work) (3)	SW 7502 Advanced Field Internship I ( 3)	