

Columbia Law School and Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences - JD/PhD Dual Degree Program

Columbia Law School and the Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences ("GSAS") offer a combined program of study that enables students to earn a JD degree and the sequential MA, MPhil, and PhD degrees in less time than would be required if each program were pursued separately. For more information about the JD/PhD program and the various GSAS departments that have elected to participate in the program, please visit the [GSAS website](#).

Admissions

Prospective students must make separate applications and gain admission to both the Law School and a participating PhD program in GSAS. There is no JD/MA or JD/MS dual degree program.

Applicants may either apply simultaneously to both schools or apply initially only to one school and then apply to the other school during their first year of study at the Law School or GSAS. Students are not eligible to apply to the JD/PhD program after their first year at GSAS. If a student applies and is accepted to the Law School during their first year at GSAS, they must start at the Law School the following year to remain eligible for this dual degree. If they request and receive a deferral from the Law School, they will no longer be eligible for this dual degree program.

For information regarding the admissions process at each school, please visit the [CLS Office of Admissions](#) and the [GSAS Office of Admissions](#) webpages.

Degree Requirements

- **Minimum Residency Requirements:** 5 semesters at the Law School; 4 semesters of coursework at GSAS (plus the writing and defense of a dissertation).
 - *NB: Pursuant to ABA guidelines, students must complete the JD degree within 84 months of commencing law school in order to be eligible to sit for the bar examination. Certain states impose more stringent requirements (e.g., New York requires students to complete their JD within 60 months of starting law school).*
- **Academic Requirements:**
 - Students in the JD/PhD program must earn at least 71¹ Law School credits. They must also satisfy all academic requirements for the JD degree, including: (1) all first-year Foundation Courses; (2) a course in Professional Responsibility; (3) the Major Writing credit; (4) the Minor Writing credit; (5) a minimum of 40 hours of Pro Bono service; (6) a course in Legislation and Regulation; and (7) six points of Experiential Coursework credit. The primary distinction is that, for students in the dual degree program, the Law School will accept one term of full-time residency and up to 12 academic credits toward the JD degree for work completed at GSAS. For more information on the JD requirements, please visit the [JD Rules Page](#).
 - Students should visit the [GSAS website](#) and consult with their director of graduate studies regarding the specific requirements for their doctoral program.

Program Structure

¹ Dual degree students who first matriculated at the Law School in 2017 must earn at least 72 Law School credits in order to graduate.

The JD/PhD program generally consists of eleven semesters of coursework (5 at the Law School, 6 at GSAS), followed by the research, writing, and defense of a dissertation.

The following reflects a common plan of study:

- The student spends the first two semesters of the program at the Law School, completing the JD Foundation Courses, and the second two semesters at GSAS, completing the MA requirements in accordance with departmental guidelines.
- Upon receiving the MA degree, the student returns to the Law School for three semesters to complete the JD requirements. (Students in the program are granted advanced standing at the Law School for the conferred MA degree, reducing the time to complete the JD by one semester.)
- Upon completion of the JD requirements, the student returns to GSAS to complete the requirements for the MPhil degree. (The student receives two Residence Units, equivalent to two semesters of advanced standing toward the MPhil degree, for having completed the JD requirements.)
- The JD and MPhil degrees are conferred simultaneously upon the completion of all requirements for both degrees.
- The student then returns to GSAS to complete the remaining PhD departmental requirements, including the preparation and successful defense of a dissertation.

In certain cases, a student may be permitted to alter this sequence of enrollment. Because the precise structure of the JD/PhD program will vary based on the nature of the doctoral degree, students should work with [Registration Services at the Law School](#) and their academic advisers at both schools to determine the sequencing of their enrollment.

Tuition and Financial Aid

During the GSAS portion of the JD/PhD dual degree program, students will receive funding as doctoral students, as set forth on the [GSAS Fellowship webpage](#). During the semesters in which they are in residence at the Law School, students will be charged standard Law School tuition. For more information regarding Law School tuition and educational financing, prospective students should contact the [Law School Financial Aid Office](#).

Contact Information

Columbia Law School

- **Admissions:** 212-854-2674; admissions@law.columbia.edu
- **Financial Aid:** 212-854-7730; financial_aid@law.columbia.edu
- **Academic Advising and Program Information:** Robert Ford, Executive Director of Student Services, Community Engagement, and Equity, 212-854-7269; rf2659@columbia.edu
- **Registration Services:** 212-854-2668; registrar@law.columbia.edu

Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

- **Admissions:** 212-854-6729; gsas-admissions@columbia.edu
- **Financial Aid:** 212-854-3808; gsas-finaid@columbia.edu
- **Academic Advising, Registration, and Program Information:** Richard Slusarczyk, Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, 212-854-8428; rs37@columbia.edu