



# joint-degree program law and information

The College of Law and School of Information joint-degree program in law and information J.D./M.S.I., permits the completion of both degrees concurrently. Current law students must meet with and submit all documents for admission to the College of Law Joint-Degree Coordinator before **July 1st** of their first year or second year of law school. The College of Law Joint-Degree Program Coordinator will then submit their completed packet to the College of Law and the School of Information for approval. Any student who has completed M.S.I. coursework prior to matriculating to the College of Law, or who wishes to apply for the joint-degree following the completion of their second year of law school, must obtain prior written approval from the College of Law before applying for the joint-degree.

Applicants to the M.S.I. program must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university and an upper division (junior and senior) grade point average of 3.0 or better. Applicants should contact the School of Information to obtain specific information on the necessary GRE requirement. The School of Information will waive the GRE requirement for current College of Law Students.

## 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 School of Information.
2. Complete the documentation.
3. Do not send or have documents sent to the School of Information. All documents must be returned to the College of Law Office of Admissions before **July 1st**.

Applicants will need to:

1. Provide a completed **JOINT-DEGREE PROGRAM APPLICATION** form.
2. Provide an updated legal resume.
3. Provide a completed **SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION** form.
4. Have a competitive GRE scores on file with the Florida State University. The School of Information will waive the GRE requirement for current College of Law Students.

## Program Sequence

The normal program sequence for a student in the joint-degree program is:

1st Year	30 hours of Law
2nd Year	30 hours of Information
3rd & 4th Years	49 hours of Law
Total Law Courses	79 hours
Total Information Courses	30 hours
Cross Credit Courses	6 hours of Law, 9 hours of Information
Total J.D./M.S.I. Courses	109 hours

Specific J.D. degree requirements can be found online at [www.law.fsu.edu](http://www.law.fsu.edu).



## Information Studies Curriculum

The joint-degree program requires successful completion of 30 hours of coursework from the School of Information. Students must take four core courses (12 credit hours), as noted below, and choose additional elective courses (18 hours) either from one or more areas of specialization or by designing an individualized program of study that best meets their career goals. For more information, visit <http://ischool.cci.fsu.edu>. The core courses are:

- LIS 5271 Research Methods in Information Studies (3 hours)\*
- LIS 5411 Introduction to Information Policy (3 hours)\*
- LIS 5408 Management of Information Organizations (3 hours)
- LIS 5703 Information Organization (3 hours)

\* Required courses for the joint-degree from the M.S.I. curriculum that will also be used for cross credit toward the J.D. degree. The following course is also required and will be used for cross credit toward the J.D. degree:

- LIS 5362 Design and Production of Networked Multimedia (3 hours)

The following courses from the J.D. curriculum are required and will be used as cross credit for the M.S.I. degree:

- LAW 5522 Legislation & Regulation (3 hours)
- LAW 7930 Introduction to Intellectual Property (3 hours)

**Note on Cross Credit:** Because a joint-degree allows a student to complete each curriculum by taking fewer hours overall, each program will require that certain courses be taken from the other curriculum to cover the number of hours reduced from their respective curriculum. These courses are part of the respective program's curriculum and are not counted toward the credit requirement for the other curriculum. They may or may not be included in the normal core requirements of the respective program's curriculum.



## Questions

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

For further information related to applying for this joint-degree, please contact:

Ralph Keiffer  
Senior Admissions Officer & Recruitment Specialist  
Florida State University College of Law  
(850) 644-3787  
[rkeiffer@law.fsu.edu](mailto:rkeiffer@law.fsu.edu)

For further information about curriculum requirements, please contact:

Elizabeth Farrell Clifford  
Director & Professor  
Florida State University College of Law Research Center  
(850) 644-1394  
[efarrell@law.fsu.edu](mailto:efarrell@law.fsu.edu)

Jade Stagg, Academic Program Specialist  
Florida State University School of Information  
(850) 644-8103  
[ischooladvising@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:ischooladvising@admin.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 the College of Law and the School of Information. 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 School of Information.

Revised 11/28/2018