The College of Law and Department of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences joint graduate pathway in law and aquatic environmental sciences J.D./M.S. in Aquatic Environmental Science/Oceanography, permits the completion of both programs concurrently. Current law students must meet with and submit all documents for admission to the College of Law Joint Graduate Pathway Coordinator before March 15th of their first year of law school. The College of Law Joint Graduate Pathway Coordinator will then submit their completed packet to the College of Law and the Department of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences for approval. Any student who has completed M.S. in Aquatic Environmental Science/Oceanography coursework prior to matriculating to the College of Law, or who wishes to apply for the joint graduate pathway following the completion of their first year of law school, must obtain prior written approval from the College of Law before applying for the joint graduate pathway.

Applicants to the M.S. in Aquatic Environmental Science/Oceanography program must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Applicants who have taken undergraduate courses in environmental science, biology, or chemistry will be more competitive for admission into this program. Applicants should contact the Department of Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences to obtain specific information on the necessary GRE requirements. The Department of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences will waive the GRE requirement for current College of Law Students.

Applicants will need to:
1. Provide a completed Joint Graduate Pathway Application form.
2. Have a competitive GRE scores on file with the Florida State University. The Department of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences will waive the GRE requirement for current College of Law Students.
3. Provide a letter of intent explaining their interest in the joint graduate pathway.
4. Provide two letters of recommendation. Letters provided during application to the Florida State University College of Law are acceptable.

The normal program sequence for a student in the joint graduate pathway is:
- 1st & 2nd Semesters: 30 hours of Law
- 3rd & 4th Semesters: 18 hours of AES/Oceanography & 12 hours of Law
- 5th & 6th Semesters: 12 hours of AES/Oceanography (Including “Capstone Experience” course) & 18 hours of Law
- 7th & 8th Semesters: 18 hours of Law
- Total Law Courses: 79 hours
- Total AES/Oceanography Courses: 30 hours
- Cross Credit Courses: 6 hours of Law & 9 hours of AES/Oceanography
- Total J.D./M.S. Courses: 109 hours

Specific J.D. degree requirements can be found online at www.law.fsu.edu.
Residency Requirement

Unless otherwise approved by both advisors and the College of Law Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, students enrolled in joint graduate pathways 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 Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences.

Law & Aquatic Environmental Science/Oceanography Curriculum

FOUR courses from the following list:
- GLY 5265 Nuclear Geography
- OCP 5050 Basic Physical Oceanography
- OCE 5009L Coastal Oceanography and Marine Methods
- OCE 5009 Advanced General Oceanography
- OCB 5050 Biological Oceanography

TWO analytical courses from the following list:
- GLY 5595 Geostatistics (Advanced Topic Sed-Strat)
- STA 5126 Introduction to Applied Statistics
- STA 5207 Applied Regression Methods
- STA 5206 Analysis of Variance and Design of Experiments
- STA 5507 Applied Non-Parametric Statistics

THREE of the following elective courses based on the student’s primary interest and capstone topic:
- OCB 5639 Marine Biology Ecology
- OCC 5052 Aquatic Chemistry
- OCC 5062 Marine Isotopic Chemistry
- OCC 5415 Marine Geochemisty
- OCC 5554 Atmospheric Geochemistry
- OCE 5018 Current Issues in Environmental Science*
- CHM 5086 Environmental Chemistry
- CHM 5087 Environmental Chemistry II

Capstone Experience (Taken in the final semester of courses for the M.S. in Aquatic Environmental Science/Oceanography degree):
- OCE 5924 Capstone Experience*
  * Required courses for the joint graduate pathway from the M.S. in Aquatic Environmental Science/Oceanography curriculum that will also be used for cross credit toward the J.D. degree. The following courses are also required and will be used as cross credit:

- OCB 5624 Estuarine and Coastal Ecology (From the M.S. in Environmental Science/Oceanography curriculum)
- GLY 5297 Geochemistry
- GEO 5377 Natural Resources Assessment Analysis
- GLY 5575 Coastal Geology
- GLY 5827 Principles of Hydrology
- GLY 5887 Environmental Geology
- PCB 5345C Advanced Field Biology
- PCB 5447 Community Ecology

Note on Cross Credit: Because a joint graduate pathway 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.

THREE law courses from the following list taken as part of J.D. curriculum:
- Costal & Ocean Law
- Condominium & Community Housing Law
- Emerging Issues in Energy Law
- Energy Law
- Environmental Federalism
- Environmental Legal Research
- Florida Administrative Litigation
- Florida Administrative Practice
- Florida Environmental Law
- International Environmental Law Seminar

For further information related to applying for this joint graduate pathway, please contact:
- Ralph Keiffer, Senior Admissions Officer & Recruitment Specialist
  Florida State University College of Law
  (850) 644-3787
  rkeiffer@law.fsu.edu

For further information about curriculum requirements, please contact:
- Shi-Ling Hsu
  D’Alemberte Professor & Associate Dean of Environmental Programs
  Florida State University College of Law
  (850) 644-0726
  shsu@law.fsu.edu

- Jeff Chanton
  Graduate Program Director
  Florida State University Department of Earth, Ocean, & Atmospheric Sciences
  (850) 644-7493
  jchanton@fsu.edu

Conferring of Degrees

Students in the joint graduate pathway receive both degrees concurrently. Students must complete all graduation requirements in both the College of Law and the Department of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences. This includes the Law upper-level writing requirement, the skills training requirement, and the pro bono requirement.

Residency Requirement

Unless otherwise approved by both advisors and the College of Law Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, students enrolled in joint graduate pathways 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 Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences.

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