George Mason University
Joint Degree Program
Law & Public Policy Studies
JD/MPP

The J.D./M.P.P. Joint Degree Program in Law and Public Policy provides students with an opportunity to master the fundamentals of legal and policy analysis. It provides students with full legal training and a solid understanding of public policy, preparing them for careers in legal academia, government and policymaking.

Upon completion of the graduation requirements of both schools, students of the joint degree program will receive both a J.D. from the Law School and an M.P.P. from the School of Public Policy. Both degrees can be achieved on a full-time basis in approximately four years, instead of the five years that would be required if each degree were pursued sequentially.

Joint degree students may choose to begin their studies in either the School of Law or the School of Public Policy. The program expects students to complete first-year required coursework in one school during the first year of the joint program, and the first-year required coursework in the other school during the second year of the program. Following these two years, joint degree students will have two years of mixed enrollment. For students needing to fulfill the School of Public Policy internship requirement, it is suggested that the first year be taken in the School of Public Policy and the internship performed during the student's first summer in the program.

**Basic Requirements for the J.D.**
Joint degree students admitted to the Law School must earn a minimum of 75 credits toward the J.D., of which 69 must be earned in regularly scheduled Law School courses. Joint degree students entering the Law School must complete all 45 credits of the required law curriculum. (See accompanying table) Thirty additional law credits are required in upper division coursework in order to complete the J.D. However, six (6) of those 30 credit hours can be obtained for coursework completed in the other program through recognition of "joint credit" for upper division coursework.

**Basic Requirements for the M.P.P.**
The M.P.P. requires a total of 36* credit hours, 33 of which must be taken in the School of Public Policy. Joint degree students entering the School of Public Policy must complete all 30 credits of the required curriculum. Six additional policy credits are required in upper division coursework in order to complete the M.P.P. However, three (3) of those six credit hours may be obtained for coursework completed in the other program through recognition of "joint credit" for upper division coursework. Any student entering the program without relevant
work experience will be expected to complete a policy related internship during the summer following their first year in the School of Public Policy.

**Additional Requirements**
Joint degree applicants must qualify for admission in the respective programs according to the standards independently established by School of Law and the School of Public Policy. Applications should be sent to the respective Admissions Offices, indicating that a parallel application is filed under this joint degree program.

Because students are permitted to elect courses in both schools during the third and fourth years of the program, tuition will be assessed at either the School of Law or the School of Public Policy rate, whichever is higher, when courses toward both degrees are taken in one term.

**At the beginning of the final year of study, the Combined Degree Electives Reduction Form must be submitted by the student for approval from both schools, as the joint degree program reduces the total number of credit hours needed for graduation from 126 (84 law, 42 public policy) to 111 (75 law, 36* public policy).**

Those who have already earned either the J.D. or the M.P.P. are not eligible for the combined degree program. Students in either their first or second year at the Law School or their first year at the School of Public Policy may apply for admission to the joint degree program.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**
**Law School admissions information:**
Anne Richards at e-mail: arichar5@gmu.edu  
George Mason School of Law  
3301 Fairfax Drive "Arlington 1"  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703.993.8010  
Web Site: [www.law.gmu.edu](http://www.law.gmu.edu)

**School of Public Policy admission/registration information:**
Leslie Levin  
School of Public Policy, Graduate Admissions  
3401 N. Fairfax Drive - MS 3B1  
Arlington, Virginia 22201  
703-993-8099  
Email: spp@gmu.edu  
Web Site: [www.gmu.edu/departments/mpp/index.html](http://www.gmu.edu/departments/mpp/index.html)

*Students that do not meet the professional work experience requirement of the School of Public Policy will be expected to complete a 1-3 credit internship that does not count towards the 36 credit degree completion total.*