J.D./M.A. JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM IN LAW AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

The School of Law, in conjunction with Oklahoma City University’s Petree College of Arts and Sciences (PCAS), offers a JD/MA joint degree program designed to provide a meaningful combined experience for students with an interest in law and nonprofit organizations. The program culminates in the award of both the Juris Doctor degree and the Master of Arts degree in Applied Sociology – Nonprofit Leadership. The joint degree program allows candidates to earn the JD and MA degrees in less time than would be required if each degree were earned separately.

To participate in the program, students must be admitted to both schools. All of the usual entrance requirements apply. There is no required sequence for admission: students may apply and matriculate at either school first.

Students admitted to the School of Law for next fall who would like to be considered for the joint degree program should notify the law school’s admissions office. Their law school application file will then be forwarded to the university’s Graduate Admissions Office for possible admission to the PCAS’ master of arts degree program in applied sociology – nonprofit leadership.

Current law students may apply to the PCAS at any time during the first two years of law school. Full-time law students may not begin their MA coursework before the fourth semester of law school. Part-time law students may not begin their MA coursework before the sixth semester of law school.

A PCAS student must begin law studies in the first August following his or her admission to the JD program and complete the first three semesters of the JD program without interruption.

Students who have been admitted to both the university’s JD program and the university’s MA program in applied sociology – nonprofit leadership should notify the School of Law’s Registrar in order to receive the benefit of the joint program’s reduced number of credit hours for the JD degree. Students may do this by checking the appropriate box on their work statements during an enrollment period.

Joint degree candidates must complete 84 credit hours in the School of Law and 30 credit hours in the PCAS. This compares with 90 hours required in the School of Law and 36 hours required in the PCAS if the degrees were pursued separately.

Program candidates who are enrolled as full-time students in the School of Law must complete their first three semesters of law school without interruption. Program candidates who are enrolled as part-time students in the School of Law must complete their first six semesters of law school without interruption, although it is possible to begin the MA coursework during the sixth semester.
In the School of Law, joint degree candidates must complete Nonprofit Organizations, Taxation of Charities and Non-Profit Organizations, and the Corporate Counsel Externship program (with a placement in a nonprofit setting). Candidates are encouraged (but not required) to complete Agency and Unincorporated Business Associations, Contract Drafting, and Client Representation in Negotiation and are also encouraged (but not required) to complete their upper-class writing requirement through a seminar paper dealing with nonprofit organizations. In the PCAS, joint degree candidates are exempt from taking Nonprofit Law and Professional Project and Capstone.

**One Suggested Sequence of Courses for the Joint Degree Candidate**

The following example is for the candidate who was a full-time JD candidate for the first three semesters of law school.

**Fourth Semester of Law School with a spring start for the MA degree:**

MA: Nonprofit Financial Oversight (first half of semester)
MA: Strategic Planning and Program Development (second half of semester)
JD: Constitutional Law II (3 credit hours)
JD: Six or seven hours of JD electives (including graduation requirements)
Total credit hours: 15 or 16, depending on the JD electives chosen

**The Following Summer Term:**

MA: Research Data for Nonprofits (first half of summer term)
MA: Marketing for Nonprofits (second half of the summer term)
Total credit hours: 6

**Fifth Semester of Law School (fall semester):**

MA: Leadership I (first half of the semester)
MA: Leadership II (second half of the semester)
JD: nine or ten hours of JD electives (including graduation requirements)
Total credit hours: 15 or 16, depending on the JD electives chosen

**Sixth Semester of Law School (spring semester):**

MA: Advocacy for Social Change (second half of the semester)
JD: Corporate Counsel Externship, with a placement in the nonprofit sector
JD: Seminar with a paper satisfying the Upper-Class Writing Requirement on a topic dealing with nonprofit organizations
JD: eight or nine hours of additional JD electives (including graduation requirements)
Total credit hours: 15 or 16, depending on the JD electives chosen

*continued*
Joint Degree Program in Law and Nonprofit Organizations and Leadership

The Following Summer Term:

MA: Nonprofit Program Evaluation (first half of summer term)
Total credit hours: 3

Seventh Semester of Law School (fall semester):

MA: Sociological Foundations of Nonprofits (first half of the semester)
MA: Resource Mobilization and Development (second half of the semester)
JD: remaining coursework for the JD degree (7 to 10 hours, depending on previous JD course loads)
Total credit hours: 13 to 16, depending on previous JD course loads

Note: A candidate pursuing full-time studies may take up to four calendar years to complete the JD degree.