

JOINT DEGREES

A joint degree program allows you to pursue a law degree and a graduate degree simultaneously. Students can complete both degrees in less time than if each were taken separately. Joint degree programs usually take four to six years, depending on the graduate program. Students must apply for each program separately, which means students must take the GRE/GMAT as well as the LSAT/GRE (depending on the school).

Not every school offers a joint degree program, and usually those that do require that you be individually admitted to each program. This means there are cases where a student may be accepted into the law school and not the graduate program, or vice versa. The most common degree combinations are JD/MBA, JD/MAcc, and JD/MPP.

PROS

Joint degree programs allow students to finish the two degrees more quickly than if pursued separately. Also, joint degrees may be advantageous for some jobs and can possibly broaden horizons and open job opportunities through contacts that otherwise may not have come.

CONS

Although joint degree programs are appealing for students, they are not driven by the market—having a joint degree doesn't necessarily make a job applicant more competitive over another who doesn't have a joint degree. Also, completing both programs together can result in missing opportunities from each one. Joint degree programs take extra time and extra funds, which can result in more debt that may not be worth it.

EXPLORING YOUR OPTIONS

If you decide to pursue a joint degree, make sure you do it for you and not because you think it will guarantee a greater salary or a better opportunity immediately after graduation. To locate schools that offer joint degrees, our office recommends the following resources.

The NAPLA/SAPLA Book of Law School Lists:

- This book lists schools by joint degrees offered, as well as specialized programs, among other criteria. It is available by visiting the resources page of the NAPLA website (www.napla.org).

The ABA/LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools:

- This guide gives you all the basic information about ABA-Approved Law Schools. It is more useful if you have a specific school in mind and you would like to check what programs and degrees that school offers. The online version is available at the LSAC website (www.lsac.org).

Law School Websites:

- This is perhaps your best resource. Most schools' websites will provide a guide to the various degrees they offer. Additionally, school websites usually include course listings and descriptions to give you a better idea of what the two degrees might entail. The websites will also list the requirements for applying as well as completing the degree.

BYU JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

Brigham Young University offers several joint programs: JD/MEd, EdD, PhD (law education), JD/MPA (law and public administration), JD/MBA (law and business administration), JD/MAcc (law accounting), and JD/MPP (law and public policy). Other degrees may be available by application. To locate other schools that offer joint degrees, see The NAPLA/SAPLA Book of Law School Lists or contact each school individually.

JD|MED (Law and Education)

Department of Educational Leadership & Foundations
306 MCKB
Brigham Young University
84602-5092

JD|MPA (Law and Public Administration)

Marriott School of Management
730 TNRB
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602-3113

JD|MAcc (Law and Accounting)

Marriott School of Management
730 TNRB
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602-3113

JD|MBA (Law and Business Administration)

Marriott School of Management
730 TNRB
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602-3113