JOINT DEGREES

Yale Law School
Yale Law School encourages its students to take an interdisciplinary approach to the law. The Law School allows students who wish to acquire specialized skills or a body of knowledge related to law to apply for a joint degree in their area of interest. Joint degrees are most common with the Graduate School and with other professional schools at Yale, although joint degrees may be arranged with programs at other universities.
Application for and Approval of Joint Degrees

Applicants interested in pursuing a joint degree should apply to the Law School and the other program separately. Applications may be submitted simultaneously or in different years. Each school will evaluate your application and make an independent decision about admission. Acceptance by both schools does not guarantee approval of a joint degree.

After matriculating at the Law School, students may petition a faculty committee for approval of a joint degree with another degree program. Students must be enrolled in or admitted to the other school or program at the time the petition is made. The faculty committee considers all joint degree petitions on a case-by-case basis.

Additionally, Yale Law School offers two joint degree programs with the Yale School of Management that do not require faculty committee approval. The Accelerated Integrated JD-MBA allows students to complete the requirements for both programs within three years, rather than four as with a traditional joint JD-MBA. The JD-PhD in Finance is also offered for students interested in pursuing a career in business law teaching.

Financial Aid

During each semester of a joint degree, joint degree students are “in residence” at one school or the other. Students may not be in residence in more than one school during any given semester. Tuition and financial aid for the semester will be determined by the school where you are in residence.

Joint Degree Credit

The Law School grants up to one term of credit for appropriate work in another degree program. Thus, joint degree students are generally required to be in residence at the Law School for only five terms. The other program or school may also grant credit for work at the Law School, decreasing the length of that degree.

In most cases, you may start your joint degree at either school, but the two programs must be interwoven. Coursework completed before matriculating at the Law School is ineligible for joint degree credit; therefore, you must matriculate at the Law School before finishing your coursework for the other degree in order to reduce your period of study. Students may only be enrolled in one school each semester.

Prospective joint degree students should consult with the other school about its policies regarding reciprocal credits for coursework, degree requirements, and timing of degree progress.

Other Options for Interdisciplinary Study

After the first term, law students may take courses in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools at Yale University. Students may receive Law School credit when classes are relevant to the student’s program of study or planned legal career. For students not in joint degree programs, up to 12 units of credits for such courses may be counted toward the JD degree. For more information, see the Bulletin (www.law.yale.edu/bulletin).
Selected Joint Degree Opportunities

Students have the option to apply for a joint degree with the other graduate and professional schools at Yale, such as the Schools of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Public Health, Medicine, Divinity, and the Yale University Graduate School. Students may also apply for a joint degree with a graduate program outside of Yale. In the case of two-year programs, a student can typically complete a joint degree in four years.

DOCTORATE

It is possible to combine study for the JD and PhD degrees, upon approval. The total time in residence and the details of each program of study must be taken up with the Graduate School, the director of graduate studies in the relevant department, and the Law School. Ordinarily, the Law School encourages a joint degree candidate to complete the JD within four years.

In 2013–14, Yale University began offering a PhD in Law. This program is designed for students who have completed a JD degree and is not available as a joint degree program. For more information about the PhD in Law, please see www.law.yale.edu/phd.

JD-MA IN ECONOMICS

Yale University offers a special terminal Master’s degree in Economics for Yale Law School JD and JSD students. For more information about the program, including its requirements and application procedures, please see economics.yale.edu/graduate/requirements

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Yale Law School and the Yale School of Management offer a three-year Accelerated Integrated JD-MBA designed for students interested in business law-related practice as well as in careers as entrepreneurs and managers in business and nonprofit organizations. The program enables students to master the analytical and quantitative skills necessary to solve complex legal and business challenges. Students are fully immersed in the required curriculum and community life at each school and will graduate with their entering class at both the Law School and School of Management. Application to the program may be made simultaneous to the student’s initial application to the Law School or during the student’s first year at the Law School.

Students may also apply to pursue a JD-MBA over four years, with the Yale School of Management or another business school. Interested students should follow the normal joint degree application process, described above.

JD-PHD IN FINANCE

This joint degree program is intended for students wishing to pursue a career in teaching business law. The program is structured to permit course requirements to be completed in four years. The expectation is that law students will apply for admission in their first year of law school, but they may apply at any time.
Examples of Recent Joint Degrees

Some of the joint degrees that Yale Law School students have recently undertaken include:

- **JD-MBA** with Harvard Business School
- **JD-MBA** with Stanford Graduate School of Business
- **JD-MBA** with the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania
- **JD-MBA** with Yale School of Management
- **JD-MPA** with Harvard Kennedy School of Government
- **JD-MPP** with the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University
- **JD-PhD** in Political Science with Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences
- **JD-PhD** in Political Science with Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- **JD-PhD** in History with Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- **JD-PhD** in History with Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- **JD-PhD** in Finance with Yale School of Management
- **JD-PhD** in Economics with Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- **JD-MD** with Yale Medical School
- **JD-MAR** with Yale Divinity School
- **JD-MEM** with Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
For more information about pursuing a joint degree at the Law School, please visit www.law.yale.edu/jointdegree. For information on applying to the three-year Accelerated Integrated JD-MBA or JD-PhD in Finance programs, please visit www.law.yale.edu/jointdegreecorporate.