

SOCIAL WORK / LAW, M.S.W. / J.D.

Admissions

The College of Social Work (http://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/socialwork/) and the School of Law (http://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/law/) participate in a combination degree program that allows individuals to complete both the Master of Social Work and Juris Doctor degrees in less time than completing the two degrees separately. Application to the M.S.W. Program is made through the USC Graduate School (<http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/>) and application to the J.D. Program is made through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). Application reviews, including required supplemental application materials required by the programs, and admission recommendations are made independently by the College of Social Work and by the School of Law. Official notification of admission into the M.S.W. Program will be made by the Graduate School. Students enrolled in both Master of Social Work and Juris Doctor courses in any term may be subject to fees for both programs.

Students enrolled in either the M.S.W. or J.D. Program beyond their first year of graduate study cannot apply for the combination degree program. Advanced Standing social work students enrolled beyond the summer bridge term cannot apply for the combination degree program. The Juris Doctor degree is not offered as a part-time program; therefore, students enrolled in the part-time M.S.W. Program are not eligible for the combination degree program.

Degree Requirements M.S.W (60 Hours) / J.D. (90 Hours)

Students must complete the combination degree program by starting in the J.D. Program. Each program offers a typical sequence of courses; through academic advisement with a combination degree coordinator in each program, students select specific courses to satisfy the requirements for each degree. All curriculum and hour requirements must be satisfied in order to graduate from the combination degree program.

Students in the combination degree program must complete the program within seven academic years. See the Social Work, M.S.W. and the J.D. bulletin (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/law/>) for additional information.

The J.D. Program accepts up to nine (9) hours of social work courses as electives in its program and the MSW Program accepts up to six (6) hours of law courses towards the MSW degree. Thus the 60-credit hour MSW degree and 90-credit hour J.D. degree can both be completed with a total of 135 credit hours. However, according to the American Bar Association (ABA), the J.D. Program cannot accept any social work credits earned prior to matriculating in the law program. The first year of law studies must be completed at one time. Students enrolled in the dual degree M.S.W./J.D. program must be enrolled concurrently in SOWK courses and at least three (3) credit hours of LAWS courses in the semester during which they plan to share SOWK credit hours toward the J.D. degree.

The table below reflects the plan of study for a full-time student who begins the dual degree program in law. Note that the courses beyond the first year of law studies may be adjusted due to program or accreditation changes.

Law course descriptions are found in the School of Law Bulletin (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/law/>)

First Year		
Fall		Credit Hours
LAWS 500	Introduction to the Legal Profession	1
LAWS 504	Contract Law	4
LAWS 524	Criminal Law	3
LAWS 529	Torts	4
LAWS 533	Legal Research, Analysis and Writing I	3
Credit Hours		15
Spring		
LAWS 509	Property	4
LAWS 523	Constitutional Law	4
LAWS 534	Legal Research, Analysis and Writing II	3
LAWS 544	Civil Procedure	4
Credit Hours		15
Summer		
LAWS Elective Course		3
LAWS Elective Course		3
Credit Hours		6
Second Year		
Fall		
SOWK 712	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	3
SOWK 714	Diversity and Social Justice Issues for Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 716	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3
SOWK 781	Field Instruction I: Generalist Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 791	Social Work Research Methodologies	3
Credit Hours		15
Spring		
SOWK 722	Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Small Groups	3
SOWK 732	Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities	3
SOWK 742	Social Welfare Policy Analysis	3
SOWK 777	Advanced Theory for Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 782	Field Instruction II: Generalist Social Work Practice	3
Credit Hours		15
Summer		
Students may elect to take these courses during the summer in order to meet curriculum requirements upon approval of the dual degree coordinator in each program:		
SOWK Elective Course		3
LAWS Elective Course		2-3
Credit Hours		5-6
Third Year		
Fall		
SOWK 779	Advanced Social Work Interventions	3
SOWK 783	Field Instruction III: Advanced Social Work Practice	3

SOWK 792 or SOWK 793	Evaluation of Social Work Practice or Evaluation of Social Work Programs	3
LAWS 554	Problems in Professional Responsibility (shared course)	3
LAWS Elective Course ¹		3
SOWK Elective Course		3
Credit Hours		18
Spring		
SOWK 718	Systems Analysis of Social Work Practice (shared course)	3
SOWK 778	Advanced Analysis of Social Policy, Programs, and Services (shared course)	3
SOWK 784	Field Instruction IV: Advanced Social Work Practice	3
LAWS Elective Course (shared course)		3
LAWS Elective Course ¹		3
LAWS Elective Course ¹		3
SOWK Elective Course (shared course)		3
Credit Hours		21
Fourth Year		
Fall		
LAWS Elective Courses		15
Credit Hours		15
Spring		
LAWS Elective Courses		15
Credit Hours		15
Total Credit Hours		140-141

¹ Students may elect to take these courses during summer sessions in order to meet curriculum requirements upon approval of the dual degree coordinator in each program.