

Joint MSW (Wurzweiler) /JD (Cardozo) Program

The disciplines of law and social work overlap significantly. While there are lawyers who operate wholly outside the world of social work, and (somewhat fewer) social workers whose work is wholly outside the world of law, many of those in each profession find themselves in frequent contact with the other. Each has much to learn from the other. For certain students, training in both disciplines will be invaluable professional preparation. The M.S.W. /J.D. program enhances educational opportunities for its students and increases the cross-fertilization and intellectual growth that comes from contact across disciplines. Through the course of study outlined herein, candidates are able to earn both the J.D. and the M.S.W. degrees in four years. For students who have previously earned a B.S.W. - in Social Work, it is possible to obtain the joint degrees in 3 and ½ years.

Candidates for the joint M.S.W. /J.D. degree program must apply to and be admitted by both Schools separately. It is preferable that the application be made to both programs simultaneously; a student already at one of the Schools may apply to the other during the student's first year. Admission to one School does not guarantee admission to the other, although it may be a factor strengthening the application.

During the first two years of study, the student completes the first-year program at each school in turn. During each of the remaining semesters, they may divide their coursework between the two schools, to be consistent with the academic regulations of each school.

Designated Cardozo courses, totaling no more than 10 credits, may be counted toward the MSW degree and similarly, 10 credits of designated Wurzweiler courses may be counted toward the J.D. degree. Cardozo students may take no more than a total of 16 credits per semester.

As curricula vary from year to year, it is not practical to set out a comprehensive list of courses that qualify for joint credit. The Dean's Office at each School will make case-by-case determinations in individual cases. However, joint credit shall be given at least for the following courses:

Wurzweiler courses applicable to the J.D.:

- Administration
- Child and Family Welfare
- Community Mental Health
- Cultural Diversity
- Immigration
- Law and Social Work
- Psychosocial Pathology
- Alcohol, Drugs & other Addictions

A maximum of two of the following courses are applicable to the JD:

- Family systems
- Gerontology
- Jewish Social Philosophy
- Social Welfare Policy
- Social Work Practice with Trauma and Interpersonal Violence
- Social Work Practice with the Military
- Values and Ethics

Cardozo courses counting toward the M.S.W.:

Bioethics and the Law
Charity Governance
Criminal Justice and Society Colloquium
Dispute Resolution Processes
Divorce Mediation OR Divorce Mediation Summer Intensive
Domestic Violence and Child Abuse
New York Law
Equitable Distribution
Family Law
Insurance Law
Negotiation Theories and Skills
Psychoanalysis and the Law
Public Health Law and Policy
Representation in Mediation (“IMAP”)
Rights of Prisoners and Detainees
Sexual Orientation, Gender & Law

In addition, relevant and appropriate internship/externship experiences at or arranged through Cardozo that are conducted under the supervision of a social worker will earn credits toward the Wurzweiler fieldwork requirement. Similarly, Wurzweiler fieldwork placements may qualify as internships earning clinical credit at Cardozo if they are conducted under the supervision of an attorney and meet the other requirements for internship credit.