MSW/JD DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM
2016-2017 Purpose

The MSW/JD Dual degree Program is designed for students who are interested in serving the combined legal and social needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities. The program reflects the University’s mission to educate individuals who are committed to working with the poor, the powerless, and the disadvantaged. It is intended for persons who wish to combine social work knowledge and intervention skills with legal knowledge and practice skills to better serve their clients or constituencies.

Students admitted to the program may expect to receive both the Master of Social Work (MSW) and the Juris Doctor (JD) degrees in four years rather than the normal five years. Graduating students will be eligible to take the bar and social work licensing exams.

Objectives

1. To educate practitioners in social work and law to be able to effectively utilize the problem-solving strategies and techniques of both disciplines.

2. To provide the core curriculum of each profession while enabling students to focus on areas of knowledge and practice which correspond to their professional goals.

3. To facilitate integration of the two disciplines through field experience. The second field placement will be supervised by an LICSW.

4. To prepare practitioners who have a commitment to a human condition that is free from violence, oppression and discrimination, and that protects and promotes the development of all people.

Intervention Methods

In the School of Social Work students must choose an intervention method: clinical social practice or macro practice. Clinical students focus on practice directly with individuals, families, and groups in dealing with personal, interpersonal, and social problems. Macro students develop specific knowledge and skills to achieve change in organizational and community settings.

Field-of-Practice Concentration

Prior to entering the 3rd year, students will choose a field-of-practice concentration from one of the following areas: Children, Youth, & Families, Health & Mental Health, Older Adults & Families, or Individualized. Dual degree students are not eligible to take the Global Practice concentration because of the required full-time Spring field placement.
**Program Requirements**

1. Students must be accepted into each school independently.

2. Students must be registered as full-time students throughout the program. First-year part-time social work students wishing to apply to the program may seek an exception to this requirement only in consultation with the program coordinators of each school.

3. Students must complete the normal first year curriculum at each school within the first two years of study. In addition, they must complete all upper-level required courses during the final two years.

4. It is preferable for students to begin the program at the School of Social Work (SSW). This provides a solid philosophical foundation for the program and ensures that the student will maintain continuity at the law school (BCLAW) by entering and graduating with the same class. First year law students applying to the program, as well as students with other special circumstances, may seek exceptions to this requirement.

5. Students will develop an appropriate course of study working with the coordinators of the dual degree program and the designated faculty advisors at the two schools:

   **Program Coordinators**
   
   SSW: Tom Walsh, Associate Dean, (617) 552-3338 or thomas.walsh.3@bc.edu
   LS: Maris Abbene, Associate Dean, Academic, Career & Student Services, (617) 552-4348 or maris.abbene@bc.edu

   A sample course of study for dual degree students in each SSW intervention method is described in Appendix 1.

6. The integrity of both the MSW and the JD degrees is maintained in the following manner:

   a) SSW requires a total of 65 credit hours for the MSW degree. Of these, 56 credits are earned through social work courses, and the remaining 9 credits are upper-level law elective credits that are applied to the MSW degree.

   b) BCLAW requires a total of 85 credit hours for the JD degree. Of these, 73 are earned by taking BCLAW courses, and the remaining 12 are applied from the required social work courses.

   c) Since credits are transferred and applied to each school, a dual degree student will fulfill the requirements for both degrees with a total of 129 credits rather than the 150 credits that would be required if both degrees were completed independently.

7. Two social work field placements are required, one in the social work foundation year and another in the third year. (See *Program Procedures* for more information). The second field practicum will provide opportunities for practice integration and application of the composite of knowledge and skills derived from law and social work courses.
8. Nine upper-level law elective credits are applied to the MSW degree. Students are expected to take 2 law electives with a social work focus in year 4. See Appendix 2.

9. During the third and fourth years in the dual degree program, all of the students may meet periodically as a group with the dual degree coordinators from each school for discussions designed to enhance program integration.

Program Procedures

1. The first social work field placement is completed during the foundation year in social work, which in most cases is the first year of the program. It is a two-day per week placement throughout the school year. The second field practicum is completed during the third year of the program, with an option to begin early with a one-month block placement during the preceding summer. The student then continues in the placement two days per week (or its equivalent) during both semesters of the third year. The student may also work out a different arrangement in coordination with the practicum site; for instance, a student may wish to work two days a week for a calendar year, starting the summer before the third year of the program, rather than doing a block placement in August to make up for the extra day. The student will work closely with the faculty advisor and / or coordinator from the School of Social Work to discuss an appropriate placement that will best integrate the two disciplines.

Field Contact person: Joe McLaughlin, Field Placement Specialist, (617) 552-0831 or Joe.mclaughlin.2@bc.edu

2. Each school issues a transcript that will indicate that 9 credits are met for the MSW and 12 credits are met for the JD degrees. Credits that are taken in one school and accepted as credits in the other school are not factored into the Grade Point Average (GPA) of the school accepting the credits (e.g., the student’s Law School GPA will not include the 12 credits taken at the SSW, and vice versa).

3. During the foundation years, the student is registered as a full-time student in the school he or she is attending (e.g., as a social work student in the first year and a law student in the second year). The student will be registered as a social work student during the first semester of the third year (the fifth semester of the program) and as a law student for the remainder of the program.

The student is responsible for contacting the University’s Office of Student Services to change status. To change status, students should contact Kathleen McGuinness, Director of Academic & General Services, at (617) 552-4976 or kathy.mcguinness@bc.edu. Students should also keep Theresa Kachmar, the Law School’s Record Specialist, informed of their semester’s status. She may be reached at 617-552-8695, or katchmar@bc.edu, or stopping by Academic Services, Stuart 308.

The tuition breakdown is as follows: Social Work tuition is charged during the social work foundation year and during the first semester of the third year (the fifth semester). Law tuition is charged for the remainder of the program.

4. Financial aid is available for eligible dual degree students, but it is awarded separately by the two schools. Financial Aid is awarded by the school in which the student is enrolled and does not carry over from one school to the other. Students are required to apply for
financial aid from each school, and students are urged to apply early (e.g., by the end of fall semester). Students should contact the Director of Financial Aid at BCLAW and the Assistant Dean of Admissions at SSW for further information.

**APPENDIX 1**

**First Year: Social Work Foundation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCWK7721</td>
<td>Human Behavior and the Social Environment</td>
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<td>SCWK7722</td>
<td>Psychosocial Pathology (Clinical) or Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
<td>and Social Transformation (Macro)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK7722</td>
<td>or SCWK8833</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCWK8855</td>
<td>Clinical Practice: Children &amp; Families (Clinical)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCWK8855</td>
<td>or SCWK8886</td>
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<td>SCWK8886</td>
<td>or Financial Management and Resource Development</td>
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<td>SCWK8889</td>
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<td>Transformation</td>
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<td>SCWK9921</td>
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<td>SCWK9932</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCWK9942</td>
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**Total** 15

**Total** 15
### Second Year: Law Foundation

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<td>LAWS2125</td>
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<td>LAWS212</td>
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<td>LAWS214</td>
<td>Torts</td>
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<td>LAWSxxxx</td>
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<td>LAWS2140</td>
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### Third Year: Combined

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<td>SCWKxxxx</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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¹ There are five upper-level requirements. One of these is a course on Professional Responsibility. Students must also take at least six credits of Experiential Learning courses, ²

¹ One additional Law credit must be taken during Semester 5, 7, or 8 to reach the required 73 Law credits.
Class, a course satisfying the Perspectives on Justice and the Law requirement, and an Upper Level Writing course. There will be lists that identify which courses satisfy which requirements and in some instances a course might satisfy more than one requirement. One additional Law credit must be taken during Semester 5, 7, or 8 to reach the required 73 Law credits. May be done as a 30-day block placement in summer before third year and two days a week during the school year, or anything equivalent that is arranged with the field site.

**Fourth Year: Combined**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
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²See Program Requirement #8. Two of the Law Electives taken in Year Four must have a Social Work focus (see list of electives for cross-registration).
³Professional Responsibility must be taken prior to graduation.

**APPENDIX 2**

**Examples of Approved Dual-Degree Law Electives**

- LAWS 7793  
  Immigration Law Clinic
- LAWS 3388  
  Juvenile Justice Seminar
- LAWS 3389  
  Juvenile Rights Advocacy I
- LAWS 3393  
  Death Penalty Seminar
- LAWS 4403  
  Employment Law
- LAWS 4476  
  Domestic Violence and the Law
- LAWS 4489  
  Semester in Practice
- LAWS 7747  
  Family Law
- LAWS 7757  
  Labor Law
- LAWS 7787  
  Legal Interviewing and Counseling
- LAWS 9904  
  Criminal Justice Clinic
- LAWS 9925  
  Mediation
- LAWS 9930  
  Dispute Negotiation
- LAWS 9942  
  Family Court Practice
- LAWS 9967  
  Mental Health and the Law
- LAWS 9969  
  Environmental Law
- LAWS 9978  
  Civil Litigation Clinic
Students may request a different elective with approval of the Social Work Program Coordinator.

Note: Not all courses are offered every semester.