

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MSW/JD DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM 2018-2019

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.
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.

Specialized Practice

In the School of Social Work students must choose a specialized practice: clinical 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.

Fields-of-Practice

Prior to entering the 3rd year, students will choose a Field-of-Practice 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 international setting Field-of-Practice 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, thomas.walsh.3@bc.edu

LAW: Maris Abbene, Associate Dean, Academic, Career & Student Services, (617) 552-4348, maris.abbene@bc.edu

A sample course of study for dual degree students in each SSW specialized practice 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 on a three-day per week basis. 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. The student will work closely with the Advisor and / or coordinator from the School of Social Work to discuss an appropriate placement that will best integrate the two disciplines.

SSW Field Contact person: Joe McLaughlin, Assistant Director of Field, (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).

- During the foundation years, the student is registered as a full-time student in the school they are 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.

- 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 Associate Dean of Enrollment Management at SSW for further information.

APPENDIX 1

First Year: Social Work Foundation

SEMESTER 1			SEMESTER 2		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7721	Human Behavior and the Social Environment	3	SCWK7722 or SCWK8833	Psychosocial Pathology (Clinical) or Leadership and Social Transformation (Macro)	3
SCWK7723	Diversity and Cross-Cultural Issues	3	SCWK8855 or SCWK8886	Clinical Practice: Children & Families (Clinical) or Financial Management and Resource Development (Macro)	3
SCWK7762	Basic Skills in Clinical Social Work	3	SCWK8856 or SCWK8889	Clinical Practice: Adults (Clinical) or Social Innovation (Macro)	3
SCWK8800	Basic Skills in Macro Practice	3	SCWK7701	Social Welfare System	3
SCWK9921	Field Education I	3	SCWK9932 or SCWK9942	Field Education II CSW Field Education II Macro	3
	Total	15		Total	15

Second Year: Law Foundation

SEMESTER 3			SEMESTER 4		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
LAWS2130	Contracts	4	LAWS2125	Constitutional Law I	3
LAWS2120	Civil Procedure	-	LAWS2120	Civil Procedure	5
LAWS2140	Property	4	LAWS2135	Criminal Law	4
LAWS2160	Legal Research, Reas., & Writing	-	LAWS2160	Legal Research, Reas., & Writing	5
LAWS2145	Torts	4	LAWSxxxx	Law Elective	3
	Total	12		Total	20

Third Year: Combined

SEMESTER 5			SEMESTER 6		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7747	Research Methods	3	SCWK8841	Program Evaluation	3
SCWKxxxx	Advanced Practice from Field-of-Practice	3	SCWKxxxx	Advanced Policy from Field-of-Practice	3
SCWKxxxx	Elective	3	SCWK9934 or SCWK9944	Field Education IV (Clinical) Field Education IV (Macro)	4
SCWKxxxx	Elective	3		Law Elective ¹	3
SCWK9933 or SCWK9943	Field Education III (Clinical) Field Education III (Macro)	4			
	Law Elective ^{1,2}	3/4		Law Elective ¹	3
	Total	19/20		Total	16

¹There are five upper-level requirements. Two of these are satisfied with specific courses: Constitutional Law II and Professional Responsibility. Students must also take a Lawyering Skills 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.

²One additional Law credit must be taken during Semester 5, 7, or 8 to reach the required 73 Law credits.

Fourth Year: Law

	SEMESTER 7			SEMESTER 8	
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
	Law Elective ¹	3/4		Law Elective ¹	3/4
	Law Elective ² (see App.3)	3		Law Elective ² (see App.3)	3
	Law Elective ³	3		Law Elective ³	3
	Law Elective	3		Law Elective	3
	Law Elective	3		Law Elective	3
	Total	15/16		Total	15/16

¹One additional Law credit must be taken during Semester 5, 7, or 8 to reach the required 73 Law credits.

²See Program Requirement #8. Two of the Law Electives taken in Year Four must have a Social Work focus (see list of examples of electives for cross-registration).

³The two upper-level requirements, Constitutional Law II and a course satisfying Professional 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 4432	Legislative Process
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.

Updated 12.7.18