

**Joint Degree Program:
J.D. and M.A. in Indigenous Studies**

Overview:

This program allows students to obtain a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Indigenous Studies in four years. It is of special interest to students who intend to become leaders and policy-makers in indigenous communities worldwide. Admission to both the School of Law and the Master's Program in Indigenous Studies is required. For more information contact Associate Professor Elizabeth Kronk, Tribal Law and Government Center, University of Kansas Law School, (785) 864-4550, Professor Melanie Wilson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, or Associate Professor Michael Zogry, Director, Indigenous Studies, University of Kansas, (785) 864-2660; indigenous@ku.edu.

Abstract:

This program allows students who wish to earn a J.D. degree and a M.A. degree in Indigenous Studies to pursue both degrees concurrently in a shortened period of time by allowing certain courses to count toward both degrees.

Program Objectives:

The objectives of this joint degree program are:

- (1) to facilitate interdisciplinary studies;
- (2) to support the interest of students who wish to pursue study in both fields;
and
- (3) to provide an educational opportunity that trains candidates for leadership and policy-making roles in indigenous communities worldwide, in higher education, and in state, national and international institutions and organizations.

Student Demand:

The School of Law currently offers several courses relating to Indigenous studies and offers a Tribal Law Certificate Program. Enrollment in these courses is strong and growing. The master's degree program in Indigenous Studies allows students to design an area of specialization with interdisciplinary courses taught by affiliated faculty from across the University of Kansas.

Program Requirements:

A detailed description of the joint program requirements, including lists of the courses that the two schools will jointly recognize, follows:

Credit Hour Requirements

The Law School requires all J.D. candidates to earn 90 credit hours to complete the degree. For students enrolled in the J.D./M.A. program, the Law School will accept nine (9) credit hours earned from approved courses in the master's program in Indigenous Studies (ISP) toward the J.D. requirements. Students in the joint degree program should note that while the School of Law requires a 2.0 grade point average in J.D. course work to remain in good standing and graduate, the Graduate School requires a 3.0 grade point average for all courses counting toward the M.A. in the ISP portion of the degree.

The master's program in ISP requires all candidates to earn thirty (30) graduate credit hours. The master's program will accept for credit toward the M.A. degree twelve (12) credit hours earned from approved courses in the law school. Required ISP core courses include:

ISP 800 Indigenous Issues in the United States (3)

One 3-hour graduate-level course in the history of indigenous peoples of North America, e.g. HIST 801: Graduate Colloquium in Indigenous Peoples of North America.

One 3-hour graduate-level course with 50% or more content in Indigenous Peoples that has been approved by the Executive Committee, offered by certain departments such as English, History, and Humanities & Western Civilization; SOC 873: International Political Economy.

In addition to the nine hours of core courses, students are to complete twelve hours in their area of specialization. Students have the option to write a thesis or present a portfolio as the capstone to their degree. Students choosing the portfolio option will be required to take nine elective hours, while students who select the thesis are required to take 6 elective hours and 3 hours of thesis.

Students may use 6 law hours toward satisfying their ISP specialization requirement, and apply the balance of the 12 law hours for which they may receive master's credit (see below) toward their master's electives.

Admissions and Timing of Entry into Joint Program

Candidates for the joint program will need to meet the separate admission requirements of the Law School and the master's program in Indigenous Studies. Admission into one school will create no presumption favoring admission into the other. To be admitted into the joint program, an applicant must be separately admitted to both

programs and then must request to proceed in the joint program. The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is the required entrance examination for the Law School application, and the GRE is the required entrance examination for the Indigenous Studies application.

Per American Bar Association policy, Credit for the J.D. degree shall only be given for course work taken after the student has matriculated in the law school. The law school shall not grant credit toward the J.D. degree for work taken in a pre-admission program. For this reason, students should start the law program first.

Students may apply to both degree programs simultaneously, but they are not required to do so. For students who are admitted into law first, they should seek admission into the master's program as soon as possible and must be admitted into that program no later than the end of the spring semester of their second year of law study, but earlier application is recommended. For students who are admitted to the master's program first, they should seek admission into the law school as soon as possible and must be admitted into the law school no later than the end of their second semester of graduate study.

Sequencing of Courses

Students who have been admitted to both programs and intend to pursue the joint degree program must complete the first 29 credits of required courses in the J.D. program. After the completion of these 29 hours, course enrollment in either program or both concurrently is permitted.

Law Courses that Will Count Toward the Master's Degree

Students may apply a maximum of 12 hours of law electives toward their master's degree from the following courses:

- LAW 987 Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and the Indigenous Nations (3) (ISP 883)
- LAW 914 Federal Indian Law (3) (ISP 824)
- LAW 879 Comparative Law (3) (ISP 876)
- LAW 930 International Law Seminar (3)
- LAW 975 Public Lands and Natural Resources (3) (ISP 877)
- LAW 995 Water Law (3) (ISP 879)
- LAW 967 Native American Natural Resources (3) (ISP 882)

- LAW 974 Public International Law (3)
- LAW ____ Special Topics in American Indian Law (3) (courses taught on occasion such as Indian Gaming)
- LAW 998 Tribal Judicial Support Clinic (2 or 3)

Master's Courses That Will Count Toward J.D.

Students may apply nine (9) credit hours of master's work toward their J.D. degree from the following courses:

- ANTH 562 Mexamerica (LAA 302 / LAA 602)
- ANTH 603 Shamanism Past and Present
- ANTH 775 Seminar Cultural Anthropology: Indigenous Development Latin America (LAA 602)
- GEOG 570 Geography of American Indians
- GEOG 571 Topics: Indigenous Cartographies
- HIST 890 Collqm American Hist 1492-1800
- ISP 601/801 Indigenous Peoples of the World
- ISP 614 Decolonizing Narratives
- ISP 800 Indigenous Issues in the United States
- ISP 804 Smnr: Issues in the study of Native American Religious Traditions (REL 775 / AMS 998)
- POLS 684 Internatl Law:State&Individual (GIST 750 / GIST 501)
- UBPL 773 Environmntl Planning Implemntn

Typical Enrollment Pattern

	Law	ISP	Total
First Year	29	0	29
Second Year	25	6	31
Third Year	22	6	28
Summer Sessions	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>
Total Credit Earned	81	18	99
Law Credit Allowed for M.A.		12	12
ISP Credit Allowed for J.D.	9		9
Total Credit Required	90	30	120

Degree Requirements

I. Law Courses Required of all J.D. Candidates:

First-year courses

Civil Procedure	4 cr.
Contracts	4 cr.
Criminal Law	4 cr.
Introduction to Constitutional Law	4 cr.
Lawyering Skills I	2 cr.
Lawyering Skills II	3 cr.
Property	4 cr.
Torts I	4 cr.

Upper-level courses

Commercial Law: Secured Transactions or Commercial Law: Payment Systems	3 cr.
Evidence	3 cr.
Professional Responsibility	<u>2 cr.</u>
(Must be taken in second year)	8 cr.

In addition to all J.D./M.A. program course requirements, students must satisfy the upper class writing requirement and the Professional Skills Requirement in the School of Law. Please refer to the current School of Law catalog for details.