

Juris Doctor/Master of Science in Environmental Studies Joint Degree Program

The faculties of the College of Law and the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida International University offer a joint degree program culminating in both a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree, awarded by the College of Law, and a Master of Science in Environmental Studies (MS-ES) degree, awarded by the College of Arts and Sciences. Under the joint degree program, a student can obtain both degrees in significantly less time than it would take to obtain both degrees if pursued consecutively. Essential criteria relating to the joint degree program are as follows:

1. Candidates for the program must meet the entrance requirements for and be accepted by both Colleges. Both Colleges must be informed by the student at the time of application to the second program that the student intends to pursue the joint degree.
2. The joint degree program is not open to students who have already earned one degree.
3. For law students, enrollment in the MS-ES program is required no later than the completion of 63 credit hours in the J.D. program. For MS-ES students, enrollment in the J.D. program is required no later than the completion of 24 credit hours in MS-ES program.
4. A student must satisfy the curriculum requirements for each degree before either degree is awarded. For the MS-ES degree, students must meet the requirement of the non-thesis track option. The College of Arts and Sciences will allow 6 credit hours of foundation law courses and up to 9 credit hours of upper level environmental law courses to be credited toward both the MS-ES and J.D. degrees. These law classes will count toward the non-EVR Environmental Studies elective credits allowed under the MS-ES non-thesis track program. Reciprocally, law students may receive 9 hours of credit toward the satisfaction of the J.D. degree for courses taken in the MS-ES curriculum upon completion of the MS-ES degree curriculum with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
5. The College of Arts and Sciences will recognize any significant, environment-related law review or research project completed with a letter grade of 'B' or better for the J.D. program toward the 3 credit hour course, EVR 5907 Research and Independent Study and the attendant 'Project' required for the MS-ES non-thesis track program. For the purpose of this program, a Project is defined as a substantial analysis and proposal for change of a real-world environmental problem, and requires preparation of a report and presentation as part of the required Environmental Studies Graduate Seminar class.
6. A student enrolled in the joint degree program may begin the student's studies in either College, but full time law students must take the first two semesters of law study consecutively and part-time law students must take the first three semesters of law study consecutively. Students admitted to one College but electing to begin study in the other College under the joint degree program may enter the second College thereafter without once again qualifying for admission so long as they have notified the second College before the end of the first week of the first semester in the second College and are in good academic standing when studies commence in the second College.
7. A student enrolled in the joint degree program will not receive either degree until the student has satisfied all of the requirements for both degrees, or until the student has satisfied the requirements of one of the degrees as if the student had not been a joint degree candidate.
8. As non-thesis track MS-ES students, students in the joint degree program will not normally be eligible for the graduate teaching assistantships in the Environmental Studies Department.