

Juris Doctor/Master of Science in Criminal Justice Joint Degree Program

The faculties of the College of Law and the School of Criminal Justice at Florida International University have approved a joint degree program culminating in both a Juris Doctor degree (JD), awarded by the College of Law, and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree (MSCJ), awarded by the School of Criminal Justice. Under the joint degree program, a student can obtain the 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 programs. Both programs 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 a JD or a MSCJ.
3. For law students, enrollment in the MSCJ program is required no later than the completion of 63 credit hours in the JD program. For MSCJ students, enrollment in the JD program is required no later than the completion of 22 credit hours in the MSCJ program.
4. A student must satisfy the curriculum requirements for each degree before either degree is awarded. The School of Criminal Justice will allow 12 credit hours of College of Law criminal law and jurisprudence courses to be credited toward both the MSCJ and JD degrees. These 12 credit hours of law classes will be in lieu of four elective courses. Reciprocally, law students may receive 9 hours of credit toward the satisfaction of the JD degree for courses taken in the MSCJ curriculum upon completion of the MSCJ degree with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Subject to prior approval, law school students are normally allowed 6 credit hours from graduate level courses offered by other units of the University as counting toward the JD degree.
5. A full-time law student enrolled in the joint degree program may spend the first year in either the College of Law or the School of Criminal Justice. A part-time law student enrolled in the joint degree program may begin the student's studies in either program, but must take the first three semesters of law study consecutively. Students admitted to one program may enter the second program thereafter without once again qualifying for admission so long as they have notified the second program before the end of the first week of the first semester in the second program and are in good academic standing when studies commence in the second program.
6. 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.
7. Students in the joint degree program will be eligible for the graduate teaching assistantships and research assistantships in the School of Criminal Justice on the same basis as other MSCJ students, subject to the guidelines and restrictions set by the School of Criminal Justice.