

DUAL DEGREES AT DENVER LAW

(8/20/2020)

1. What is a Formal Dual Degree and what is a Flexible Dual Degree?

- Formal Dual Degree: The law school and certain other DU schools or departments have formalized an arrangement for seeking a Dual Degree. In these cases, the terms of sharing credits are established and, often, the curriculum is designed.
- Flexible Dual Degree: Where a Formal Dual Degree does not exist, the student sets up the program, on an ad hoc basis, with the DU school or department of his/her choice.
- The DU Graduate Bulletin contains more information on [Formal Dual Degrees](#) and [Flexible Dual Degrees](#).

These Formal Dual Degrees are offered through the Graduate Legal Studies department at the SCOL:

- JD/LLM in Taxation (SCOL)
For more information, contact [Ryan Dressler](#)
- JD/LLM in International Business Transactions (SCOL)
- JD/LLM in Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Policy (SCOL)
- JD/MS in Legal Administration (SCOL)
To learn more about these Dual Degrees, please contact [Graduate Legal Studies](#).

These Formal Dual Degrees are offered through the SCOL and other schools and departments at DU:

- JD/MBA (Daniels College of Business)
- JD/MPP (Institute for Public Policy Studies)
- JD/MA in International Studies (Korbel School of International Studies)
- JD/MSW (Graduate School of Social Work)
- JD/MS in Healthcare Leadership (University College)

In the recent past, Denver Law students have pursued these Flexible Dual Degrees:

- JD/Masters in Biological Sciences
- JD/Masters in Economics
- JD/Masters in Forensic Psychology
- JD/Masters in Philosophy

2. When do you need to commit to a Dual Degree program?

Dual Degrees must be pursued concurrently, not consecutively. In order to meet this requirement, students interested in pursuing a dual degree must matriculate into the second program no later than the first available term following fifty percent (50%) course work completion of the first program. (Note: Petition to waive this requirement is possible.)

3. You must be accepted at both schools.

You can seek acceptance simultaneously, or (more commonly), you can begin at one unit (most likely the SCOL) and then seek acceptance at the second unit.

In the second case, contact the Admissions Office there or consult the Admissions website. Ask these questions:

- What are the admission requirements?
- Are you required to take the GRE or GMAT? Can you substitute your LSAT score?
- What is the admission time line? This is important because of the requirement to matriculate into the second program no later than the first available term following fifty percent (50%) course work completion of the first program (see 2. above).

4. Academic calendars and credits differ between the Law School and the rest of DU.

- The law school is on semesters, the rest of DU is on quarters. You need to anticipate how this will affect your workload when you are taking courses in the law school along with courses in another DU school or department.
- Similarly, if you split the academic year evenly – if you spend one semester at SCOL and another at the second unit – it may make sense to do Fall at SCOL (when there is one DU quarter) and Winter-Spring quarters at the second unit (when there is one semester at SCOL).
- Because of this difference (semester versus quarter), be aware that 3 DU (quarter) credits = 2 law school (semester) credits.
- University regulations restrict simultaneous enrollment in semester (law) and quarter (all other DU units) classes. Generally, you may enroll in Fall semester and Fall quarter classes together. You may enroll in Spring semester and Winter quarter classes together. You may not enroll in Spring semester and Spring quarter classes together. Summer classes, including taking Summer semester courses after Spring quarter courses or taking Fall semester courses after Summer quarter classes, present special difficulties because term schedules differ year-to-year. Check with the Registrar.

5. Determine course credit reduction.

- As a Dual Degree student, you receive credit reductions, also referred to as “cross-counting of credits.” That is, each program has requirements to graduate, and the number of credits from each program is reduced if you earn a Dual Degree.
- For example, a JD requires 90 semester credits. A student pursuing a Formal or a Flexible Dual Degree will receive a 10-credit reduction and earn the JD with 80 credits.
- If you are a Dual Degree student, you will want to establish exactly what the credit reduction is toward earning the second degree. The unit or department where you are earning the second degree establishes the credit reduction toward the degree earned there.
- Important: a Dual Degree student must complete the second degree before receiving the 10-credit reduction to earn the JD.
- You may contact the law school [Registrar’s Office](#) to clarify credits earned or to be earned toward the JD.

6. You may take courses in another DU department or unit without being a Dual Degree candidate.

A law student not pursuing a Dual Degree may earn 8 of the 90 credits necessary to earn a JD from graduate-level courses taken in another unit. Other units at DU are on the quarter system. Thus, 12 quarter credits = 8 JD (semester) credits. Please inform the law school’s [Registrar Office](#) of your plans to earn credits toward your JD in another unit.

7. What happens with financial aid if I am a Dual Degree student?

Investigate the financial aid consequences of being a Dual Degree student. For example:

- Scholarship money (tuition reduction) the law school has given you is disbursed for classes taken only at the SCOL.
 - By arrangement with the Office of Student Financial Management, scholarships can be allocated on a different schedule than indicated in your admission letter.
- Loans, too, are based on your enrollment at the SCOL only; they can be adjusted to reflect your enrollment in two programs simultaneously or in the non-law program only, by making special arrangements with the university’s Office of Financial Aid.
- Your contact at the SCOL for these matters [Jennifer Quinn](#), Director of Student Financial Management. A Dual Degree student should check in with Ms. Quinn regularly, e.g., once a semester.

8. How will I be billed?

- You will receive a bill for each term in which you are enrolled separately. For example, if you are taking classes in both the fall semester & fall quarter, you will receive one bill for the semester coursework in due August and one bill for the quarter coursework due in September.
- If you are borrowing loans to help cover tuition, and are taking credits during both the semester and quarter, your loans will be disbursed on the semester schedule and a portion of the refund that you receive will need to be used to pay the quarter tuition.
- You are encouraged to meet with Jennifer Quinn in the Office of Student Financial Management if you have any questions about billing and financial aid.

9. You must officially notify the Office of Graduate Studies, within the prescribed time limits, of your intention to pursue a Dual Degree.

- Formal Dual Degree Verification: to be acknowledged as a Dual Degree student, you must complete [this form](#) and submit it to the law school Registrar's Office within the first term of attendance in the second program. The Law Registrar's Office will submit the form to the Office of Graduate Education.
- Flexible Dual Degree Proposal form: to get approval for a flexible Dual Degree, you must complete [this form](#) and submit it to the law school Registrar's Office no later than one term prior to matriculation into the second degree program. The Law Registrar's Office will submit the form to the Office of Graduate Education.
- Contact the Office of Graduate Education [here](#).

10. Notifying the Registrar at Denver Law

Once accepted into a Dual Degree program, you must notify the law school [Registrar's Office](#) of this change in your curriculum plan.