

Columbia Law School and Columbia School of International and Public Affairs J.D./M.P.A. Dual Degree Program

Columbia Law School and the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs (“SIPA”) offer a dual degree program that enables students to earn a J.D. and M.P.A. in four years. Students spend five terms in residence at the Law School and three terms in residence at SIPA.

Admissions

Prospective students must separately apply and be admitted to both the Law School and SIPA. Applicants may either apply simultaneously to both schools or apply initially only to one school and then apply to the other school during their first year of study.

For information regarding the admissions process at each school, please contact the [CLS Office of Admissions](#) and the [SIPA Office of Admissions](#) directly.

Degree Requirements

- **Credit Requirements:** 71¹ Law School credits; 30 SIPA credits
- **Minimum Residency Requirements:** 5 semesters at the Law School; 3 semesters at SIPA
- **Academic Requirements:**
 - Students in the J.D./M.P.A. program must satisfy all academic requirements for the J.D. degree, including: (1) all first-year Foundation Courses; (2) a course in Professional Responsibility; (3) the Major Writing Credit; (4) the Minor Writing Credit; (5) a minimum of 40 hours of Pro Bono service; and (6) for students who first matriculated at the Law School in or after 2016, at least six points of Experiential Coursework credit. The primary distinction is that, for students in the dual degree program, the Law School will accept one term of full-time residency and up to 12 academic credits toward the J.D. degree for work completed at SIPA. For more information on the J.D. requirements, please visit the [J.D. Rules Page](#).
 - For information about SIPA’s academic requirements, please click [here](#).

Program Structure

Students in the J.D./M.P.A. dual degree program earn both degrees in four years, spending five terms (2.5 academic years) at the Law School and three terms (1.5 academic years) at SIPA. During the first three years of the program, students are generally required to spend two full years at the Law School and one full year at SIPA, though they enjoy flexibility as to the sequencing of their residency at each school. Students split their fourth year in the program, spending one term in residence at the Law School and one term in residence at SIPA. Students should work closely with [Registration Services at the Law School](#) and the [SIPA Office of Student Affairs](#) to ensure proper registration.

¹ Dual degree students who first matriculated at the Law School in 2017 must earn at least 72 Law School credits in order to graduate.

Tuition and Financial Aid

Students in the J.D./M.P.A. dual degree program will be charged tuition according to the rates effective at the school in which they are in residence each term. For more information regarding tuition and financial aid, prospective students should contact the [Law School Financial Aid Office](#) and the [SIPA Financial Aid Office](#).

Contact Information

Columbia Law School

- **Admissions:** 212-854-2674; admissions@law.columbia.edu
- **Financial Aid:** 212-854-7730; financial_aid@law.columbia.edu
- **Academic Advising and Program Information:** Robert Ford, Associate Director of Academic Counseling and Student Engagement, 212-854-7269; rf2659@columbia.edu
- **Registration Services:** 212-854-2668; registrar@law.columbia.edu

Columbia School of International and Public Affairs

- **Admissions & Financial Aid:** 212-854-6216; sipa_admissions@sipa.columbia.edu
- **Academic Advising and Program Information:** Stefan Brown, Senior Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, 212-854-1431, asb167@columbia.edu