



MSW / JD Dual Degree Program 2025-2026

1. Purpose

The MSW/JD Dual degree Program is designed for students who are interested in serving the combined legal and social needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities. The program reflects the University's mission to educate individuals who are committed to working with the poor, the powerless, and the disadvantaged. It is intended for persons who wish to combine social work knowledge and intervention skills with legal knowledge and practice skills to better serve their clients or constituencies.

Students admitted to the program may expect to receive both the Master of Social Work (MSW) and the Juris Doctor (JD) degrees in four years rather than the normal five years. Graduating students will be eligible to take the bar and social work licensing exams.

Program Contacts

Students will develop an appropriate course of study working with the coordinators of the dual degree program and the designated faculty advisors at the two schools:

Program Coordinators:

1. SSW: Liz Cinquino, Director of Student Services & Advising, cinquino@bc.edu
2. LS: Lauren Fallon, Associate Director, Academic & Student Services, fallol@bc.edu

Faculty Advisors

1. SSW: Samuel L. Bradley, Jr., Associate Dean of Academic Planning and MSW Program Director, bradlesr@bc.edu
2. LS: Claire Donohue, Assistant Clinical Professor, donohucl@bc.edu

Objectives

1. To educate practitioners in social work and law to be able to effectively utilize the problem-solving strategies and techniques of both disciplines.
2. To provide the core curriculum of each profession while enabling students to focus on areas of knowledge and practice which correspond to their professional goals.
3. To facilitate integration of the two disciplines through field experience.
4. To prepare practitioners who have a commitment to a human condition that is free from violence, oppression and discrimination, and that protects and promotes the development of all people.

Specializations

In the School of Social Work students must choose an area of specialized practice: clinical practice or macro practice. Clinical students focus on practice directly with individuals, families,

and groups in dealing with personal, interpersonal, and social problems. Macro students develop specific knowledge and skills to achieve change in organizational and community settings.

Field of Practice

Prior to entering the third year, students will choose a field of practice from one of the following areas: Black Leadership in Social Work; Children, Youth, & Families; Health; Latinx Communities; or Mental Health. Dual degree students are eligible to take a Global Field-of-Practice. However, they are not eligible for an international Spring block field placement.

Program Requirements

1. Students must be accepted into each school independently.
2. Students must be registered as full-time students throughout the program. First-year part-time social work students wishing to apply to the program may seek an exception to this requirement only in consultation with the program coordinators of each school.
3. Students must complete the normal first-year curriculum at each school within the first two years of study. In addition, they must complete all upper-level required courses during the final two years.
4. It is preferable for students to begin the program at the School of Social Work. This provides a solid philosophical foundation for the program and ensures that the student will maintain continuity at the Law School (LS) by entering and graduating with the same class. First-year law students applying to the program, as well as students with other special circumstances, may seek exceptions to this requirement.
5. The sample courses of study for dual degree students in each SSW specialization are described below. **The Sample Plan Of Study options should be followed strictly.**
6. The integrity of both the MSW and the JD degrees is maintained in the following manner:
 - a. SSW requires a total of 65 credit hours for the MSW degree. Of these, 56 credits are earned through social work courses, and the remaining 9 credits are upper-level law elective credits that are applied to the MSW degree.
 - b. BC Law requires a total of 85 credit hours for the JD degree. Of these, 73 are earned by taking BC Law courses, and the remaining 12 are applied from the required social work courses.
 - i. All students must meet the following requirements for graduation during their course of study at the law school: a course on Professional Responsibility, at least six credits of Experiential Learning courses, a course satisfying the Perspectives on Justice and the Law requirement, an Upper Level Writing course. There are [updated lists that identify which courses satisfy](#) which requirements and in some instances a course might satisfy more than one requirement.
 - c. Since credits are transferred and applied to each school, a dual degree student will fulfill the requirements for both degrees with a total of 129 credits rather than the 150 credits that would be required if both degrees were completed independently.
7. Two social work field placements are required, one in the social work foundation year and another in the third year (see *Program Procedures* for more information). The second field practicum will provide opportunities for practice integration and application of the composite of knowledge and skills derived from law and social work courses.

8. Nine (9) upper-level law elective credits are applied to the MSW degree. Students are expected to take 2 law electives with a social work focus in year 4. See Examples of Approved Dual Degree Law Electives below.

Program Procedures

1. The first **social work field placement** is completed during the foundation year in social work. It is a two--day per week placement throughout the academic year. The second field practicum is completed during the third year of the program. It is a three-day per week placement throughout the academic year. The student may also work out a different arrangement in coordination with the practicum site; for instance, a student may wish to attend field placement two days a week for a calendar year, starting the summer before the third year of the program. The student will work closely with an Assistant Director of Field Education from the School of Social Work to discuss an appropriate placement that will best integrate the two disciplines.
 - a. **Field Placement Contact:** Joe McLaughlin, Assistant Director of Field Education, 617-552--0831 or joe.mclaughlin.2@bc.edu
2. Each school issues a **transcript** that will indicate that 9 credits are met for the MSW and 12 credits are met for the JD degrees. Credits that are taken in one school and accepted as credits in the other school are not factored into the Grade Point Average (GPA) of the school accepting the credits (e.g., the student's Law School GPA will not include the 12 credits taken at SSW, and vice versa).
3. During the foundation years, the student is registered as a full--time student in the school they are attending (e.g., as a social work student in the first year and a law student in the second year). The student will be registered as a social work student during the first semester of the third year (the fifth semester of the program) and as a law student for the remainder of the program.
4. **The student is responsible for contacting the University's Office of Student Services to change status.**
 - a. To change status, students should contact lawcastu@bc.edu and Lauren Fallon (fallol@bc.edu), Associate Director of Academic and Student Services at the Law School. Students are welcome to meet with Lauren to discuss course planning and/or status changes
5. **The tuition breakdown is as follows:** Social Work tuition is charged during the social work foundation year and during the first semester of the third year (the fifth semester). Law tuition is charged for the remainder of the program.
6. **Scholarships / grants** are available for eligible dual degree students, but they are awarded separately by the two schools. A scholarship is awarded by the school in which the student is enrolled and does not carry over from one school to the other. Students are required to apply for aid from each school, and students are urged to apply early (e.g., by the end of fall semester). Students should contact Admissions and Financial Aid at the Law School and the Associate Dean of Enrollment Management at SSW for further information.
7. **You cannot accelerate this program by overloading and/or taking summer courses.** Dual degree students are required to fulfill the eight (8) semesters between the two programs as outlined in the Sample Plan of Study options.

Sample Plan of Study 1 - Start @ SSW

First Year: Social Work Foundation

SEMESTER 1			SEMESTER 2		
<i>School of Enrollment: SSW</i>			<i>School of Enrollment: SSW</i>		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7721	Human Behavior and the Social Environment	3	SCWK7722 -or- SCWK8889	Psychosocial Pathology (Clinical) -or- Social Innovation (Macro)	3
SCWK7723	Re-thinking Diversity: Systems of Oppression and Privilege	3	SCWK8855 -or- SCWK8833	Clinical Practice: Children & Families (Clinical) -or- Leadership and Social Transformation (Macro)	3
SCWK7762	Basic Skills: Clinical Practice	3	SCWK8856 -or- SCWK8888	Clinical Practice: Adults (Clinical) -or- Community Engagement for Social Change	3
SCWK8800	Basic Skills: Macro Practice	3	SCWK7701	Social Welfare System	3
SCWK9921	Field Education I	3	SCWK9932 -or- SCWK9942	Field Education II CSW -or- Field Education II Macro	3
	Total	15		Total	15

Second Year: Law Foundation

SEMESTER 3			SEMESTER 4		
<i>School of Enrollment: Law</i>			<i>School of Enrollment: Law</i>		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
LAWS2130	Contracts	4	LAWS2125	Constitutional Law	4
LAWS2120	Civil Procedure	4	LAWS2135	Criminal Law	4
LAWS2150	Law Practice 1	3	LAWS2155	Law Practice 2	2
LAWS2145	Torts	4	LAWSxxxx	Law Elective	3
LAWS 2110	Critical Perspectives	1	LAWS2140	Property	4
	Total	16		Total	17

Third Year: Combined

SEMESTER 5			SEMESTER 6		
<i>School of Enrollment: SSW</i>			<i>School of Enrollment: Law</i>		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7747	Research Methods	3	SCWK8841	Program Evaluation	3
SCWKxxxx	Advanced Practice in Field of Practice	3	SCWKxxxx	Advanced Policy	3
SCWKxxxx	SW Elective in student's specialization	3	SCWK9934 -or- SCWK9944	Field Education IV (Clinical) ² -or- Field Education IV (Macro) ²	4
SCWKxxxx	SW Elective in student's specialization	3	LAWSxxxx	Law Elective ¹	3
SCWK9933 -or- SCWK9943	Field Education III (Clinical) ² -or- Field Education III (Macro) ²	4	LAWSxxxx	Law Elective ¹	3
LAWSxxxx	Law Elective	3-4			
	Total	19-20		Total	16

Fourth Year: Law

SEMESTER 7			SEMESTER 8		
<i>School of Enrollment: Law</i>			<i>School of Enrollment: Law</i>		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
LAWSxxxx	Law Electives ^{1,3}		LAWSxxxx	Law Electives ^{1,3}	
	Total	15-16		Total	15-16

¹One additional Law credit or class may be needed during Semester 6, 7, or 8 to reach the required 73 Law credits.

²May be done as two days a week starting in the summer and continuing during the school year, or anything equivalent that is arranged with the field site.

³ See Program Requirement #8. Two of the Law Electives taken in Year Four must have a Social Work focus (see list of electives below).

Sample Plan of Study 2 - Start @ BC Law

First Year: Law Foundation

SEMESTER 1			SEMESTER 2		
<i>School of Enrollment: Law</i>			<i>School of Enrollment: Law</i>		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
LAWS2130	Contracts	4	LAWS2125	Constitutional Law	4
LAWS2120	Civil Procedure	4	LAWS2135	Criminal Law	4
LAWS2150	Law Practice 1	3	LAWS2155	Law Practice 2	2
LAWS2145	Torts	4	LAWSxxxx	Law Elective	3
LAWS 2110	Critical Perspectives	1	LAWS2140	Property	4
	Total	16		Total	17

Second Year: Social Work Foundation

SEMESTER 3			SEMESTER 4		
<i>School of Enrollment: SSW</i>			<i>School of Enrollment: SSW</i>		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7721	Human Behavior and the Social Environment	3	SCWK7722 -or- SCWK8889	Psychosocial Pathology (Clinical) -or- Social Innovation (Macro)	3
SCWK7723	Re-thinking Diversity: Systems of Oppression and Privilege	3	SCWK8855 -or- SCWK8833	Clinical Practice: Children & Families (Clinical) -or- Leadership and Social Transformation (Macro)	3
SCWK7762	Basic Skills: Clinical Practice	3	SCWK8856 -or- SCWK8888	Clinical Practice: Adults (Clinical) -or- Community Engagement for Social Change	3
SCWK8800	Basic Skills: Macro Practice	3	SCWK7701	Social Welfare System	3
SCWK9921	Field Education I	3	SCWK9932 -or- SCWK9942	Field Education II CSW -or- Field Education II Macro	3
	Total	15		Total	15

Third Year: Combined

SEMESTER 5			SEMESTER 6		
<i>School of Enrollment: SSW</i>			<i>School of Enrollment: Law</i>		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7747	Research Methods	3	SCWK8841	Program Evaluation	3
SCWKxxxx	Advanced Practice in Field of Practice	3	SCWKxxxx	Advanced Policy	3
SCWKxxxx	SW Elective in student's specialization	3	SCWK9934 -or- SCWK9944	Field Education IV (Clinical) ² -or- Field Education IV (Macro) ²	4
SCWKxxxx	SW Elective in student's specialization	3	LAWSxxxx	Law Elective ¹	3
SCWK9933 -or- SCWK9943	Field Education III (Clinical) ² -or- Field Education III (Macro) ²	4	LAWSxxxx	Law Elective ¹	3
LAWSxxxx	Law Elective	3-4			
	Total	19-20		Total	16

Fourth Year: Law

SEMESTER 7			SEMESTER 8		
<i>School of Enrollment: Law</i>			<i>School of Enrollment: Law</i>		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
LAWSxxxx	Law Electives ^{1,3}		LAWSxxxx	Law Electives ^{1,3}	
	Total	15-16		Total	15-16

¹One additional Law credit or class may be needed during Semester 6, 7, or 8 to reach the required 73 Law credits.

²May be done as two days a week starting in the summer and continuing during the school year, or anything equivalent that is arranged with the field site.

³ See Program Requirement #8. Two of the Law Electives taken in Year Four must have a Social Work focus (see list of electives below).

Examples of Approved Dual Degree Law Electives

LAWS 0967	Mediation
LAWS 2068	Education Law & Public Policy
LAWS 2289	Leadership & Social Justice
LAWS 2971	Human Rights Interdisciplinary Seminar
LAWS 2962	Law of Philanthropy
LAWS 2963	Justice & the Global Economy
LAWS 3019	Mindfulness/Contemp. Practice
LAWS 3348	Advanced Topics in Civil Rights: Microaggressions
LAWS 3393	Death Penalty
LAWS 4403	Employment Law
LAWS 4441	Global Citizenship
LAWS 4476	Domestic Violence Law
LAWS 5698	Critical Race Theory
LAWS 5751	Human Rights & Inequity
LAWS 6403	Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project (Clinic)
LAWS 6663	Children's Law & Public Policy
LAWS 6881	Race, Policing, & the Constitution
LAWS 6907	Administrative Law
LAWS 7747	Family Law
LAWS 7757	Labor Law
LAWS 8267	Community Enterprise Clinic
LAWS 8271	Judges & Community Courts
LAWS 8304	BC Defenders Clinic
LAWS 8313	Immigration Clinic
LAWS 8339	Entrepreneurship & Innovation Clinic
LAWS 8340	Project Entrepreneur
LAWS 8418	Innocence Clinic
LAWS 8930	Dispute Negotiation
LAWS 8978	Civil Litigation Clinic
LAWS 9941	Feminist Jurisprudence

Students may request a different elective with approval of the Social Work Program Coordinator.

Note: Not all courses are offered every semester.