

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL

Los Angeles, CA

Interdisciplinary Programs Policy

Revision history: Formerly a part of the annually revised Student Handbook; established as a standalone policy August 2022; technical edits were made in August 2023; edits made in October 2024 following updates to the Joint J.D./M.B.A. Program Information.

Related policies: Maximum J.D. Units Policy

Scheduled Review Date: June 2025 (Student Services Office)

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A. Joint J.D./M.B.A. Program

1. Overview

Southwestern Law School and [the Drucker School of Management](#), part of Claremont Graduate University (CGU), jointly offer a concurrent degree program to expand students' educational and career options. Students at Southwestern and CGU may concurrently earn J.D. and Masters of Business Administration degrees. This Policy sets forth the terms of the dual-degree J.D./M.B.A. program (Program). Subject to the provisions below, the Program is available to Southwestern students and graduates regardless of their J.D. program.

2. The CGU M.B.A. program

The CGU Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree is a 48-credit degree offered by the Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management at CGU. Eligible dual degree students may pursue the degree in various modalities (in-person, hybrid, online) including the Flex MBA program that requires 6 years of full-time professional work experience. The Online MBA is 50% asynchronous and 50% synchronous and does not require any on-campus residency.

3. Transfer of units

- a. CGU will accept up to 12 units of appropriate transfer credit toward its 48-unit M.B.A. program. To transfer credit from a course completed in a Southwestern J.D. program, students must receive a B grade or higher in the course.
- b. Southwestern will accept up to 12 units from the CGU M.B.A. program toward Southwestern's J.D. programs. To transfer credit from a course completed in CGU, students must receive a B grade or higher in the course.
- c. If a student withdraws from the Program voluntarily or involuntarily, the student may still count up to six credits earned at the other school toward the degree in which the student continues to be enrolled.

4. Admissions

Students interested in degrees from both schools must apply separately for admission to each degree program. Southwestern students may apply for admission to the CGU degree program concurrently with their application to the Southwestern degree programs or anytime during their time at Southwestern. When applying during their time at Southwestern, students must be in good academic standing (i.e., their last term GPA and their cumulative GPA must be at least 2.330 or higher). CGU students may apply for admission to Southwestern concurrently with their application to the CGU degree program or anytime during their time at CGU. When applying during their time at CGU, students must be in good academic standing (i.e., their last term GPA and their cumulative GPA must be at least 3.0 or higher).

Additionally, within five years of graduation, Southwestern alums may apply for admission to the CGU degree program and transfer credits from their Southwestern J.D. program to the CGU degree program. Similarly, CGU students and alums can

have credit from their CGU degree count toward the J.D. degree if the CGU credit was earned no more than three years before the student enrolled in a Southwestern J.D. program.

CGU and Southwestern will admit students to their degree programs based on the typical and regular entry requirements that each has established for that program.

5. Starting the program

Students admitted to the Program must complete one academic year at either school before beginning classes at the other school. After completing one academic year in the Southwestern or CGU degree program, students admitted into the Program may begin the other school's program during a fall semester. Continuing Southwestern students may petition to start the CGU degree program during the summer term; approval is required by Southwestern and CGU.

Entering Southwestern students may start the CGU program during the summer before starting the fall semester at Southwestern. Approval is required by Southwestern and CGU.

6. Timing of degrees and bar certification

The Southwestern and CGU degrees are awarded separately and will be conferred by each school independently after a student completes all course and unit requirements in that school's program.

Students must complete the M.B.A. degree before or concurrently with the J.D. degree to be eligible to transfer the 12 units from CGU to Southwestern.

Southwestern will complete a student's bar certification after the student completes the J.D. degree.

7. Academic and disciplinary policies and data sharing

Each school maintains the right to apply its own policies to administer its degree program; this right includes but is not limited to issues arising from allegations of misconduct, academic integrity, or fitness to participate in the Program.

Each school will promptly report to the other school any issues involving students admitted or enrolled in the Program and cooperate in any investigation, if necessary. This sharing and cooperation includes reports by CGU to Southwestern so Southwestern may track information for licensure purposes.

Dismissal from one degree program may lead to dismissal from the Program and the other degree program.

A student who develops academic difficulty (e.g., placed on academic probation or academically disqualified) while participating in the Program may be required to discontinue the Program and concentrate on a single degree to improve their chances for successful completion.

The schools will share information about a student enrolled in the Program who has withdrawn or requested or taken a leave of absence.

8. Tuition payments and financial aid

Students must pay tuition and fees to each school according to the number of units taken and based on each school's tuition and fee schedule.

Scholarships awarded by one school will not be applied to courses or credits a student completes at the other school.

Students enrolled in classes only at Southwestern in a given financial aid award year will apply for and receive financial aid through Southwestern.

Students enrolled in classes only at CGU in a given financial aid award year will apply for and receive financial aid through CGU.

Students enrolled in classes at both schools in a given award year can apply for and receive financial aid through either school.

9. Students' education and other records

For purposes of FERPA compliance and compliance under other privacy laws, CGU and Southwestern hold a "legitimate educational interest" as to the education and other records and information of Program students.

10. Students outside of California

Southwestern and CGU each maintain information on their websites about the states and jurisdictions outside of California where they are authorized to do business. Southwestern's list can be found at <https://www.swlaw.edu/jd-llm-programs/online-jd/application-details>. CGU's list can be found at <https://www.cgu.edu/academics/cgu-online/state-authorization/>.

Before admitting any student into an online degree program, each school will determine whether the applicant lives in a jurisdiction where that degree program may be offered. If the student later moves into a jurisdiction where that degree program cannot be offered, the student must withdraw from the Program or take a leave of absence from the Program. Each school must approve the leave, which typically will not be extended beyond one calendar year.

Before a student matriculates into the Program with an online component, the schools will provide the student with information about the jurisdictions in which each school may offer courses and the consequences of a student switching jurisdictions during the Program.

B. Keck Graduate Institute Certificate Program

Southwestern and the Keck Graduate Institute (KGI), a member of the Claremont Colleges, have established a Bioscience Industry Law and Practice certificate program to provide law students and Master of Bioscience (MBS) students with a unique understanding of the interplay between law and the fast-growing bioscience industry.

Through this certificate program, qualified Southwestern students interested in intellectual property, for example, could take courses at KGI in technology management, entrepreneurship, and bioscience industry dynamics. Conversely, qualified KGI students

interested in bioscience industry dynamics could take courses at Southwestern in intellectual property law, patent and trademark law, and regulatory law as they apply to health care and the bioscience industry.

The certificate program is small and highly competitive, with approximately two to four students from each school participating each year. The schools will select candidates for the program from among their current student bodies; applicants will generally be from the top 20% of their class or cohort. Southwestern students will be eligible to enter the certificate program after completing their first or second year of law school. KGI students may enter the certificate program after completing their first year of the MBS program. Southwestern students will have up to two years to complete the policy certificate program. KGI MBS students must complete the certificate program during their second year.

Students accepted into the certificate program will pay no additional tuition to the partner institution provided they complete the certificate requirements concurrent with earning their J.D. or MBS degree.

More information about this program may be found at <https://www.swlaw.edu/curriculum/interdisciplinary-study/keck>. The Associate Dean for Student Services or a Vice Dean must approve a joint-degree student's courses at the beginning of each semester.

C. Policy Revisions

Southwestern expressly reserves the right to change or modify any aspect of this policy at any time, with or without prior notice