

# **COORDINATED DEGREE PROGRAM IN LAW AND THE ARTS AND SCIENCES**

## **Harvard Law School and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences**

### **OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE**

The Coordinated JD/PhD Program is designed for students interested in completing interdisciplinary work at Harvard University and is founded on the belief that students' legal studies and their arts and sciences graduate studies can be mutually enriched through this pursuit. Students completing the coordinated program receive a JD from Harvard Law School (HLS) and a PhD from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS). It is expected that these students will be strong candidates for teaching posts at law schools and in arts and sciences programs, as well as for other positions in law and academia. Students interested in the Coordinated Program, are encouraged to contact Julie Barton, joint and concurrent degree advisor at HLS ([jbarton@law.harvard.edu](mailto:jbarton@law.harvard.edu)), or Rise Shepsle, assistant dean of student affairs at GSAS ([rshepsle@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:rshepsle@fas.harvard.edu)).

### **ADMISSIONS**

Prospective students must apply to and be separately admitted to both HLS and a GSAS PhD program before applying to the coordinated JD/PhD program. Once admitted to both schools, students must apply to the coordinated program no later than May 1 of their second year of enrollment at Harvard.

Students enrolled in one program, but not yet admitted to the other, must apply to the second School no later than their second year in the first program, meeting the second School's application deadline for matriculation the following year. Once admitted to the second program, they must also meet the May 1 deadline for applying to the coordinated JD/PhD Program.

Students who are currently enrolled in both a PhD program and the HLS JD program are encouraged to apply to the coordinated program as soon as possible, but must meet the May 1 deadline for applying.

To apply to the coordinated program students should submit a proposed Plan of Study to Rise Shepsle, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, at 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, Holyoke Center 350, Cambridge, MA 02138; [rshepsle@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:rshepsle@fas.harvard.edu), and a copy to Julie Barton, HLS Joint and Concurrent Degree Advisor, 1563 Massachusetts Avenue, Pound 320, Cambridge, MA 02138; [jbarton@law.harvard.edu](mailto:jbarton@law.harvard.edu). The Plan of Study must be approved by GSAS and by HLS. Acceptance of this Plan of Study constitutes admission into the coordinated program.

### **REGISTRATION AND COURSE OF STUDY**

#### **Overview**

Students will be registered in only one School during any given semester/term. They will be expected to complete all requirements for the JD degree within seven years of the date they first enroll in either HLS or GSAS; they may graduate from HLS before completing the PhD. Students must have satisfactorily completed at least 16 half courses in their GSAS department to receive the PhD. Students in the coordinated program will have two primary faculty advisors, one at HLS and one at GSAS, who will jointly advise students.

Students will be expected to complete the first-year program, three upper-level fall or spring semesters, and two winter terms at HLS, for a total of five fall and spring semesters and two winter terms. In lieu of the sixth HLS semester generally required of JD students, students in the coordinated program take a semester at GSAS, completing courses or dissertation work pre-approved by HLS, and equivalent to at least 10 HLS credits. This GSAS semester may be taken only after a student has matriculated at HLS and completed his or her entire first year of study there. Students and their faculty advisors will determine the most appropriate sequencing for each student's course of study, keeping in mind the HLS course, credit, and residency requirements for this program.

## **HLS**

### **First-Year Program**

The first year at HLS consists of (1) courses in criminal law, civil procedure, property, torts, contracts, legislation and regulation, and international/comparative law; (2) First-year Legal Research and Writing; and (3) a spring elective of a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 credits.

### **Upper-Level Years**

#### *Credit and Residency Requirements*

Students must earn no fewer than 52 credits beyond the first year, including 36 HLS classroom credits. Classroom credits include those connected to courses, seminars and reading groups, but not writing or clinical credits. The 36 required classroom credits also include the required minimum of two credits to satisfy the Professional Responsibility Requirement and credits from the required winter terms (provided that the course chosen offers classroom credits). Of the remaining 16 required HLS credits, ten are earned through courses or tutorials taken in GSAS and/or for dissertation writing. Note that students must have their advisor's approval before engaging in a semester of GSAS dissertation writing that is expected to count toward the HLS credit requirements. The remaining six required HLS credits may be earned in classroom, writing or clinical courses.

While at HLS, students must be enrolled in a minimum of ten total credits each semester in HLS or GSAS, with no fewer than eight of these being HLS classroom credits toward the requirement of 36 HLS classroom credits.

Students may cross-register for a limited number of GSAS courses during their upper-level terms at HLS. Depending on the GSAS department, these courses may count toward the GSAS PhD. Students may cross-register for a limited number of HLS courses during the terms in which they are enrolled at GSAS which will count toward their JD degree.

#### *Winter Term Requirement*

Students also must enroll in the HLS winter term two times during their upper-level years in the program. Each of the winter terms must follow a fall term enrollment or precede a spring term enrollment at HLS. Students may register for a course of two or three credits or register for the Winter Term Writing Program during the winter term. JD/PhD students will be permitted to spend one of the winter terms in the HLS Winter Term Writing Program, provided they are engaged in written work for HLS credit according to the rules for the program.

#### *Other Requirements*

##### Written Work Requirement

JD/PhD students must complete a minimum of two writing credits to satisfy the HLS Written Work Requirement. Students are permitted to satisfy the requirement with a portion of their dissertation, provided this work meets HLS standards for written work. However, any portion of the dissertation counted toward the HLS written work requirement cannot also be used as part of the 10 HLS-equivalent credits earned during a student's GSAS semester. Further information about the Written Work Requirement and the Winter Term Writing Program is available from HLS Registrar's Office online at <http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/registrar/written-work/>.

##### Pro Bono Requirement

JD/PhD students must complete the HLS pro bono requirement of 40 hours of public service. Details are available at <http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/probono/>

## **GSAS**

### **Residency Requirement**

A minimum of two years of full-time study in residence is required for all PhD programs in the GSAS. During the period of registration at HLS, coordinated JD/PhD students will have "study-at-another-Harvard-school" status in GSAS.

## Structure of Academic Work

### *Coursework*

Students will ordinarily be enrolled for at least four years (8 terms) in GSAS. They must complete at least 16 half courses to receive their PhD. Students may cross-register for a limited number of GSAS courses during their upper-level terms at HLS. Depending on the GSAS department, these courses may count toward the PhD. Students may cross-register for a limited number of HLS courses during the terms in which they are enrolled at GSAS which will count toward their JD degree.

### *General Examinations*

In most departments, once having completed the required coursework, students must pass a general examination or other preliminary or qualifying examinations before undertaking independent research on a dissertation. Normally, when the nature of the field and previous preparation permit, students should pass these examinations by the end of the second year of full-time academic residence.

### *PhD Dissertation*

The student's dissertation prospectus must be approved by the department. A student who wishes to present as a dissertation a published article, series of articles, book or other document, or a manuscript that has been accepted for publication, must have the approval of the department concerned. In no case, however, may a dissertation be presented that has already been submitted toward another degree, either at Harvard or elsewhere. The Dissertation Acceptance Certificate must be signed by at least three readers approved by the student's department, two of whom must be members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS). FAS *emeriti* (including research professors) and faculty members from other schools at Harvard who hold appointments on GSAS degree committees are authorized to sign the Dissertation Acceptance Certificates as FAS members. GSAS strongly recommends that the chair of the dissertation committee be a member of FAS. The third reader may be a member of the HLS faculty.

### *Requirement of Satisfactory Status*

Continuous registration, a satisfactory grade record, and evidence that satisfactory progress is being made toward the degree are required of all candidates for graduate degrees offered by FAS. All students in GSAS must be making satisfactory progress in order to be eligible for any type of financial aid and teaching. The following five provisions are the general definition of satisfactory progress during registration in GSAS.

1. During the first two years of graduate study any student who is permitted to register is considered to be making satisfactory progress.
2. The minimum standard for satisfactory work in GSAS is a B average in each academic year (see Chapter V, Grade Requirements, GSAS Handbook).

3. By the end of the third year, a student must have passed general examinations or the departmental equivalent.
4. By the end of the fourth year, a student must have obtained approval of a dissertation prospectus or its departmental equivalent.
5. By the end of the fifth year and each subsequent year during which a student is allowed to register, she or he must have produced at least one acceptable chapter of the dissertation.

### **Other Requirements**

Ordinarily, programs will have a language requirement and an expectation of teaching. Students should consult with their GSAS departments for more information about these requirements.

### **Coordinated JD/PhD Program**

#### **Sequence of Study**

There are a number of possible academic schedules for students pursuing both degrees. Three sequences are outlined below, but students may propose alternative sequences. In considering their courses of study, students should be aware that their financial aid packages might be affected at the school in which they defer enrollment.

Year 1: HLS  
 Year 2: GSAS  
 Year 3: GSAS  
 Year 4: HLS  
 Year 5: 1<sup>st</sup> term, HLS  
 Year 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> term, GSAS (earning the equivalent of 10 HLS credits in dissertation work)  
 Following year(s): GSAS until completion of dissertation

Year 1: GSAS  
 Year 2: GSAS  
 Year 3: HLS  
 Year 4: GSAS  
 Year 5: HLS  
 Year 6: 1<sup>st</sup> term, HLS  
 Year 6: 2<sup>nd</sup> term, GSAS (earning the equivalent of 10 HLS credits in dissertation work)  
 Following year(s): GSAS until completion of dissertation

Year 1: HLS  
 Year 2: HLS  
 Year 3: GSAS  
 Year 4: GSAS  
 Year 5: 1<sup>st</sup> term, HLS  
 Year 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> term, GSAS (earning the equivalent of 10 HLS credits in dissertation work)

Following year(s): GSAS until completion of dissertation

### **Updated Plans of Study**

During May of each year in the program, students should submit an updated Plan of Study to Rise Shepsle who will distribute the updated Plans to Administrative Dean of GSAS Margot Gill and the GSAS faculty advisors, and to Julie Barton who will distribute to HLS Assistant Professor Matthew Stephenson and to the HLS faculty advisors.

### **Other Academic Information**

#### **Faculty Advising**

Students in the program will have primary faculty advisors at both HLS and at GSAS. If possible, HLS faculty advisors should be selected before the completion of the 2L year. In some GSAS departments, the director of graduate studies serves as the faculty advisor during the first two years of study. Faculty advisors will supervise students' academic work, advise students on their courses of study and on specific classes appropriate for their PhD work, and approve the courses of study for their students on an annual basis. If appropriate, the HLS advisor will be the third reader on the student's dissertation committee, with at least two readers required to be members of FAS.

#### **Leaving the Coordinated JD/PhD Program**

If a student fails to make adequate progress toward the PhD, the student's faculty advisors will be permitted to ask the student to leave the program. In such cases in order to receive the JD degree, a student will need to meet the regular requirements for the JD degree, including: full tuition; six semesters of residency at HLS with a regular HLS course load; completion of all of normal credit requirements; and completion of the Written Work Requirement separate from any dissertation work already completed.

## **Tuition and Financial Aid**

### **HLS**

Students must pay five semesters of full tuition. Students will be eligible for HLS financial aid for all semesters during which they pay tuition to HLS.

### **GSAS**

The minimum financial requirement for the PhD is at least four terms of full tuition followed by two years of reduced tuition and a facilities fee unless the degree is completed in less than four years. The financial aid awarded upon admission to the PhD program is available during those terms in which the student is enrolled in GSAS. Students should refer to their notice of financial support provided by their department upon admission to GSAS. Students should consult with their GSAS departments for more information.

### **Fellowship in Law and Graduate Studies**

Spring 2019 marked the end of the Fellowship in Law and Graduate Studies (“JD/PhD Fellowship”) fund. The former fund, established in 2007, provided fellowship support to select students in the Harvard Coordinated JD/PhD Program pursuing academic careers. Other financial aid options can be found at: <https://hls.harvard.edu/dept/sfs/financial-aid-policy-overview/special-populations/jdphd/>

## **Administrative Information**

### **Oversight Committee**

An administrative oversight committee consisting of the HLS Registrar, the FAS Deputy Registrar, the GSAS Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, the HLS Associate Dean and the HLS Joint and Concurrent Degree Advisor, and the appropriate financial aid officers will meet annually to discuss students’ registration status and updated plans of study.

### **Housing and Student Life**

GSAS and HLS will work together to ensure that the student services offered by both Schools are available to JD/PhD students during all their years in the Coordinated Program, including career and counseling offices, financial aid offices, student centers, and alumni offices. Students in the coordinated program will have email accounts and mailboxes at both schools throughout the program. Disability services and visa requirements will be coordinated on a case-by-case basis by the HLS Dean of Students and Registrar and by the GSAS Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Students may apply for housing through either School for the years in which they are enrolled for at least one semester/term at both Schools. In all other years, students must apply for housing to the School in which they are enrolled.