

Joint Degree Proposal:
J.D./M.A. in Law and Latin American Studies

Executive Summary:

The University of Miami's Latin American Studies Program in the College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Law are proposing to offer a joint J.D./M.A. program allowing students to earn a J.D. and an M.A. in Latin American Studies in 3 to 3 ½ years.

This joint degree program will allow 9 J.D. credits to be applied to the M.A. degree and 6 M.A. credits to be applied to the J.D. degree, saving the student 15 credits between the two programs.

Questions about the J.D. program should be directed to Sandra Abraham, Executive Liaison for Interdisciplinary Programs, 305---284---4030, sabraham@law.miami.edu. The faculty advisor/contact for this joint degree program is Dean Ileana Porras, 305--- 284---4423, iporras@law.miami.edu.

Questions about the MA program in Latin American Studies, in the College of Arts and Sciences, should contact Dr. Douglas Fuller, Interim Academic Program Director, dofuller@miami.edu, 305---284--4036.

Joint Degree Proposal:
J.D./M.A. in Law and Latin American Studies

Rationale:

This dual degree program is designed for J.D. students with an interest in international careers and for those who plan to work with Latin American and/or Caribbean businesses and clients, as well as clients in the U.S. with an interest in the region. The Master of Arts in Latin American Studies program is itself interdisciplinary with flexibility in how the students put together a course of study offered by departments, programs and units throughout the University of Miami.

The program will be constructed alongside our current Master and Juris Doctor programs and draw on the existing strengths of both programs, allowing us to combine the expertise of professionals and academics working on related topics both in the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Law. In this manner, we will be able to offer a balanced set of courses to allow students entering the program to not only complete the core requirements of both currently extant programs, but also to take advantage of a specifically tailored curriculum that will effectively prepare students for careers in law with a strong foundation in Latin American and Caribbean cultural and political realities affecting the region and its immigrant populations in the United States.

As is common in dual degree programs, this dual degree provides a reduction in overall credits for each individual degree program. This allows enrolled students to benefit from the synergy between the two programs. To be clear, it does not permit the reduction in core or required coursework of either individual degree program. Rather, it provides for select elective courses to be counted in both programs.

Resources and Budget:

Given that this joint program builds on two extant programs at the University of Miami and will internally meet the separate requirements of both programs, no new resources will be required. The basic courses that students will need to complete to meet the requirements for graduation in both the LAS programs and the School of Law are available at this time, as are the needed library and laboratory resources.

Effectively, the course of study in each of the separate programs will be managed and administrated by the directors of the respective programs, and students wishing to complete this joint degree will need to be admitted separately by each program. In practice, students in the joint degree program will be considered MA students in LAS as well as JD students in the School of Law.

Market Analysis:

This program will compete with those of peer or aspirational institutions who offer law students the possibility of furthering their regional focus and expertise. It addresses the request of students desiring a global education that specializes in the Southern Cone, Brazil, Central America, Mexico or the Caribbean. Employing an interdisciplinary approach that underscores the economic, political, cultural, social and other forces at play in Latin America, this dual degree program will prepare students interested in the development of legal institutions throughout the Americas.

Students are likely to come from a range of backgrounds, including majors in Latin American Studies, political science, history, English, international studies, sociology. We aim to attract students seeking a law degree with an interest in international careers and those who plan to work with Latin American and/or Caribbean businesses and clients, as well as clients in the U.S. with an interest in the region.

Admissions Process:

- Applications (online) are due to the Latin American Studies (LAS) Program Office by mid--February for a fall semester matriculation. Admitted J.D. students and current 1L students can apply. Students will not begin taking courses in the masters' program until their 2L year. The GRE will not be required; the student's LSAT scores will be used instead. Once a student applies, the LAS Program will contact the Law School and the applicant's Law School application will be forwarded LAS for consideration.

- Students will be admitted to the School of Law's J.D. program and the LAS masters program separately. Typically students will begin in the Law School and begin the masters program in their second year of Law School. However, it is possible for students to already be in the Latin American Studies masters' program, apply to the Law School, be accepted and begin the first year of the J.D. program the following year. (MA students need to save 6 credits to be completed after they begin their J.D. program.)

Program Requirements:

- The J.D. students in this joint degree program will complete 82 credits in the School of Law. Additionally, 6 credits from the Master's Program in Latin American Studies will be applied to their Law School transcript, for a total of 88 required J.D. credits.
- The M.A. in Latin American Studies requires J.D. students to complete 21 credits in LAS graduate courses. Additionally, 9 law school credits will be applied toward their M.A. degree, for a total of 30 required M.A. credits. These 9 credits represent the elective course credits in the M.A. program.
 - **Law School Requirements:** Three Law School courses totaling a minimum of nine credits should come from the following list of courses:
 - Conservation, Tourism, and Development
 - Dispute Resolution in Latin America
 - Economic Sociology: A Theory Seminar
 - Doing Business in Latin America
 - Immigration Law
 - International Business Crimes Seminar
 - International Business Transactions
 - International Commercial Arbitration
 - International Criminal Law
 - International Economic Law
 - International Finance
 - International Human Rights
 - International Law
 - Introduction to Caribbean Law
 - Latin American Contracts
 - Latin American Law
 - UNICTRAL Model Law: Fundamental Concepts and Impact on Latin America
- As defined above, 15 credits will be counted toward both degrees: 9 credits from the School of Law will be applied to the M.A. and 6 credits from Latin American Studies will be applied to the J.D.
- During their first year of the joint program, students will be required to attend the J.D. program full-time.
- Students who begin in the J.D. program will be able to take courses in LAS Master's program beginning the fall of their 2L year.
- Required courses in LAS are: LAS501, Introductory Seminar; LAS502, Research Design; and a disciplinary research methods course (to be approved by the LAS Academic Director.) Two regional fundamentals courses are also required.
- Students will be required to write a master's thesis, create an equivalent capstone project, or pass a comprehensive exam. (6 credits) These options require a committee consisting of at least three faculty members.
- Language Requirement: Students must demonstrate advanced language competency in Spanish, French, Portuguese, Haitian Creole or a major indigenous language of Latin America. Students may establish proficiency by passing two courses taught in the target

language at the 600-level or above, or by passing a language competency exam. Students may petition for a waiver of examination if they have gained language competency in another manner (i.e. native speaker, upper division coursework in target language, Peace Corps service, IB credits or Defense Language Proficiency Test).

- Students must complete all J.D. requirements and all M.A. requirements as defined by their programs.
- Students may take summer law courses, which may reduce the length of the joint degree program by up to a semester.
- Students may not take more than 16 credits per semester. Seventeen credits per semester may be taken with permission from the Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, School of Law.

Sample Program Schedule: Two sample programs are provided below as a way for students to see how their semesters could be organized if they begin this joint degree program after starting Law School. (For students who begin in the Latin American Studies program, their schedule will be customized.)

**J.D./M.A. in Latin American Studies:
3 year program with 2 summers**

	Fall	Spring	Summer	Annual	Cumulative
First Year					
Law	16	16	6	38	38
LAS	0	0	0	0	0
Second Year					
Law	10	10	6	26	64
LAS	6	6	0	12	12
Third Year					
Law	9	9	0	18	82
LAS	6	3	0	9	21

**J.D./M.A. in Latin American Studies:
3 1/2 year program**

	Fall	Spring	Summer	Annual	Cumulative
First Year	16	16	0	32	32
Law	0	0	0	0	0
LAS					
Second Year	10	10	0	20	52
Law	6	6	0	12	12
LAS					
Third Year					
Law	9	9	0	18	70
LAS	3	6	0	9	21
Fourth Year					
Law	12	0	0	12	82
LAS	0	0	0	0	21

List of Comparable Programs at Peer or Aspirational Institutions:

NYU: JD/MA in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

<http://www.law.nyu.edu/jdadmissions/dualdegreeprograms/j.d.m.a.inlatinamericanandcaribbeanstudies>

Stanford: The JD/MA in Latin American Studies

<https://www.law.stanford.edu/degrees/joint/joint-degrees>

Tulane: The JD/MA in Latin American Studies

http://www.law.tulane.edu/uploadedFiles/Academics/JD_Programs/JD_brochure2008.pdf

University of Arizona: The JD/MA in Latin American

Studies https://www.law.arizona.edu/current_students/academic_programs/dualdegrees.cfm

University of Florida: Master of Arts in Latin American Studies/Juris Doctor Joint Degree Program

https://www.law.ufl.edu/_pdf/academics/centers-clinics/institutes/lpap/MALAS-JD.pdf

University of New Mexico: JD/M.A.L.A.S. in Latin American Studies

<http://lawschool.unm.edu/academics/programs/dual.php>



MEMORANDUM
February 23, 2015

To: Belkys Torres, Academic Director, Latin American Studies Program
From: Eduardo Elena, Interim Director, Center for Latin American Studies
CC: Maria Gavier, Associate Director, Center for Latin American Studies
Re: Proposal for a Joint Degree--JD/MA in Latin American Studies

Comments :

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 14, 2014, the Latin American Studies Steering Committee unanimously approved the attached Proposal for a Joint Degree in Law (JD) and Latin American Studies (MA in LAS). Similarly, on February 4, 2015 at the joint meeting of the Faculty Advisory Board (representing Latin Americanist and Caribbeanist faculty from across the university) and the Faculty Council (representing Latin Americanist and Caribbeanist faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences) for the Center for Latin American Studies, the proposal was unanimously approved. We respectfully submit the proposal for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Elena
Interim Director
Center for Latin American Studies

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL of LAW



February 25, 2015

Dr. Tomas Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate
University of Miami

Dear Dr. Salerno:

I am delighted to report that the JD/MA in Latin American Studies program proposal was presented to the law school faculty on February 18, 2015. It was reviewed and approved by our faculty. I fully support this joint degree program and am pleased to be working the Center on Latin American Studies with whom we share a common interest in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sincerely,

Patricia D. White
Dean & Professor of Law

Subject: Joint Degree Proposal: J.D./M.A. in Law and Latin American Studies

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 2:39:45 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Mallery, Charles H.

To: Glemaud, Rose-Ketlie

CC: Geoff Sutcliffe, Torres, Belkys

Rose,

At it regularly scheduled meeting of April 3, 2015 the College Curriculum Committee approved with minor modifications a joint degree program proposal: J.D./M.A. in Law and Latina American Studies and respectfully submits it for consideration by the College Council.

A revised copy of the proposal is attached.

Thanks,

charles mallery, associate dean, college of arts & sciences
Ferre bldg., room 123 - (305) - 284-3188 - cmallery@miami.edu



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 28, 2015

TO: Tomas Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: M. Brian Blake *M. Brian Blake*
Dean, The Graduate School

SUBJECT: Joint JD/MA in Law and Latin American Studies

The School of Law and the Latin American Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences submitted a proposal for a joint JD/MA in Law and Latin American Studies. The proposal was discussed at the meeting of the Graduate Council on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. The Council approved the joint degree program but had a concern with the omission of "Caribbean" in the title of the degree.

cc: Patricia White, Dean, School of Law
Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Sandy Abraham, Executive Liaison, Interdisciplinary Programs, School of Law
Belkys Torres, Academic Director, Latin American Studies Program
Office of Planning, Institutional Research and Assessment




MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 28, 2015

TO: Dr. Belkys Torres, Academic Program Director
Latin American Studies, College of Arts and Sciences

Sandra Abraham, Executive Liaison for Interdisciplinary Programs
School of Law

FROM: David E. Wiles, Executive Director
Assessment and Accreditation 

SUBJECT: Dual Degree Program Offering – J.D./M.A. in Latin American Studies
(Update)

On April 20, 2015, the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Law submitted a proposal notifying our office of its intent to offer a dual J.D./M.A. in Latin American Studies program. The J.D. degree requires 88 credits, and students in the dual program will be permitted to count six credits earned from the College of Arts and Sciences toward the J.D. degree. The M.A. in Latin American Studies program requires 30 credits, and students in the dual program will be permitted to count nine credits earned from the School of Law toward the M.A. degree.

A letter of notification was submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) this month after it was learned that the interpretation of Core Requirement 2.7.1 (program length) is still under committee review. **Because the proposed dual J.D./M.A. allows for the M.A. in Latin American Studies to be completed with nine credits fewer than the minimum 30 credit standard for the master's degree, and the program is not scheduled to launch until January 2016, we recommend waiting for SACSCOC to evaluate this notification before students are permitted to enroll.**

Please feel free to contact our office should you have any further questions (305) 284-9431.

cc: Faculty Senate

Dr. M. Brian Blake, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School

Dr. Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Dean Patricia White, School of Law

J.D./M.A. in Law and Latin American Studies

J.D./M.A. in Law and Latin American Studies														GRAND TOTAL
REVENUES	Lead Time			Year 1			Year 2			Year 3				
	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER		
	<i>Projected Students</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1		
<i>Projected Credits</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	6	3	0	0	
<i>Projected Credits Waived</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PROJECTED REVENUES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,820	\$ 11,820	\$ -	\$ 12,180	\$ 6,090	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,910
Expenditures														
	Lead Time			Year 1			Year 2			Year 3				
Personnel														
<i>Administration</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Teaching Resources</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Support</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Benefits</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non - Personnel														
<i>Marketing</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Other</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PROJECTED BALANCE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,640	\$ 23,640	\$ 23,640	\$ 18,270	\$ 18,270	\$ 18,270	\$ 18,270	\$ 41,910
PROJECTED BALANCE AFTER PROVOST	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,548	\$ 16,548	\$ 16,548	\$ 12,789	\$ 12,789	\$ 12,789	\$ 12,789	\$ 29,337