

Stanford University
JD/MBA Joint Degree Handbook
September 21, 2011

The Joint JD/MBA Degree Program is designed for students who contemplate a career in law or public service and wish to acquire the skills and background of a general business manager, and for those students who contemplate a career in business management and wish to acquire the skills and capacities of a lawyer. Joint JD/MBA degree students are offered the challenge of synthesizing the problem-solving techniques of a general manager with those of a lawyer.

The Joint JD/MBA Degree Program requires application to, and acceptance for admission by, both the Law School (SLS) and the Graduate School of Business (GSB). Typically, JD/MBA students apply to and gain acceptance for admission to both programs within the same year. However, it is possible for current JD (or MBA) students, who previously did not apply for the joint degree option, to apply for and pursue the Joint JD/MBA Degree Program. JD students in the third year and MBA students in the second year may not apply for the Joint JD/MBA Degree Program.

Generally, the first year is spent at the SLS followed by the second year at the GSB. Some JD/MBA students reverse that sequence, spending the first year at the GSB and second year at the SLS. During the final five or six quarters, those students take a combination of courses from the SLS and the GSB. Other JD/MBA students complete two years at the SLS followed by one year at the GSB and, during the final two or three quarters, take a combination of courses from the SLS and the GSB.

Program Requirements

The Joint JD/MBA Degree Program requires a combined total of at least 164 units, enabling completion of the program in eleven to twelve quarters. Students must fulfill the degree requirements for each school and should refer to the academic policies from both the SLS and the GSB for the year in which they begin the required curriculum for each program.

- (a) Of the 105 units required for the MBA, students must successfully complete 84 unduplicated units of instruction at the GSB. This includes successful completion of the Management Perspectives and Management Foundation area requirements, and an approved Global Experience. The remaining 21 units may be applied from non-GSB courses for JD/MBA students. Additionally, at least 84 units of the total joint degree units must be completed for a letter grade (not on a Pass/Fail grading basis). Rules concerning Pass/Fail units, independent study, grade point average, the GER, and so forth, will match those set for students in the regular MBA Program, as specified on the Policies and Standards tab on the MyGSB website in the year in which the student begins the Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives. Note that students must complete five quarters of residency, i.e., full-tuition study, at the GSB. Residency at the GSB, as it pertains to the five-quarter graduation requirement, starts accruing when the student begins the Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives.
- (b) Of the 111 units required for the JD, students must successfully complete 80 unduplicated units of instruction at the SLS. The remaining 31 units may be applied from non-LAW courses for JD/MBA students. Note, however, that, pursuant to ABA standards, the 31 non-LAW units will be reduced by any externship, moot court, directed research, senior thesis, or research track units taken at SLS.

Coursework Planning

- Students must be enrolled at full-time status in the SLS for the first year of law school and at full-time status in the GSB for the first year of business school. At some point during the joint degree program, students may be required to devote one or more quarters beyond the first year of the MBA curriculum largely or exclusively to studies in the GSB. At all other times, students may choose courses from either program.
- The Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives must be completed in the first quarter of matriculation at the GSB, together with the student's MBA "social" class. JD/MBA students will not be permitted to take additional units in this quarter.
- Students are eligible to complete the Management Foundations requirements, both Analytic and General, only after completion of the Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives. The Management Foundations requirements must be completed before the end of the first year at the GSB.
- Students are expected to complete the Joint JD/MBA Degree Program in eleven or twelve quarters. Students desiring to complete the program in ten quarters must submit a petition outlining their plans to meet the requirements and reasons for wanting to complete the program early. The petition should be in the form of a letter and submitted via email to [Kim Borg](#) in the SLS Registrar's Office and [Lily Kimbel](#) in the GSB Academic Operations Office. Petitions will be reviewed by the faculty deans from the respective schools to determine if such a shortening is consonant with academic standards and in the best interests of the student.
- Leaves of absence generally are granted only for extraordinary circumstances and personal emergencies. However, in the particular case of a JD/MBA student who intends to sit for the bar examination given in February, a leave of absence may be granted during winter quarter of the last year of the program. This accommodation is intended for students who will return in spring quarter to complete the joint degree program, and all residency requirements apply. Students wishing to petition for a leave of absence in order to sit for the bar examination should inform [Kim Borg](#) in the SLS Registrar's Office and [Lily Kimbel](#) in the GSB Academic Operations Office as early as possible and submit a [Leave of Absence form](#) to those two individuals

by the first day of the final winter quarter. Since a leave of absence may affect the tuition level, financial aid status, housing status, and/or visa status, it is important for students also to discuss any contemplated leave with the relevant Financial Aid offices, the Student Housing office, and/or the Bechtel International Center.

Other Course Policies

- During the years of exclusive study at the SLS and the GSB, the same unit maximums per quarter apply to JD/MBA students as apply to all other JD or MBA students. After students have completed the years of exclusive study, maximum unit loads per quarter apply. Unit maximums for remaining quarters are calculated on a quarterly basis and based on the balance of coursework between the two schools. Whereas the GSB limits students to no more than 22 units per quarter, the SLS must limit units taken in order to comply with ABA standards. The following table provides detail:

If the number of law units taken is:	Total number of units allowed is:
0-2	22
3-4	21
5-14	20
15-17	15-17 (no non-law units allowed)

- Any other course policies set forth on the Policies and Standards tab on the MyGSB website apply.

Course Registration

Once JD/MBA students begin the second degree component, i.e., Law or Business, of the program, they will have two open programs (called “careers” in Axess) under which they may register for courses: the GSB career and the Law career. It is imperative that students pay close attention and register for courses under the correct career.

At the GSB, JD/MBA students will be eligible to participate in the Super Round elective registration process for one year. Please contact the [Registrar at the SLS](#) or the [GSB Academic Operations Office](#) with any questions related to registration and degree progress.

Tuition and Financial Aid

For the first two years of the Joint JD/MBA Degree Program, students will pay the full tuition rate of the school in which they are enrolled. They will also apply for aid through the relevant school. For the remaining quarters, students will pay the combined JD/MBA tuition rate as published that year on the Stanford University Office of the University Registrar’s website. Students may apply for aid at both schools and the aid offer will be coordinated through the SLS Financial Aid Office. Students who complete two years at the SLS before matriculating at the GSB, will pay Law School tuition for the first two years, GSB tuition for the third year, and the combined JD/MBA tuition rate for the fourth year.

Specific Policies for Students Who Begin the Joint JD/MBA Degree Program at the SLS

A student in the Joint JD/MBA Degree Program who has matriculated and begun studies at the SLS but has not yet begun studies at the GSB will be considered an MBA student with a plus (i.e., “MBA+”). Once JD/MBA students begin Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives, they will be considered regular MBA students and subject to the applicable policies.

Courses and Registration:

- Fulfillment of the Management Perspectives and Management Foundations requirements will begin upon matriculation at the GSB in the second (or third) year.
- MBA+ students may earn units toward the 21 allowed non-GSB units prior to beginning the Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives. For example, students may apply the units earned in the first year at the SLS.
- Typical GSB elective courses presume that students have completed all Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives. To enroll in GSB elective courses that are not usually open to non-MBA students prior to completion of the Management Perspectives, MBA+ students will need explicit approval from the instructor.
- For purposes of seat allocation in GSB electives (or GSB sections of cross-listed courses), MBA+ students will have lower priority than both MBA1 and MBA2 students.
- MBA+ students may register for GSB elective courses in winter and spring quarters with the instructor’s approval (see previous bullet) once Axess has opened. These courses will count toward no more than 12 of the 84 required GSB units, and not toward fulfillment of the Management Perspectives or Management Foundations requirements.
- Enrollment in the non-GSB sections of cross-listed courses will count toward the 21 allowed non-GSB units. Units completed in the non-GSB sections of these courses will not count toward the 84 required GSB units.

Career Resources:

- MBA+ students will have access to CMC resources including advising, workshops, on-campus recruiting (OCR), alumni directory, and the GSB job board. The timing of access to these resources will be consistent with the first-year MBA students, which means that most GSB CMC resources will not be available to MBA+ students until after the Autumn Quarter MBA1 Exclusive Academic Period (EAP).

- In communicating with potential employers, MBA+ students will be required to identify themselves as joint degree students who have not yet completed the first-year MBA curriculum.
- Once JD/MBA students matriculate to the GSB, CMC access will be governed by the same policy that applies to regular MBA students, regardless of previous access, i.e., in the first year at the GSB, timing of access to CMC resources will continue to be restricted from the beginning of the Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives until the end of the Autumn Quarter EAP.

Programs and Activities:

- MBA+ students will be permitted to apply for GMIX before beginning the Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives at the GSB, but it may not be counted toward fulfillment of the Global Experience Requirement (GER). Priority for projects and funding will be given to students who have completed the first-year MBA curriculum. MBA+ students will need to self-identify their status to the Center for Global Business and the Economy (CGBE), which oversees the GMIX program, before applying to the program. In communicating with potential employers, MBA+ students will be required to identify themselves as joint degree students who have not yet completed the first-year MBA curriculum.
- MBA+ students will be permitted to apply for Global Study and Service Learning Trips only after beginning the Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives at the GSB.
- MBA+ students will be permitted to join GSB clubs after the Autumn Quarter EAP of their first year as a matriculated student at the SLS.
- Once JD/MBA students matriculate to the GSB, participation in GSB clubs will be governed by the policy that applies to regular MBA students, regardless of previous access.
- JD/MBA students will not be eligible for any leadership positions at the GSB until after having begun the Autumn Quarter Management Perspectives at the GSB.

Students with any questions should contact [GSB Academic Operations](#) or the [Registrar at the SLS](#).