

# **BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S JD/MA DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM IN LAW AND PHILOSOPHY, 2009-2010**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This program allows students to combine coursework in law and in philosophy. Successful candidates may earn both the JD and the MA degrees in the three years ordinarily required for law study, not the four years that would be required if the degrees were pursued separately.

## **II. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Administration**

The dual-degree program is administered by a Joint Advisory Board. The Board consists of at least two faculty members affiliated with the School of Law and at least two affiliated with the Philosophy Department. The Board establishes the list of MA-eligible law courses. A member of the Board will be appointed each year as the student's advisor.

### **B. Admissions**

Students must be admitted separately to the School of Law (BUSL) and the Graduate School (GRS).

1. For BUSL admission information, see [www.bu.edu/law/prospective/apply/jd/index.html](http://www.bu.edu/law/prospective/apply/jd/index.html).
2. For GRS admission information, see <http://www.bu.edu/cas/admissions/graduate>.
3. The following special provisions apply to applications by prospective JD/MA students:
  - (a) Students may apply to GRS either before or during the first year of law school. Accepted students will begin the MA program in their second year of law school.
  - (b) Students may use their BUSL applications to apply to GRS, provided that they submit a copy to GRS and indicate that they are applying to the JD/MA program in law and philosophy.
  - (c) Provided that they submit copies to GRS, students may use the recommendations and personal statements submitted for admission to BUSL.
  - (d) GRS will accept the LSAT score in lieu of the GRE. Students should provide a copy of their LSDAS reports to GRS.
  - (e) Students must submit to GRS a writing sample that demonstrates their philosophical abilities.

All applicants should have a substantial background in philosophy – ordinarily the equivalent of an undergraduate major, and typically with an average of B or higher.

### **C. Academic Requirements**

1. To earn the MA degree, students must earn at least 32 GRS credits. Advice on how to reach that total is included below in Attachment B. The following are special provisions applicable to the MA component of the JD/MA dual-degree program:
  - (a) Students must take at least four graduate-level courses in the Philosophy Department.

- (b) Students also must take a jurisprudence or legal-theory course cross-listed between BUSL and the Philosophy Department. Such a course has been offered each year. The student may register for this course in either BUSL or GRS. (See Attachment B for advice in this regard.)
- (c) In addition to the courses required in (a) and (b), students may apply to the MA degree any combination of (1) law courses approved by the Advisory Board as MA-relevant (see Attachment A) and (2) additional graduate-level courses in the Philosophy Department.
- (d) Students must satisfy the Philosophy Department's MA thesis requirement, in one of the following two ways:

(1) *Joint paper satisfying both BUSL's upper-class writing requirement and the MA thesis requirement.* With approval from a member of the Advisory Board, students may pursue both requirements with a single paper. Such a paper must be supervised by a faculty member appointed by the Board, and it must include a balance of philosophical and legal material. Ordinarily, the minimum length for the paper is 35 pages. The usual JD upper-class-writing requirements apply.

The joint-paper project begins with a detailed proposal for study, submitted to a member of the Advisory Board. Students are *strongly* encouraged to submit proposals before their final year of law study, or at the very latest, by the beginning of that year. No proposal may be submitted after the end of the second week of the student's final semester.

(2) *Independent MA thesis.* Students who choose not to submit a joint paper, or whose joint paper has been finally rejected for MA purposes, may receive the MA only by submitting a paper that meets the Philosophy Department's ordinary MA thesis standards, including the requirement of an oral defense.

- (e) Through either examination or coursework, students must demonstrate competence in logic. Information about this requirement is available from the Philosophy Department.
2. To earn the JD, students must satisfy all standard requirements. After the first year of law study, up to 12 "outside" graduate-level credits may apply to the JD. The four philosophy courses described in section 1(a) above will reach this maximum. (See Attachment B below for relevant advice.)

**D. Tuition:** Students pay a single tuition, applicable to both programs.

### III. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

- A. Professor Hugh Baxter** (for information about courses and the program's regulations)  
Email: hbaxter@bu.edu. Phone: (617) 353-4011
- B. Professor David Lyons** (for information about courses)  
Email: dbl@bu.edu. Phone: (617) 353-3135
- C. Professor David Roochnik** (for information about GRS and courses)  
Email: roochnik@bu.edu. Phone: (617) 353-4579
- D. Associate Dean for Student Affairs Christine Marx** (for general information about program requirements)  
Email: cmarx@bu.edu. Phone: (617) 358-1800

# ATTACHMENT A

## 2009-2010 LAW courses and seminars (S) that may be applied toward MA requirements:

American Legal History, Fall – Seipp  
Animal Law (S), Fall – Karfunkel  
Civil War and Reconstruction (S), Spring – Samito  
Comparative Family Law (S), Fall – Guney-Ruebenacker  
Comparative Law (S), Fall – di Robilant  
The Constitution & Foreign Affairs (S), Fall – Lahav  
Constitutional Theory (S), Fall – Fleming  
English Legal History, Fall – Seipp  
European Legal History, Fall – di Robilant  
Family Law, Fall – McClain  
First Amendment, Spring – Lahav  
Foucault and Law (S), Spring – Baxter  
Gender & Law Colloquium (S), Fall – McClain  
Historical Perspectives on Law, Constitutions & Culture (S), Fall – Collins  
Islamic Law (S), Spring – Guney-Ruebenacker  
Jewish Law (S), Fall – Hecht  
Law & Development (S), Spring – A. & R. Seidman  
Law & Economics Workshop (S), Spring – Meurer  
Law & Sexual Minorities (S), Spring – Volk  
Law & the Color Line (S), Fall – Lyons  
Law, Work & Poverty (S), Fall – M. Hylton  
Lawyering in the 21st Century (S), Spring – Moore  
Medical Research & the Law (S), Fall – Glazier  
Philosophy of Law, Spring – Lyons  
Professional Responsibility, Fall, Spring – Moore, Foley  
Prosecutorial Ethics (S), Fall – Breen  
Responses to Massive Violations of Human Rights, Spring – Sugarman  
War on Drugs (S), Fall – Nilsen  
Wrongful Convictions (S), Fall – Fisher

# ATTACHMENT B

## Advice on How to Satisfy the MA Credit Requirement in the JD/MA Dual-Degree Program in Law and Philosophy

Under Graduate School (GRS) rules, each graduate-level course offered in the Philosophy Department earns 4 GRS credits toward the 32 credits required for the MA degree. That means that the ordinary MA student can reach the 32 credits with just 8 GRS courses. For two reasons, however, the situation for JD/MA students is more complicated.

First, the School of Law (LAW) is subject to ABA-imposed accreditation rules from which GRS is exempt. Under these rules, LAW may give only 3 credits toward the JD degree for GRS courses – even though those courses earn 4 credits toward the MA. Moreover, almost all of the LAW courses approved for MA credit (see Attachment A above) are 3-credit courses. That means that the JD/MA student, who applies a mix of GRS and LAW courses toward the MA, will need more than 8 applicable courses to reach the required 32 credits.

Second, law students may apply no more than 12 “outside” credits to the JD. The JD/MA student will reach that number with four GRS courses in philosophy. A fifth GRS course would count toward the MA, but it would not count toward the JD.

If the student wants all MA-applicable courses to count toward the JD, then the student should take just four GRS philosophy courses and register for the required cross-listed jurisprudence/legal-theory course on the LAW side. Assuming the student makes that choice, then there are various strategies for reaching the 32 GRS credits required for the MA:

1. If one of the student’s MA-applicable LAW courses produces 4 credits rather than 3, then the student can reach 32 with just four additional LAW courses.
2. If each of the student’s MA-applicable LAW courses yields just 3 credits, then the student would have two choices:
  - (a) The student could take five approved LAW courses (in addition to the required jurisprudence/legal-theory course).
  - (b) With approval, the student could earn a fourth credit in the required jurisprudence/legal-theory course by doing extra work – generally, a longer paper, with accordingly higher expectations for depth and quality of research.

Students may satisfy the 32 MA credit requirement in other ways, but for reasons explained above, most students likely will want to follow one of the paths suggested in 1, 2(a), and 2(b).

Please feel free to contact Professor Hugh Baxter ([hbaxter@bu.edu](mailto:hbaxter@bu.edu)) for clarification and further advice about the program’s rules.