DUAL DEGREE
Juris Doctor - University of St. Thomas School of Law
Master of Social Work – School of Social Work
St. Catherine University and the University of St. Thomas

Updated by:
Carol F. Kuechler, MSSW, Ph.D., MSW Program Director
Virgil O. Wiebe, MPhil, JD, Professor of Law
Jennifer Wright, JD, Professor of Law

June 1, 2014
I. RATIONALE

The dual degree program in social work and law is designed to provide students with both a social and legal perspective to meet the social work and legal challenges in many areas of professional practice, such as child welfare, education, mental health, individual and family practice, family mediation, services to elders and people with disabilities, legal aid, criminal and juvenile justice, consumer protection, advocacy, employment, housing, community development, human rights, immigration, and the evaluation of social service programs.

During the first thirty years of specialty training in social work, education was closely aligned with the law, an association that had waned over the years. Social work developed in many ways in order to fulfill legal functions. Attorneys at law initially provided many of the foundations and principles upon which social work is based, and some today would argue that it still should. The earliest social workers provided expert testimony and served as witnesses. They served as court service and probation officers and as street workers with youth gangs.

Today, the dual understanding of the practice of social work and the practice of law is critical if professionals are thinking about the pursuit of social justice. Some lawyers who work for low income clients and who serve as clinical teachers contend that there are many practical similarities between law and social work. In addition to having expertise in “legal” issues, lawyers provide legal advice, counsel, representation, and advocacy to and on behalf of clients. Social workers, in addition to having expertise in issues of social justice, counseling, policy, and advocacy, work to empower individuals, groups, and communities.

Social work and law both share a commitment to vocation and calling. The dual degree program recognizes the critical importance of one’s personal and professional development toward that end, as well as service to individuals, their families and the community.

The development of a dual degree recognizes the disciplinary and program strengths of both programs and provides an opportunity for students to bridge their interests in law and social work to meet client needs. It reinforces and supports a professional perspective, which serves “the whole person” in the bio-psycho-social-spiritual context and moves beyond the provision of categorical services. In addition, the development of a dual degree program increases opportunities for collaboration between faculty, programs and institutions.

This dual degree will provide special value to lawyers who dedicate their professional lives to working for social and economic justice for those in need. It will provide these future lawyers with the tools necessary to develop and deploy societal and institutional
changes that promote social and economic justice. Social workers with a dual degree will bring to their practice a context and perspective of the law as a framework for ethical practice, structured protection of vulnerable adults and children and a resource for addressing unmet needs in the community.

II. DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM GUIDELINES
The social work and law programs have agreed to the following set of guidelines to govern the operation of the dual degree program.

Admission
• Applicants will meet admission criteria for each program. Admission to one program does not mean automatic admission to the other.
• Both regular standing and advanced standing students in social work will be eligible for the dual degree program.

Registration and Requirements
• Students taking courses concurrently in both programs will register and pay tuition at the rate established by the particular program.
• Students may be enrolled in both programs simultaneously.
• Students will complete all requirements for the JD degree and all requirements for the MSW degree.
• The MSW Program Student Handbook with relevant policies and program requirements can be found at: http://www.stthomas.edu/media/schoolofsocialwork/20142015Handbook_FINAL_b2.pdf
• The UST Law School Academic Policy Manual contains requirements for the JD and can be found at http://www.stthomas.edu/law/currentstudents/academicpolicymanual/
• Students will develop and follow a program for completion of all degree requirements in consultation with their social work and law advisors.
• The dual degree will be transcripted by the University.

Length of Program
• Students must complete all requirements for the MSW program within a four-year limit. The total time required for completion of the dual degree will vary by each student’s individual program plan.
• Students must attend UST Law for at least six semesters and be enrolled in no fewer than 12 credit hours and no more than 16 credits each semester that count towards the JD (for exceptions see the Law School Academic Policy Manual).
• In no event will a student be allowed to take longer than four (4) academic years to complete all requirements for the JD without the written approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Law School obtained during the four-year period.
Course Scheduling

• Students must take the first year JD courses in sequence (i.e. all first year JD courses are required and no MSW courses may be taken in the first year of the JD program)
• Students will follow the prescribed JD program for the remaining years of the JD program. Students must take required MSW courses sequentially as offered.
• Students must take one of their three electives for the MSW degree from the SCU/UST 600 level clinical elective offerings. The other two elective courses will be selected in conjunction with the student’s advisors and can be taken in either program
• Students can count twelve credits of social work courses toward the JD degree and six credits of law school elective coursework towards their MSW.

MSW Clinical Research Paper/Thesis Requirement

• Students will complete the MSW Clinical Research Paper.
• Students may use the same paper to meet the requirements for the MSW Clinical Research Paper and the JD upper level writing requirement, if it meets the requirements for both programs as determined by the advisors/faculty representatives from each program.

Advising

• Students will be assigned an academic advisor from each program.
• Students will complete a revisable program plan that accommodates the requirements of both programs and structures the student’s pathway through the dual degree programs prior to the first semester in the dual degree program.

III. DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

• Regular standing MSW students complete 60 credits for the Master of Social Work (which includes counting 6 credits of law school electives towards the MSW) degree plus 88 credits for the Juris Doctor degree for the dual MSW/JD degree (which includes counting 12 credits of social work courses towards the JD).
• Advanced standing MSW students complete 42 credits for the Master of Social Work degree plus 76 credits for the Juris Doctor degree for the dual MSW/JD degree. (This assumes law counts 12 credits of social work toward degree and social work counts 6 credits of law toward degree).
• Put another way, for both Regular Standing MSW students and Advanced Standing MSW students, the dual degree programs assumes that law counts 12 credits of social work towards the JD degree and social work counts 6 credits of law towards the MSW degree).

Students who enter the Master of Social Work degree without an accredited baccalaureate degree in social work (i.e. regular standing MSW students) are required to complete 60 semester credits, including 1,000 hours of field practicum and the completion of a clinical research paper. Advanced standing students, who are admitted with an accredited
baccalaureate degree in social work, are required to complete 42 semester hours, including 600 hours of field practicum and the completion of a clinical research paper. Three of the nine elective credits must be taken from the 600 level clinical elective offerings at the St. Catherine University and University of St. Thomas School of Social Work. The other two electives will be selected from relevant law electives. A student may select additional social work electives, but doing so would put the student beyond the number of credits necessary for the dual degree.

JD students at the School of Law complete 31 credits in first year courses and no fewer than 57 credits in the second and third years, completing a minimum of 88 credits.

Two sample programs, one for MSW regular standing and one for MSW advanced standing, are attached as addenda. It should be stressed that these are samples and each student should work with their advisors to craft a program that meets their needs and schedules within the bounds of program requirements.

**Required MSW Curriculum**

**Foundation Courses (Regular Standing only) 18 Credits**

- GRSW 501: Theory and Practice of Social Work I 3 credits
- GRSW 502: Theory and Practice of Social Work II 3 credits
- GRSW 505: Field Practicum and Seminar I 3 credits
- GRSW 506: Field Practicum and Seminar II 3 credits
- GRSW 540: Human Behavior and the Social Environment 3 credits
- GRSW 580: Methods of Social Work Research 3 credits

**Clinical Courses (All Students) 42 credits**

- GRSW 500: History and Philosophy of Social Work 3 credits
- GRSW 603: Methods of Clinical Social Work I 3 credits
- GRSW 604: Methods of Clinical Social Work II 3 credits
- GRSW 607: Field Practicum and Seminar III 4 credits
- GRSW 608: Field Practicum and Seminar IV 4 credits
- GRSW 625: Social Policy and Program Development 3 credits
- GRSW 650: Clinical Supervisor and Program Management 3 credits
- GRSW 645: Psychopathology and Human Behavior 3 credits
- GRSW 681: Social Work Practice Research 3 credits
- GRSW 682: Applied Research Seminar 4 credits
- GRSW : Social Work Elective 3 credits
- LAW : Law Electives that count toward Social Work 6 credits

**Required JD Curriculum – School of Law:**

First-Year Core Courses – 31 credits

- Civil Procedure 4 credits
- Constitutional Law 4 credits
Contracts 4 credits
Criminal Law 3 credits
Lawyering Skills I 3 credits
Lawyering Skills II 2 credits
Property 4 credits
Torts 4 credits
Foundations of Justice 3 credits

Upper-Level Courses – no fewer than 57 credits in the second and third years.
Required upper-level courses:
Business Associations 4 credits
Evidence 3 credits
Professional Responsibility 3 credits
Lawyering Skills III 2 credits
Mentor Externship I 1 credit
Mentor Externship II 1 credit

As stated above, law students must also complete an upper level writing requirement. The social work research project may be counted for the law writing requirement, so long as the project meets approval by both programs.

Students select elective upper-level courses from a variety of offerings to complete their upper-level requirements. Six credits may be counted towards the social work degree. Courses which would be consider particularly relevant to the dual social work and law program are:

Administrative Law 3 credits
Adoption Law 2 credits
Bankruptcy 3 credits
Clinical Education (various clinics) 2-6 credits
Criminal Procedure 3 credits
Disability Law 3 credits
Employment Law 3 credits
Family Law 3 credits
Health Law 3 credits
Immigration Law 3 credits
International Human Rights 2 credits
Juvenile Justice System 3 credits
Mediation 3 credits
Native American Law 2 credits
Negotiation 3 credits
Poverty Law I 3 credits
Poverty law II 3 credits
Trial Advocacy 3 credits
Wills, Estates and Trusts 3 credits
Sample Program for Joint JD/MSW for Regular Standing Social Work.

*(Bolded Italicized courses* “double count” – i.e. they count towards both degrees)*

60 credits needed for SW; 88 needed for Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Year One</th>
<th>Spring Year One</th>
<th>Summer Year One</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td><strong>SW 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 501 – Theory I (3)</td>
<td>GRSW 502 – Theory II (3)</td>
<td><strong>Summer Year One</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 505 – Field I (3)</td>
<td>GRSW 506 – Field II (3)</td>
<td>GRSW 500 Hist/Phil of SW (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 540 – Human Behav (3)</td>
<td>LAWS 605 Const. Law (4)</td>
<td><strong>Summer Year Two</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 580 – Res. Methods (3)</td>
<td>LAWS 615 Criminal Law (3)</td>
<td>(legal internship or employment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 930 Mentor Extern I (0)</td>
<td>LAWS 625 Lawyer. Skills II (2)</td>
<td><strong>Law 31</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 600 Civil Procedure (4)</td>
<td>LAWS 630 Property (4)</td>
<td><strong>Law 30</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 610 Contracts (4)</td>
<td>LAWS 641 Foundations (2)</td>
<td><strong>Law 19</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 640 Foundations (1)</td>
<td>Mentor Externship (0)</td>
<td><strong>SW 30</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 620 Lawyering Skills I (3)</td>
<td><strong>GW 681 SW Res Pract (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Law 12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 635 Torts (4)</td>
<td><strong>GRSW Elective (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>SW 27</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Year Two</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring Year Two</strong></td>
<td><strong>Summer Year Three</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 603 Methods I (3)</td>
<td>GRSW 604 Methods II (3)</td>
<td><strong>Summer Session 1:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 650 Clin Sup. &amp; Mgmt (3)</td>
<td>GRSW 682 Clin Res. Proj (4)</td>
<td><strong>GRSW 681 SW Res Pract (3)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 682 Clin Res. Proj (4)</td>
<td><strong>GW 625 Soc. Policy (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Summer Session 2:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 725 Prof Resp (3)</td>
<td><strong>GRSW 645 Psychopath. (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>GRSW 608 Field IV (4)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Year Three</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring Year Three</strong></td>
<td><strong>SW 27</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 607 Field III (4)</td>
<td>GRSW 715 Lawyering Skills III (2)</td>
<td><strong>Law 12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Year Four</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SW 0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Year Four</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Law 26</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Electives (13)</td>
<td><strong>GW 607 Field Field IV (4)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 933 Mentor Extern II (0)</td>
<td><strong>GW 608 Field IV (4)</strong></td>
<td><strong>SW 60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Year Three</th>
<th>Summer Year Four</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Year Three</strong></td>
<td><strong>Summer Year Four (full time – 600 hours)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Session 1:</strong></td>
<td>GRSW 607 Field III (4)</td>
<td><strong>SW 0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRSW 681 SW Res Pract (3)</strong></td>
<td>GRSW 608 Field IV (4)</td>
<td><strong>Law 26</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRSW Elective (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>GRSW 645 Psychopath. (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Session 2:</strong></td>
<td><strong>GRSW 625 Soc. Policy (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>SW 60</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRSW 681 SW Res Pract (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>GRSW 645 Psychopath. (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Law 88</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. Field I requires 12-15 hours/week at your placement.
2. Field II requires 12-15 hours/week at your placement.
3. Clinical Research Project – dual degree topic. Law and policy. This can count for Law -Upper Level Writing requirement. Both law and social work faculty must sign off on final project, and project must meet requirements of both programs.
4. If taken during school year, 20 hours/week; 32-40 hours/week during the summer.
5. If taken during school year, 20 hours/week; 32-40 hours/week during the summer.
Sample Program for Joint Degree – MSW/JD. Advanced Standing.  
*(Bolded Italicized courses “double count” – i.e. they count towards both degrees)*

42 credits needed for SW; 88 needed for Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Year One</th>
<th>Spring Year One</th>
<th>Summer Year Two</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 600 Civil Procedure (4)</td>
<td>LAWS 605 Const. Law (4)</td>
<td>Summer Year Two (legal internships or employment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 610 Contracts (4)</td>
<td>LAWS 615 Criminal Law (3)</td>
<td>Law 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 640 Foundations (1)</td>
<td>LAWS 625 Lawyer. Skills II (2)</td>
<td>SW 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 620 Lawyering Skills I (3)</td>
<td>LAWS 630 Property (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 635 Torts (4)</td>
<td>LAWS 641 Foundations (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentor Externship (0)</td>
<td>Mentor Externship (0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Year Two</th>
<th>Spring Year Two</th>
<th>Summer Year Three (full time – 600 hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 603 Methods I (3)</td>
<td>GRSW 604 Methods II (3)</td>
<td>SW 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 650 Clin Sup. &amp; Mgmt (3)</td>
<td>LAWS 715 Lawyer. Skills III (2)</td>
<td>Law 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW 682 Clin Res. Proj (4)</td>
<td>LAWS 700 Business Assoc. (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 725 Prof Resp (3)</td>
<td>GRSW 682 Clin Res. Proj (0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 930 Mentor Extern I (0)</td>
<td>LAWS 930 Mentor Extern I (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Year Three</th>
<th>Spring Year Three</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAW Electives (10)</td>
<td>Law Electives (6)</td>
<td>SW 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRSW Elective (3)</td>
<td>Law Electives (6)</td>
<td>Law 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 705 Evidence (3)</td>
<td>LAW 933 Mentor Extern II (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 933 Mentor Extern II (0)</td>
<td>Mentor Extern II (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Clinical Research Project – dual degree topic. Law and policy. This can count for Law -Upper Level Writing requirement. Both law and social work faculty must sign off on final project, and project must meet requirements of both programs.

7 If taken during school year, 20 hours/week; 32-40 hours/week during the summer.

8 If taken during school year, 20 hours/week; 32-40 hours/week during the summer.