DUAL DEGREE

Master of Urban and Regional Planning
And
Juris Doctorate Law Degree
(4.10.06)

The Degrees: The School of Law (Law School) and the College of Architecture and Planning (Architecture and Planning) desire to cooperate in a joint program under which students may be admitted to and take course work in both schools on a coordinated basis, leading to the award of the degrees Juris Doctor and Master of Urban and Regional Planning by the Law School and Architecture and Planning, respectively.

Rationale: The joint degree in Urban and Regional Planning and Law pairs two professions whose attentions are complementary. Planning’s focus is public action centered on the natural and built environments. Law’s focus is the constitutional, statutory and regulatory bases of the social order. Merged, these two fields enable joint degree holders to address issues at the interface of policy and law emphasizing the use of land and real estate, and the management of the public lands and natural resources (including mineral and energy resources). Persons whose focus is economic development, whether local or global will also find in the study of law essential perspectives on private enterprise, corporate regulation, labor markets, poverty, and international relations, and they will find in Planning the tools and strategies with which to guide economic development and influence market outcomes. Individuals so schooled will find an abundance of opportunity in public sector planning and administration at all levels of governance, and in the private practice of law and in private planning consulting firms.

Parameters: The MURP is normally comprised of 51 semester credit hours, and the JD 89 semester credit hours of course work. Students obtaining a joint JD-MURP, however, may earn both degrees upon completion of 122 credits, of which 42 would be in Planning and 80 in Law.

In order to establish such a joint JD-MURP program, the Law School and Architecture and Planning enter into this Understanding, which shall become effective when approved by the dean and faculty of each school.

1. Administration. The Joint JD-MURP of the Law School and Architecture and Planning shall be administered in each school by the dean, or a person designated by the dean, pursuant to this Understanding and under such policies, procedures and guidelines as the respective faculties of the schools may from time to time provide. The dean or person so designated to administer the joint degree program for a school is hereinafter referred to as the “program adviser” for that school.

The program advisers for the two schools, together with such other persons as the deans of the schools may appoint in equal numbers as representatives of the schools, shall constitute a joint committee responsible for providing coordination of the program in the two schools and for providing advice and recommendations to the respective deans and faculties of the two schools with respect to the operation of the program.
2. **Eligibility for and Enrollment in the Program.** To be eligible for the joint JD-MURP program, a person must apply separately to and be admitted by both the Law School and Architecture and Planning, under each school’s respective admissions procedures and standards. Each school will make provision in its admissions materials for an applicant to elect to be enrolled in the joint degree program. Once admitted to both programs the student is to notify his/her faculty advisor in Planning and the faculty advisor for this program in the Law School. Each school will also promptly inform the other of the admission of an applicant who has elected the joint degree program, and may otherwise share information and coordinate admissions for joint degree program students.

A person may elect the joint degree program at the time of initial application to both schools; or a student enrolled in the applicable degree program of either school may during his or her first year of study under the degree program of that school apply for admission to the other school and elect to be enrolled under the joint degree program.

A student who has elected the joint degree program and who has been admitted by both schools shall be deemed to be enrolled in each school under the joint degree program, unless the student’s enrollment status in the joint degree program is terminated as provided under this Understanding.

Each joint-degree student is to consult with the designated faculty advisors in both programs and maintain an official record of course selections, both past and prospective, in each unit.

3. **Course of Study under the Program.** A student enrolled in the joint degree program may commence studies under the program in either the Law School or Architecture and Planning, but must notify each school of that decision at or prior to the date established by each school for such notification. A joint degree program student is required by the Law School to take the first year of the Juris Doctor curriculum as a unit exclusively in the Law School, and the student may be required by Architecture and Planning to take the first year of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning curriculum as a unit exclusively in Architecture and Planning. Otherwise, the student may take courses in Architecture and Planning or in the Law School, or both, as the student may desire and as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the degree programs of each school.

A student enrolled in the joint degree program shall, at all times during which that enrollment continues in effect pursuant to this Understanding, be considered to be an enrolled student in each school and entitled to the privileges of an enrolled student at each school consistent with his or her status as a joint degree student, whether or not the student is at that time taking courses at that school.

A joint degree student shall be required to inform each school each term of all courses being taken under the program, whether or not being taken at that school. No student in the joint degree program shall be allowed to take fewer than ten semester hours or more than sixteen semester hours during any term without receiving the consent of the program adviser in each school in which any of such courses are being taken. If for any term fewer than an aggregate of ten semester hours are being taken towards the Juris Doctor and MURP degrees, either
school may through its program adviser determine that the student may no longer continue in the joint degree program, as provided below.

4. **Credit for Courses Taken at the Other School/College**

   a. The Law School will grant credit towards the Juris Doctor degree for up to nine semester hours of acceptable performance in graduate level courses taken by a joint degree program student at Architecture and Planning. A student must have earned a grade of B- or equivalent in courses at Architecture and Planning in order for the performance to be acceptable for Law School credit. The Law School may accept Architecture and Planning course credit on a pass basis, and need not count the credit toward class standing or towards the graduation grade average requirements of the Juris Doctor degree.

   b. Architecture and Planning will grant credit towards the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree for up to nine semester hours of acceptable performance in Law School courses taken by a joint degree program student, and will waive or otherwise modify other requirements such that a joint degree program student will be able to obtain the MURP degree with not more than forty-two semester hours of Architecture and Planning course credit exclusive of credit given for Law School courses under the program.

Planning’s core is normally composed of 27 credits, however, one of these is a three-credit course in planning law. Joint degree students need not take this course. As a result the Planning requirement for joint-degree students is 24 credits within core studies in Planning plus 18 credits of electives for a total of 42 credits. Students will, in addition, undertake 80 credits within the JD program.

Only Law School courses in which a grade of C+ or better is earned will be acceptable for transfer to Architecture and Planning. Grades received in courses that are transferred from the Law School will be recorded as having been passed but will not influence the grade point average of the MURP program.

   c. Either school may grant credit for work taken at the other school under the program only provisionally and conditioned on the successful completion of the degree program of the other school. If it appears that the student will not complete the other school’s degree requirements, such provisional credit may be withdrawn.

Each school may designate the courses of the other school for which credit will be allowed under this program. Upon completion of the courses that are eligible for dual credit toward the JD, the student shall provide a transcript of his/her work at the Architecture and Planning to the faculty advisor in the Law School, identifying the courses to be applied to the JD. Similarly, on completion of the courses within the Law School that are eligible for transfer to the MURP Program, the student shall provide a transcript of his/her work in the College of Law to his/her Planning advisor, identifying the courses to be applied to the MURP Degree.

Students who complete one degree prior to completing the other must have earned all but 15 credit hours of the second before the first can be awarded.
5. **Curriculum**

   a. **Law School** (80 credits):

   Please consult the current index of course offerings at the Law School for course offerings towards the JD. See [http://www.colorado.edu/law/academics/index.htm](http://www.colorado.edu/law/academics/index.htm)

   b. **Architecture and Planning** (42 credits):

   MURP Core: (24 credits, of which 9 will transfer to the College of Law)

   - URP 5501 Planning Issues and Processes (3 cr)
   - URP 5510 Planning Methods I (3 cr)
   - URP 5511 Planning Methods II (3 cr)
   - URP 5520 Urban Spatial Analysis (3 cr)
   - URP 6630 Planning Studio I (6 cr)
   - URP 6631 Studio II (6 cr)

   Note: URP 5530 Planning Law (3 cr) is not required of joint-degree students. Planning students, nevertheless, who have taken this class prior to gaining admission to the Law School may petition their Law School advisor to count this course against another course in the Law School deemed to be comparable. This advisor shall have final authority in the matter.

   MURP Electives: (18 credits in Planning, approved by the Planning Advisor)

6. **Academic or other Discipline; Termination of Joint Degree Enrollment or of Good Standing.** Each school will notify the other if a student enrolled in the joint degree program shall be expelled or suspended for academic or non-academic reasons, or is subject to disciplinary action, or if any such student is placed on probation or is otherwise not continued in good standing at that school. In matters involving academic ethics each school shall have jurisdiction to determine under its own procedures whether misconduct has occurred, and the consequences thereof, with respect to credit to be given towards the degree offered by that school and the standing of the student at that school. However, disciplinary expulsion or suspension of any joint degree program student shall apply to both schools as provided by university rules and regulations. If a student is suspended or placed on academic probation or is otherwise not continued in good standing at either of the schools, the program adviser of each school may determine whether or not the student shall be continued in the joint degree program. The program adviser of each school may also terminate the joint degree program enrollment of any student who takes fewer than ten semester hours of credit under the joint degree program in both schools, except for any term for which fewer than ten semester hours of aggregate credit remain to be earned for both degrees under this program.
Termination of joint degree program status of a student terminates all obligations of either school under this Understanding to the other school or to the student concerned. Upon such termination, each school may treat the student as a degree student who is not affected by this Understanding and, as such school may deem advisable, may either allow or not allow credit towards the degree offered by that school for courses taken at the other school during the period the student was enrolled in the joint degree program.

For advising information, please contact Ms. Pam Erickson, Student Services Officer at 303-556-3387 (pam.erickson@ucdenver.edu), or the Law School Office (see Law School web site).