GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

DUAL BA/JD PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Through the Dual BA/JD program, highly talented and qualified students will have the opportunity to complete both a Bachelor of Arts and a Juris Doctor at Georgia State University in six years rather than seven. This program is a joint endeavor of the University Honors Program and the College of Law.

This program provides the opportunity for a select number of undergraduate students to complete all general education requirements and all non-elective requirements for a B.A. major in three years. If determined to be qualified by typical admissions measures of the College of Law, they then are admitted to the JD program while completing their final and fourth year of Bachelors work. Credits earned during the students' first year of required law courses shall be deemed to complete the students' upper-level elective and residency requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree, provided that students have earned at least 90 undergraduate credits prior to matriculation at the Law School. The students will receive their Bachelor of Arts degree upon successful completion of all first-year law courses, normally at the end of their fourth year of study, and Dual Degree students shall be eligible to participate in the University graduation ceremonies, receiving the B.A., at the end of their 4th year.

Students selected for this program will receive rigorous advising through the University Honors Program and in consultation with the College of Law so that they successfully meet undergraduate graduation requirements and JD entry requirements. Dual degree candidates must be accepted into and participate fully in the special pre-law advisory program for dual degree candidates, and must be selected for admission into the JD component of the dual-degree program by the College of Law. Acceptance into and participation in the undergraduate advisory component of Dual BA/JD program does not guarantee acceptance into the J.D degree program by the College of Law.

B.A./J.D. Dual Degree Program at Georgia State University

1. Georgia State University’s Honors Program and the College of Law have established a BA/JD dual degree program to enable highly talented and qualified students to earn both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Juris Doctor degree in six years rather than seven.

2. The program allows dual BA/JD students to complete all non-elective requirements for an undergraduate major in three years and seek admission to the College of Law for their fourth year.
3. If admitted, such students attend the College of Law in their senior year and enroll in the required first-year law program. Successful completion of the first year of law school also serves to satisfy the students’ credit hour requirements toward completion of their B.A. degree.

4. Students interested in the dual degree program must as freshman earn admission into the Georgia State University Honors Program and thereafter qualify for admission into the College of Law through a special admission process. Admission to the Honors Program and participation in the undergraduate advising stages of the dual degree program do not guarantee admission into the College of Law.

5. Undergraduate students in the Honors Program must submit a statement of interest to indicate their desire to participate in the dual degree program. This statement of interest will typically be submitted with the student’s initial application to Georgia State University but may be submitted any time thereafter up through and including the fall semester of the sophomore year. This statement of interest will serve to identify those eligible to participate in special pre-law programs, as well as receive academic advisement designed to help such students satisfy the requirements of their major in a compressed time frame. Because of these timing requirements, this program will not normally be available to transfer students.

6. Participating students must maintain good standing within the Honors Program and must satisfy all course requirements for their undergraduate major by the end of their junior year. By this time, participating students must have completed at least 90 hours of coursework applicable to the BA and have satisfied all other requirements necessary for their Bachelors degree with the exception of the residency requirement and the requirement to complete a total of 120 hours. For participating students, these requirements will be satisfied with the successful completion of coursework constituting the first year of law school. By January of their junior year, participating students must take the LSAT exam and complete the application process required of all applicants to the College of Law.

7. Participating students who apply to the College of Law should present evidence of strong analytical and writing skills. To ensure that they have had opportunities for research, seminar, and/or independent study experiences expected of College of Law applicants, participating students will have completed the two-course Critical Thinking Through Writing (CTW) requirement within their chosen major, and should complete at least one advanced level seminar or independent study in their major field of study or advanced Honors Seminar (HON 3260) no later than their junior year.
8. Participating students applying for admission to the College of Law must achieve a minimum LSAT score and undergraduate GPA equal to or exceeding the median of these indicators for the previous entering class, and meet all other requirements for admission to the college.

9. During their three years in the Honors Program, participating students will pay tuition and fees at the undergraduate rate. Thereafter, once enrolled in the law school, students will pay at the law school rate.

10. After matriculation to the College of Law and upon the student’s successful completion of all required first-year law courses, the Bachelors degree will be awarded. The Juris Doctor will be awarded upon successful completion of the required 90 credit hours of course work and all other degree requirements.

Students interested in applying for this program must contact the University Honors Program for application material and preliminary advising at 404-413-5574, 428 University Center, or by email at honors@gsu.edu.