

**Joint Degree Program:
J.D. and M.A. in Indigenous Nations Studies**

Overview:

This program will allow successful candidates to obtain a J.D. and a Master of Arts in Indigenous Nations Studies in three to four years. It is of special interest to students who intend to become leaders and policy-makers in indigenous communities worldwide. Admission to both the School of Law and the Master's Program in Indigenous Nations Studies is required. For more information contact Stacy Leeds, Associate Professor and Director, Tribal Law and Government Center, University of Kansas Law School, (785) 864-9271; sleeds@ku.edu or Michael James Yellow Bird, Associate Professor of American Studies and Director, Center for Indigenous Nations Studies, University of Kansas, (785) 864-2660; insp@ku.edu

Abstract:

This proposal seeks to create a joint (dual) degree program in law and Indigenous Nations Studies for students at the University of Kansas, School of Law and the Graduate School, Indigenous Nations Studies. Successful candidates will earn the Juris Doctor degree (J.D.) and the Masters of Arts degree (M.A.) in Indigenous Nations Studies.

This proposal does not entail the creation of a new program or degree but will allow students who wish to earn a J.D. degree and a M.A. degree in Indigenous Nations Studies to pursue both degrees concurrently in a shortened period of time by allowing certain courses to count toward both degrees.

Program Objectives:

The objectives of this joint degree program are:

- (1) to broaden the intellectual horizons of both the School of Law and the Graduate Program in Indigenous Nations Studies by facilitating interdisciplinary studies;
- (2) to support the interest of students who wish to pursue study in both fields;
- (3) to provide an educational opportunity that trains candidates for leadership and policy-making roles in indigenous communities worldwide, in higher education, and in state, national and international institutions and organizations.

Need and Justification:

The proposed joint degree program would be one of only three such programs in the United States, which include the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Arizona. The University of Kansas is uniquely poised to offer a more expansive curriculum than any joint degree program in the nation through the existing curricula and special programs of the Tribal Law and Government Center at the School of Law and the Center for Indigenous Nations Studies.

Student Demand:

The School of Law currently offers several courses relating to Indigenous nations studies and currently offers a Tribal Lawyer Certificate Program. Enrollment in these courses is strong and growing ranging typically from 12-20 students. The master's degree program in Indigenous Nations Studies currently offers four separate tracks of study with over twenty affiliated faculty from across the University of Kansas campus. Student enrollment in the master's program continues to increase each year.

Resources:

The proposed program will not require the allocation of additional funds or resources. The program will make use of the existing J.D. program and the Tribal Law and Government Center and the existing master's program in Indigenous Nations Studies.

Program Requirements:

A detailed description of the joint program requirements, including lists of the courses that the two schools will jointly recognize, follows:

Credit Hour Requirements

The Law School requires all J.D. candidates to earn 90 credit hours to complete the degree. For students enrolled in the J.D./M.A. program, the Law School will accept nine (9) credit hours earned from approved courses in the master's program in INS toward the J.D. requirements. Students must earn a grade of B or better to receive law credit for their INS course work. In order to accommodate difference in grades recorded in Law and in the Graduate Program, all law coursework counted for the M.A. degree must be at a grade of C+ or better in order to receive M.A. credit.

The master's program in INS requires all candidates to earn between thirty (30) and thirty-three (33) graduate credit hours, depending on the track of study chosen. The master's program will accept for credit toward the M.A. degree twelve (12) credit hours earned from approved courses in the law school. Required INS core courses include:

INS 800 Research Methods and Indigenous Peoples (3)
INS 801 Indigenous Peoples of the World (3)
INS 802 Applied Indigenous Leadership (3)
INS 803 Issues Facing Indigenous Peoples of the World (3)

Fifteen to eighteen credit hours are to be completed in the student's designated study track. The program offers four study tracks: General Indigenous Studies (15 credits); Linguistics and Language Teaching Studies (18 credits); Museum Studies (18 credits); and Sovereignty Development Studies (15 credit hours). Students may use 6 law hours toward

satisfying their INS specialization requirement, and apply the balance of the 12 law hours for which they may receive master's credit (see below) toward their master's electives.

Admissions and Timing of Entry into Joint Program

Candidates for the joint program will need to meet the separate admission requirements of the Law School and the master's program in INS. Admission into one school will create no presumption favoring admission to the other. To be admitted into the joint program, an applicant must be separately admitted to both programs and then must request to proceed in the joint program. The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is the only required entrance examination.

Students may apply to both degree programs simultaneously, but they are not required to do so. For students who are admitted into law first, they should seek admission into the master's program as soon as possible and must be admitted into that program no later than the end of the spring semester of their second year of law study. For students admitted to the master's program first, they should seek admission into the law program as soon as possible and must be admitted into that program no later than the end of the third semester of study as a master's student.

Sequencing of Courses

Students who have been admitted to both programs and intend to pursue the joint degree program must, at their first opportunity, complete the first 32 credits of required courses in the J.D. program. After the completion of these 32 hours, course enrollment in either program or both concurrently is permitted.

Law Courses that Will Count Toward the Master's Degree

Students may apply a maximum of 12 hours of law electives toward their master's degree from the following courses:

- LAW 987 Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and the Indigenous Nations (3)
- LAW 914 Federal Indian Law (3)
- LAW 879 Comparative Law (3)
- LAW 930 International Law Seminar (3)
- LAW 975 Public Lands and Natural Resources (3)
- LAW 995 Water Law (3)
- LAW 967 Native American Natural Resources (3)

LAW 974 Public International Law (3)

LAW ____ Special Topics in American Indian Law (3) (courses taught on occasion such as Indian Gaming)

LAW 998 Tribal Judicial Support Clinic (2 or 3)

Master's Courses That Will Count Toward J.D.

Students may apply nine (9) credit hours of master's work toward their J.D. degree from the following courses:

SOC 873 International Political Economy (3)

PUAD 824 Public Policy and Administration (3)

INS 800 Research Methods and Indigenous Peoples (3)

INS 801 Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (3)

INS 802 Applied Indigenous Leadership (3)

INS 803 Indigenous Peoples of the World (3)

T&L 602 Culturally Responsive Teaching for American Indian Students (3)

MUSE 701 Museum Management (3)

Typical Enrollment Pattern

	Law	INS	Total
First Year	32	0	32
Second Year	22	6	28
Third Year	22	6	28
Summer Sessions	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>
Total Credit Earned	81	18	99
Law Credit Allowed for M.A.		12	12
INS Credit Allowed for J.D.	9		9
Total Credit Required	90	30	120

Degree Requirements

I. Law Courses Required of all J.D. Candidates:

First-year courses–

Civil Procedure I	3 cr.
Civil Procedure II	3 cr.
Contracts I	3 cr.
Contracts II	3 cr.
Criminal Law	2 cr.
Criminal Procedure	3 cr.
Lawyering I	3 cr.
Lawyering II	3 cr.
Property I	3 cr.
Property II	2 cr.
Torts	4 cr.

Upperclass courses–

Commercial Law: Secured Transactions	3 cr.
Constitutional Law	4 cr.
Evidence	3 cr.
Professional Responsibility	<u>2 cr.</u>
(Must be taken in second year)	44 cr.

In addition to all J.D./M.A. program course requirements, students must satisfy the upper class writing requirement in the School of Law. Please refer to the current School of Law catalog for details.

II. Sample Listing of Law Courses for Joint Degree Candidates:

Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and the Indigenous Nations (3)
Federal Indian Law (3)
Comparative Law (3)
International Law Seminar (3)
Public Lands and Natural Resources (3)
Water Law (3)
Native American Natural Resources (3)
Public International Law (3)
Special Topics in American Indian Law (3)
Tribal Judicial Support Clinic (2 or 3)

III. Sample Listing of INS Courses for Joint Degree Candidates:

Indigenous Peoples of the America (3)
Issues Facing Indigenous Peoples of the World (3)
Museum Management(3)
Administrative Skills and Leadership(3)
Culturally Responsive Teaching for American Indian Students (3)