

UAMS College of Medicine and UALR William H. Bowen School of Law

Combined Degree Program for the MD and JD degrees

I. Curricular Requirements

A student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine and the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law may pursue the MD and the JD degrees under a combined degree program. While no time or credit hour savings will be realized, several major advantages will be offered in this combined degree program. A student will enter the program knowing that they are on track to receive both degrees. A longer than normal deferral period will be allowed by the College of Medicine. The law school portion will (course availability allowing) have a focus on health law. A student in the combined degree program must complete all the requirements for the MD degree as specified by the College of Medicine, and all requirements for the JD degree as specified by the School of Law.

In the JD program, students must complete the following courses in addition to those required for the JD degree:

A regulatory law and policy course: Administrative Law or an equivalent course in government regulatory law and policy approved by the School of Law's curriculum committee

A health law related course: Health Law, Health Law seminar, Law and Medicine or an equivalent course approved by the School of Law's curriculum committee.

In the MD program, students will have several weeks of elective time in the senior year when they can possibly take courses in Law for elective credit that will count toward the MD degree.

II. Administrative Policies and Procedures

A. The Executive Associate Dean of Academic Affairs of the College of Medicine and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the School of Law shall meet biannually, or more often as needed, to evaluate the combined degree program. They shall consider matters such as current course offerings and coordination of course sequences, and shall make recommendations for amendments of the program to their respective faculties.

- B. A student enrolled in the combined degree program is subject to all administrative policies and procedures of each program during the period of enrollment in the combined degree program.
- C. A student must obtain admission separately to the MD program and the JD program. Once admitted to both programs, a student enters the combined degree program by filing the attached Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees.
- D. A student enrolled in the first two years of the School of Law may enter the combined degree program by obtaining admission to the College of Medicine and filing the Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees. A student enrolled in the first two years of medical school may enter the combined degree program by obtaining admission to the School of Law and filing the Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees. In this case, the student would obtain the JD degree during a leave of absence from the College of Medicine between the second and third year in medical school. In both of these cases, the student must understand the implications in terms of other regulations. For example, such an arrangement may not give the student time to complete one of both of the degrees, given that both the College of Medicine and the School of Law have limits on the amount of time allowed to earn each degree. The potential student contemplating this program should not make this decision and declaration without working out the details with the two schools in advance.
- E. A student is not enrolled in the combined program until copies of the Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees are filed with the Registrars of both the College of Medicine and the School of Law.
- F. A student who has completed one degree may not enter the combined degree program to complete the other degree.
- G. After filing the Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees, the student shall schedule a joint meeting with the Executive Associate Dean of Academic Affairs of the College of Medicine and with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Law. Times of enrollment in each program, preliminary course selection, and potential conflicts shall be discussed.
- H. Students enrolled in the combined program must be very careful to make sure that activities in one program do not interfere with activities in the other program.
- I. Grade point averages and class standings in each program are determined without consideration of the other program.

- J. Each student enrolled in this combined degree program must comply with all degree requirements established for each program. For instance, the College of Medicine has a requirement that all degree requirements be completed in not more than seven years after enrollment in the degree program. A student enrolled in the combined degree program must earn any credit hours toward the MD degree within the seven allowed years (the clock starts when the student enters the first year of medical school and does not stop if the student takes a leave of absence during medical school to complete the JD degree). As a further example, the College of Medicine requires that students must take the United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 1 within 12 weeks of the end of their sophomore year in medical school and must pass it within three tries and by 14 months following the end of their sophomore year in medical school. If a student in this combined degree program takes a leave of absence from the College of Medicine following the sophomore year to complete the School of Law, this requirement of the College of Medicine still applies and is not waived by virtue of the leave of absence. Similarly, the School of Law requires that all degree requirements for the J.D. must be completed within seven years of the date the student begins classes at the School of Law.

III. Sequence of Course Work in the Combined Program

Under normal circumstances, a student joining the combined degree program will gain acceptance to the College of Medicine and the School of Law, and then, after filing the Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees, shall defer entry into the College of Medicine for two years while completing the first two years in the School of Law. Under these circumstances, a deferment for two years from the College of Medicine will be granted upon request. Following two years in the School of Law, the student will take a leave of absence from the School of Law and begin the College of Medicine. The student will take the first two years of medical school, and then take a leave of absence between the second and third years of medical school to complete the JD degree.

Alternatively, some students may wish to take the first two years of law school, and then complete the law degree in the summer before the start of medical school and in the summer between the first and second years of medical school.

It is possible for a student to enter the College of Medicine first, and then work on the JD degree during a leave of absence from the College of Medicine (usually between the second and third years of medical school) after having passed the USMLE Step 1 examination following the sophomore year of medical school. However, this sequence may not allow enough time to complete one or both of the degrees, as noted in II. D. above.

To avoid any problems with scheduling, and to make sure the potential student is fully informed with regard to policies and procedures in both the College of Medicine and the School of Law, the potential student must discuss the details of this combined program with the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Medicine and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Law in advance of enrolling in either program.

The College of Medicine and the School of Law reserve the right to make changes in this combined degree program as well as in their individual offerings, policies, or requirements, at any time without notice. When a change is made, it goes into effect for all students in the program at the time they are notified.

Approved by Law School Faculty: September 9, 2004

Approved by Medical School: September 15, 2004

Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees

Copies of this Declaration of Intent to pursue Combined Degrees must be filed with the Registrar of the College of Medicine and with the Registrar of the School of Law. You are not enrolled in the combined degree program until this form has been completed and filed in both offices. By signing and filing this Declaration, you (i) acknowledge receipt of the curricular requirement and policies and procedures of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine MD and University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law JD Combined Degree Program and (ii) understand that it is your responsibility to make sure you satisfy all requirements for the combined degree program as described. Failure to meet the combined degree program requirements can result in failure to meet the requirements for either degree individually.

1. Name: _____

2. Student Identification Number or SS# _____

3. Will you first enroll in the MD or JD program? _____

4. Date of enrollment in the first program: _____

5. Anticipated date of enrollment in the second program: _____

Signature: _____

Date:

APPROVED BY:

Executive Associate Dean for
Academic
Academic Affairs, College
of Medicine

Associate Dean for
Affairs, School of Law

Date: _____

Date: _____