

Master of Arts/Juris Doctorate Program (M.A./J.D.)

Overview

(1) Drake Law School students will be permitted to transfer credits for specified law courses to Iowa State University, up to a maximum of 10 semester hours, of which 8 semester hours will be acceptable for graduate credit toward the completion of the M.A. degree at Iowa State University (a minimum of 22 graduate credits must be earned at Iowa State University for all master's degree programs); (2) Iowa State University graduate students will be authorized to transfer a maximum of 9 semester hours of specified political science courses to the Drake Law School toward the completion of the J.D. degree.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for the combined M.A./J.D. (Political Science) program need to meet the entrance requirements of, and be admitted to, both the Drake Law School and the Iowa State University Graduate College.

(1) Drake Law School: Admission requirements to the Law School include a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with acceptable undergraduate scholastic achievement, and an acceptable score on the Law School Admission Test. For a complete discussion of the Law School admission requirements, please refer to the current Drake Law School catalog.

(2) Iowa State University: A graduate student in Political Science at Iowa State University must have a bachelor's degree from a recognized university, and normally must rank in the top half of his or her graduating class. (See the current Iowa State University Graduate College [Catalog](#) and the requirements elsewhere in the [M.A. handbook](#).) Normally, students are expected to submit Graduate Record Examination scores, but results from the Law School Admissions Test also are acceptable.

Prerequisite for admission to major graduate work in the Department is normally the completion of at least 12 semester credits in political science. Students entering the Master of Arts program in political science should have completed one year of a single foreign language, which is the equivalent of 8 semester hours. A course in basic statistics (equivalent of Statistics 101) is also expected. Otherwise, a student might need to take an introductory statistics course for which no graduate credit will be received.

Financial Information

(1) Drake University

Information about tuition may be found in the current Drake Law School catalog. For information concerning scholarships, financial aid, and housing accommodations, write to the Office of Admissions, Drake University Law School, Des Moines, IA 50311; telephone 1-800-44-DRAKE, ext. 2782, or (515) 271-2782.

(2) Iowa State University

Information regarding graduate tuition and fees may be obtained [Registrar at ISU](#). Eligibility for resident fees is decided by the Director of Admissions. For further information concerning fees and housing, see the ISU Graduate Catalog. For information regarding teaching and research assistantships, write to the Chair, Political Science Department, 503 Ross Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011.

Tuition and graduate fees are assessed separately by each institution. Taking courses at both Drake and Iowa State in the same academic term requires payment to each institution. This applies to both full-time and part-time enrollment.

Curriculum

Both the Drake Law School and the Department of Political Science at Iowa State University have specific courses, hours, and grade requirements which must be met before the respective degrees will be awarded. In brief, the J.D. degree requires the successful completion of 90 semester hours; the M.A. degree requires a minimum of 30 semester hours. A minimum of 22 graduate credits must be earned at Iowa State University for all master's degree programs.

If you are interested in further information concerning the details of this J.D.-M.A. program, please contact the Director of Graduate Education, Alex Tuckness, at tuckness@iastate.edu or email polsci@iastate.edu to reach the Graduate Secretary. For Drake admissions information contact law-admit@drake.edu.

ISU Courses Eligible for Transfer to Drake Law School

Iowa State University graduate students in political science may transfer a maximum of 9 semester hours to the Drake Law School from the following list of courses, all of which must have been taken for graduate (500-level) credit when there is the option of taking a dual-listed course at either the undergraduate or graduate level. A number of “experimental” courses, designated in the *Schedule of Classes* by an “X” suffix, are offered annually; many of these also may be counted for graduate credit. In addition, completion of requirements for the M.A. degree usually includes Statistics 587 (Statistical Methods for Research Workers – 4 credits); this course also may be acceptable for transfer credit. No more than 6 credit hours of 400-numbered Political Science courses may be counted toward the completion of the M.A. degree.

417	Campaign Rhetoric (also Speech Communication 417)	3
421	Constitutional Freedoms	3
430	Foundations of Western Political Thought: Plato to Machiavelli	3
553	International Organizations	3
502	Political Analysis and Research	3
510	State Government and Politics	3
513	Intergovernmental Relations	3
515	Biorenewables Law and Policy	3
516	International Biorenewables Law and Policy	3
522	International Law	3
530	Foundations of Western Political Thought	3
531	Modern Political Thought	3
534	Legal and Ethical Issues in Information Assurance	3
535	Contemporary Political Philosophy	3
544	Comparative Public Policy	3
552	Comparative Foreign Policy	3
560	American Political Institutions	3
571	Organizational Theory in the Public Sector	3
574	Policy and Program Evaluation	3
575	Management in the Public Sector	3
577	Government, Business, and Society	3
580	Ethics and Public Policy	3
581	International Political Economy	3

590A	Special Topics: American Political Institutions	2-5
590B	Special Topics: Public Law	2-5
590C	Special Topics: Political Theory and Methodology	2-5
590D	Special Topics: Comparative Government	2-5
590E	Special Topics: International Relations	2-5
590F	Special Topics: Political Parties and Policy Formation	2-5
590G	Special Topics: Public Administration and Public Policy	2-5
610A-G	Graduate Seminars (check semester class schedules for availability)	3
699	Thesis Research	Varies

Drake Law School Courses Eligible for Transfer to ISU

254	Race and Constitution	302	Employment Discrimination Lit.
318	Death Penalty	239	Conflicts of Laws
112	Constitutional Law I	201	Remedies
115	Constitutional Law II	249	Antitrust
114	Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility	252	Administrative Law
620	Juvenile Law Internship	259	Public International Law
300	Natural Resources Law	279	International Human Rights
231	Environmental Law	311	Law and Religion
232	Land Use Control	221	Agriculture Law-Intro
233	Legislation	267	Labor Law II
261	State and Local Government Law	250	Labor Law I
321	Constitutional Theory		

Note: Other Drake Law School and ISU Political Science Department courses may be acceptable for transfer credit. These courses need to be defined by, and acceptable to, both parties in each individual case.

Grades

For specific grades information see the current ISU and Drake catalogs. In general, M.A. candidates in political science at ISU must maintain, and graduate with, no less than a “B” (3.0) average; at the Drake Law School, graduation requires a “C” (2.0) cumulative average. However, for the purposes of meeting the requirements of this program, “C” grades and above may be transferred from the Drake Law School to ISU, and will be evaluated as a “Pass.” Similarly, the Drake Law School will accept credit for classes at ISU in which the candidate receives a grade of “B” or better, but the grade received at ISU will not be used to compute the grade point average for the J.D.

For additional information on pursuing a master’s degree in political science at Iowa State, click here for the [M.A. in Political Science Handbook](#).