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 their graduating class. (See the current Iowa State University Graduate College Catalog and the requirements in the MA Handbook).

Prerequisite for admission to major graduate work in the Department of Political Science 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 at The Office of the Registrar’s website. 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, 527 Farm House Lane, 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, Amy Erica Smith at aesmith2@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 may also be
acceptable for transfer credit. No more than 6 credit hours of 400-numbered Political Science
course 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
Drake Law School Courses Eligible for Transfer to ISU

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

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.