AWARD OF DUAL DEGREES

Students must complete requirements for graduation at both institutions in order to receive the dual degrees. The degrees will be awarded concurrently.

TUITION

Students will pay tuition to California Western School of Law during years I, III and IV of the program, and tuition to San Diego State University during year II.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid goes through California Western School of Law in Years 1, 3, and 4 and San Diego State University in Year 2.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To inquire about the program, please contact:

Professor Ruth Hargrove
California Western School of Law
619-525-1432, 800-255-4252 x1463
rhargrove@cws.l.edu or

Dr. Dan Finnegan
SDSU School of Social Work
619-594-6850
dfinnega@mail.sdsu.edu
THE PROGRAM

The dual degree program affords students an opportunity to earn J.D. and M.S.W. degrees concurrently in four years of study. The program consists of an integrated curriculum specifically designed for those who are interested in acquiring the knowledge and skills pertinent to both disciplines. Students may choose from several areas of focus where law and social work frequently intersect, for example child welfare and mental health.

The goal of the program is to prepare future professionals who are competent in both disciplines. The areas of work in which both fields play significant roles are often complex and require expertise in counseling, administration and policy-making, beyond the underlying substantive knowledge. The program stresses an interdisciplinary approach, which values collaboration and communication skills.

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

Admission to the Dual Degree Program is limited to six students each year. Students must apply separately for admission to the two institutions. Once admitted to both schools, applicants will be selected for participation in the program by a special admissions committee consisting of representatives from both institutions. Admission will be based on the applicant’s GPA, LSAT score, relevant practice, and other experience.

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

Year I: Year I of the program is undertaken completely at California Western School of Law and consists of the traditional first year law curriculum.

Year II: Year II of the program is undertaken completely in the School of Social Work and basically follows the traditional first year M.S.W. curriculum.

Years III and IV: Years III and IV consist of courses taken at both schools. Both schools require a culminating experience. This requirement can be met jointly by either completing a thesis or a publishable article. The culminating experience requirement can be met separately, by completing the comprehensive exam at SDSU and completing a scholarly writing article for CWSL. The thesis or scholarly writing article is completed with oversight by faculty from both schools.

FIELD PRACTICUM-INTERNSHIP

Social work practicums of 16 hours/week are required in Years II and IV. The Year IV practicum also receives law school internship credit and is a special field placement that allows the student to study under professionals in both fields.