CONCURRENT DEGREE PROGRAM

University of California, Irvine
School of Law
Interdisciplinary by Nature

From the start, UC Irvine School of Law has embraced an interdisciplinary approach, where faculty and students engage in work at the very cutting edge of legal scholarship and legal practice.

Faculty members at UCI Law are influential scholars with a broad range of expertise. Many of them hold joint appointments in other departments, bringing law together with a variety of other disciplines, including political science, economics, social ecology, history, literary journalism, criminology, anthropology, psychology, sociology, business, transportation science, philosophy, and policy, planning and design.

UCI Law faculty also lead global discussions of the most critical and complex current legal and social issues, including access to justice, law and inequality, law and social change, immigration reform, race, gender and identity studies, the changing legal profession, climate change, election and campaign finance reform, dispute resolution, consumer protection, constitutional law, intellectual property law, women’s rights, international and transnational law, and much more.

What Sets UCI Apart

UC Irvine School of Law has the distinct advantage of being located on a university campus that already has strong interdisciplinary programs with law and related fields. In fact, UC Irvine is nationally known for its graduate programs in such fields as criminology; law and society; psychology and social behavior; anthropology; management and business; literature; history; performing arts; engineering; physical sciences; and biological sciences.

Who Should Apply

Highly qualified students interested in combining the study of law with graduate research and/or professional qualifications in cognate disciplines are invited to explore PLGS. The program is well-suited to students interested in professional or academic careers focused on the interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary study of law and legal institutions, policy analysis, and/or applied research in law-related fields, such as:

- Criminal justice and criminology
- Urban planning
- Environmental protection
- Discrimination
- Human rights
- Intellectual property

An Innovative and Flexible Concurrent Degree Program

Through the Program in Law & Graduate Studies (PLGS), students at the University of California, Irvine can pursue a J.D. from the Law School concurrently with a Master’s or Ph.D. in virtually any UCI graduate program. Designed to be one of the broadest programs of its kind, PLGS allows enormous latitude and options — giving students a chance to combine law with graduate research degrees in such areas as humanities, social sciences, life sciences, information and computer sciences, physical sciences and engineering, or with graduate professional degrees in business, planning and public policy, education, social work and public health.

PLGS was created to promote interdisciplinary study of law while also enabling students to obtain both a J.D. and an M.A., M.B.A., M.S., or Ph.D. in less time than would be required to earn both degrees separately. The normative time for completion of the program is four years for J.D./Master’s and J.D./M.B.A. and seven years for J.D./Ph.D. combinations.

How the Program Works

Applicants must submit separate applications for admission to UCI Law and to the graduate program of their choice. Once admitted for study into both components of their program, concurrent degree students will work with the PLGS director at UCI Law and the director of their graduate program to develop a plan that will permit efficient pursuit of both degrees. Ordinarily, students will begin their first year of law instruction after one or more years of graduate program study. Upon completion of the first year of law instruction, students will pursue a coordinated curriculum of upper-level law study and graduate program study and research.

Financial Assistance

PLGS students are eligible for financial support through their chosen graduate program while pursuing graduate degree studies and through UCI Law while pursuing law studies. The Law School offers up to full-tuition scholarship support to concurrent degree students during their semesters of full-time law school enrollment. These merit scholarships recognize the potential for outstanding law school performance and will be awarded to those whose academic records demonstrate exceptional promise as concurrent degree students. The scholarship may be renewed for up to six semesters of law school enrollment, so long as the student maintains good academic standing.

To encourage interdisciplinary research, the UCI Center in Law, Society and Culture also awards Microsemi/Peterson Fellowships annually. Funded by a gift from Jim Peterson, CEO of Microsemi Corp., the program allows fellows to participate in a yearlong set of activities to further their research training through intellectual collaboration and the production of an original project.
Interdisciplinary by Nature

From the start, UC Irvine School of Law has embraced an interdisciplinary approach, where faculty and students engage in work at the very cutting edge of legal scholarship and legal practice.

Faculty members at UCI Law are influential scholars with a broad range of expertise. Many of them hold joint appointments in other departments, bringing law together with a variety of other disciplines, including political science, economics, social ecology, history, literary journalism, criminology, anthropology, psychology, sociology, business, transportation science, philosophy, and policy, planning and design.

UCI Law faculty also lead global discussions of the most critical and complex current legal and social issues, including access to justice, law and inequality, law and social change, immigration reform, race, gender and identity studies, the changing legal profession, climate change, election and campaign finance reform, dispute resolution, consumer protection, constitutional law, intellectual property law, women's rights, international and transnational law, and much more.

What Sets UCI Apart

UC Irvine School of Law has the distinct advantage of being located on a university campus that already has strong interdisciplinary programs with law and related fields. In fact, UC Irvine is nationally known for its graduate programs in such fields as criminology; law and society; psychology and social behavior; anthropology; management and business; literature; history; performing arts; engineering; physical sciences; and biological sciences.

Who Should Apply

Highly qualified students interested in combining the study of law with graduate research and/or professional qualifications in cognate disciplines are invited to explore PLGS. The program is well-suited to students interested in professional or academic careers focused on the interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary study of law and legal institutions, policy analysis, and/or applied research in law-related fields, such as:

- Criminal justice and criminology
- Urban planning
- Environmental protection
- Discrimination
- Human rights
- Intellectual property

An Innovative and Flexible Concurrent Degree Program

Through the Program in Law & Graduate Studies (PLGS), students at the University of California, Irvine can pursue a J.D. from the Law School concurrently with a master's or Ph.D. in virtually any UCI graduate program. Designed to be one of the broadest programs of its kind, PLGS allows enormous latitude and options — giving students a chance to combine law with graduate research degrees in such areas as humanities, social sciences, life sciences, information and computer sciences, physical sciences and engineering, or with graduate professional degrees in business, planning and public policy, education, social work and public health.

PLGS was created to promote interdisciplinary study of law while also enabling students to obtain both a J.D. and an M.A., M.B.A., M.S. or Ph.D. in less time than would be required to earn both degrees separately. The normative time for completion of the program is four years for J.D./Master's and J.D./M.B.A. and seven years for J.D./Ph.D. combinations.

How the Program Works

Applicants must submit separate applications for admission to UCI Law and to the graduate program of their choice. Once admitted for study into both components of their program, concurrent degree students will work with the PLGS director at UCI Law and the director of their graduate program to develop a plan that will permit efficient pursuit of both degrees. Ordinarily, students will begin their first year of law instruction after one or more years of graduate program study. Upon completion of the first year of law instruction, students will pursue a coordinated curriculum of upper-level law study and graduate program study and research.

Financial Assistance

PLGS students are eligible for financial support through their chosen graduate program while pursuing graduate degree studies and through UCI Law while pursuing law studies. The Law School offers up to full-tuition scholarship support to concurrent degree students during their semesters of full-time law school enrollment. These merit scholarships recognize the potential for outstanding law school performance and will be awarded to those whose academic records demonstrate exceptional promise as concurrent degree students. The scholarship may be renewed for up to six semesters of law school enrollment, so long as the student maintains good academic standing.

To encourage interdisciplinary research, the UCI Center in Law, Society and Culture also awards Microsemi/Peterson Fellowships annually. Funded by a gift from Jim Peterson, CEO of Microsemi Corp., the program allows fellows to participate in a yearlong set of activities to further their research training through intellectual collaboration and the production of an original project.
Interdisciplinary by Nature

From the start, UC Irvine School of Law has embraced an interdisciplinary approach, where faculty and students engage in work at the very cutting edge of legal scholarship and legal practice.

Faculty members at UCI Law are influential scholars with a broad range of expertise. Many of them hold joint appointments in other departments, bringing law together with a variety of other disciplines, including political science, economics, social ecology, history, literary journalism, criminology, anthropology, psychology, sociology, business, transportation science, philosophy, and policy, planning and design.

UCI Law faculty also lead global discussions of the most critical and complex current legal and social issues, including access to justice, law and inequality, law and social change, immigration reform, race and identity studies, the changing legal profession, climate change, election and campaign finance reform, dispute resolution, consumer protection, constitutional law, intellectual property law, women’s rights, international and transnational law, and much more.

What Sets UCI Apart

UC Irvine School of Law has the distinct advantage of being located on a university campus that already has strong interdisciplinary programs with law and related fields. In fact, UC Irvine is nationally known for its graduate programs in such fields as criminology; law and society; psychology and social behavior; anthropology; management and business; literature; history; performing arts; engineering; physical sciences; and biological sciences.

Who Should Apply

Highly qualified students interested in combining the study of law with graduate research and/or professional qualifications in cognate disciplines are invited to explore PLGS. The program is well-suited to students interested in professional or academic careers focused on the interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary study of law and legal institutions, policy analysis, and/or applied research in law-related fields, such as:

- Criminal justice and criminology
- Urban planning
- Environmental protection
- Discrimination
- Human rights
- Intellectual property

How the Program Works

Applicants must submit separate applications for admission to UCI Law and to the graduate program of their choice. Once admitted for study into both components of their program, concurrent degree students will work with the PLGS director at UCI Law and the director of their graduate program to develop a plan that will permit efficient pursuit of both degrees. Ordinarily, students will begin their first year of law instruction after one or more years of graduate program study. Upon completion of the first year of law instruction, students will pursue a coordinated curriculum of upper-level law study and graduate program study and research.

Financial Assistance

PLGS students are eligible for financial support through their chosen graduate program while pursuing graduate degree studies and through UCI Law while pursuing law studies. The Law School offers up to full-tuition scholarship support to concurrent degree students during their semesters of full-time law school enrollment. These merit scholarships recognize the potential for outstanding law school performance and will be awarded to those whose academic records demonstrate exceptional promise as concurrent degree students. The scholarship may be renewed for up to six semesters of law school enrollment, so long as the student maintains good academic standing.

To encourage interdisciplinary research, the UCI Center in Law, Society and Culture also awards Microsemi/Peterson Fellowships annually. Funded by a gift from Jim Peterson, CEO of Microsemi Corp., the program allows fellows to participate in a yearlong set of activities to further their research training through intellectual collaboration and the production of an original project.
“UCI is the perfect place to pursue a concurrent degree because the Law School and the various graduate programs across the University are flooded with faculty focusing on empirical, normative and theoretical studies of law. Moreover, our program is one of the most comprehensive in the country. We offer students maximum flexibility and choice to combine a J.D. with virtually any graduate program on campus. Interdisciplinary training in law at UCI will not only position students for careers in academia, public service or public policy, but will provide students with additional tools to enter professional practice in law, business, engineering and many other areas.”

Shauhin Talesh
Director, Program in Law & Graduate Studies
Assistant Professor of Law with Joint Appointments in Criminology, Law & Society and Sociology

“Being in a joint J.D./Ph.D. program at UC Irvine has been an amazing experience. UCI is filled with accomplished lawyers and academics who take teaching and mentorship very seriously. The faculty members at UCI Law are highly motivated to create a new generation of legal practitioners and academic thinkers. They’ve spent a great deal of time advising me in order to ensure that I will be able to have the career that I want. I can’t imagine a more supportive, energizing environment, and I’m confident that my education will prepare me to both practice law and enter academia.”

Matthew Fritz-Mauer ’16
J.D./Ph.D. in Criminology, Law and Society
2014-15 Microsemi/Peterson Fellow

“I came to UC Irvine because I knew I wanted concurrent degrees. My desire to study law was rooted in a love for cities and a deep interest in policy. At UCI, I knew I could combine a J.D. and a master’s degree in urban and regional planning and get the exact education I wanted. Because of UCI Law’s focus on public service and interdisciplinary studies, these academic programs complemented each other in a way I didn’t find at other schools.”

Lauren Gruber ’14
J.D./Master of Urban and Regional Planning
Law Fellow, Accountability Counselor

www.law.uci.edu
“Being in a joint J.D./Ph.D. program at UC Irvine has been an amazing experience. UCI is filled with accomplished lawyers and academics who take teaching and mentorship very seriously. The faculty members at UCI Law are highly motivated to create a new generation of legal practitioners and academic thinkers. They’ve spent a great deal of time advising me in order to ensure that I will be able to have the career that I want. I can’t imagine a more supportive, energizing environment, and I’m confident that my education will prepare me to both practice law and enter academia.”

Matthew Fritz-Mauer ’16  
J.D./Ph.D. in Criminology, Law and Society  
2014-15 Microsemi/Peterson Fellow

“I came to UC Irvine because I knew I wanted concurrent degrees. My desire to study law was rooted in a love for cities and a deep interest in policy. At UCI, I knew I could combine a J.D. and a master’s degree in urban and regional planning and get the exact education I wanted. Because of UCI Law’s focus on public service and interdisciplinary studies, these academic programs complemented each other in a way I didn’t find at other schools.”

Lauren Gruber ’14  
J.D./Master of Urban and Regional Planning  
Law Fellow, Accountability Counsel

University of California, Irvine  
School of Law

www.law.uci.edu