J.D./M.P.S. IN MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND SOCIETY

Overview

The University of Miami School of Law and the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) offer a joint degree program in law and Marine Ecosystems and Society (MES). Upon completion of this program, a student earns the Juris Doctor degree from the School of Law and a Master of Professional Science in Marine Ecosystems and Society (https://www.law.miami.edu/academics/jd-mps-marine-ecosystems-and-society/) from RSMAS.

The M.P.S. degree allows students to focus their coursework in one of four areas:

1. **Aquaculture Track**: Focuses on the environmental, technological, social, economic, legal and political aspects of sustainable aquaculture.

2. **Coastal Zone Management Track**: Gain exposure to the legal and governance frameworks associated with the management of near-shore waters. These areas present unique challenges to resource managers in the shipping, tourism, development, fisheries, aquaculture and oil industry.

3. **Marine Conservation Track**: Design a curriculum around personal career goals while focusing on innovative solutions to current marine ecosystem threats. This track combines science, law, economics, and policy to foster the conservation awareness of marine ecosystems.

4. **Underwater Archaeology**: (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/underwater-archeology/) Focuses on the theory, field techniques, and management practices necessary to work within the field of archaeology and the broader general field of marine sciences. Coursework integrates topics such as site mapping and documentation, interpretation of shipwrecks and submerged sites, best management practices, marine protected areas, and marine survey technology. Underwater Archaeology (UARCH) students receive training as AAUS Science Divers during their first semester in the MPS Program. Students will have opportunities to work side-by-side with professional archaeologists through internships and field projects with private, public, or non-governmental agencies, both nationally and internationally, and conduct relevant fieldwork. UARCH applicants and students should be aware of and follow the guidelines (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/_assets/pdf/dr-hanselmanns-underwater-archeology-track-guide.pdf) outlined by UARCH faculty Track Leader, Dr. Frederick Hanselmann. (https://people.miami.edu/profile/fhanselmann@rsmas.miami.edu)

Admissions

- Students who apply for the joint J.D./M.P.S. program must apply to both the School of Law and to Master of Professional Science program at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS).
- Prospective students must achieve a qualifying score on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) and on the General Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for admission to the respective schools. A minimum, combined score of 297 (Verbal + Quantitative only) is required to be considered for MPS.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation are required for admission to RSMAS. An applicant may use letters submitted to his/her law school application for consideration into RSMAS. Applicants must submit a written request to the law school in order to release his/her letters of recommendation to the MPS office for his/her RSMAS application.
- Applicants must submit official transcripts from all previous and current academic institutions, even if credits were not awarded. Applicants must submit a written request to the law school in order to release his/her transcripts to the MPS office for his/her RSMAS application. University of Miami (UM) alumni and/or current students are not required to submit an official transcript from UM as part of the application process; the MPS office at RSMAS has access to UM transcripts.
- An applicant must notify both schools that he or she is applying for the joint J.D./M.P.S. program and, in order to remain in the joint program, must meet the minimum standards of both schools.

Credits

A student may complete requirements for both degrees within seven regular semesters or, subject to course availability, in an intensive program of six regular semesters and two full summers. The joint degree program saves a student 12 credits over earning the degrees separately. An individual would essentially complete 82 credits (rather than the normal 88) in law courses and 24 credits (rather than the normal 30) in marine and atmospheric science courses for a total of 106 credits in order to receive the J.D. and the M.P.S. degrees. A maximum of 5 credits from the law school must be petitioned and approved for transfer to the student’s graduate record in order to meet the 30-credit minimum for a master’s degree. Prior to submitting a formal petition to the Graduate School, a student’s academic advisor from the law school and the MPS Director/Associate Director must approve the credits requested for transfer.

Curriculum

The student’s work in the joint degree program, whether connected with a course, seminar or individual research project at the School of Law or the Rosenstiel School, must result in a substantial research project of publishable quality in marine law or policy or related scientific issues. Students may use their required upper-class research paper at the School of Law to fulfill this requirement. JD/MPS students should follow the MPS Checklist (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/our-students/form/), which outlines requirements for all JD/MPS students regardless of track.

Requirements: Juris Doctor (J.D.)

Students must complete at least 12 credits from among the following courses or seminars:
Requirements: RSMAS courses are identified and organized by each MPS track (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/)

A student must complete 24 credits of courses from RSMAS:

Courses (https://graduate.rsmas.miami.edu/students/course-schedules/) will be updated from time to time and students should consult with a faculty advisor, or other designated person, prior to registering for any course not specifically listed above, or to ensure a course not listed will be credited toward this degree. RSMAS, Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society, makes no representation that all of the above courses will be available to any given student at all times during the course of his or her studies.

For More Information
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Admission Requirements
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Curriculum Requirements
Curriculum within the MPS program will be decided on a case-by-case basis during academic advising. However, students select from a variety of multidisciplinary courses across many departments and schools at RSMAS/UM, in a holistic effort to meet their personal and professional goals. JD/MPS students may follow the Plan of Study Grid corresponding to their respective area of focus, which identifies required and elective courses. Students must enroll in graduate level courses during their time a RSMAS; no credit will be awarded for undergraduate courses.

- Aquaculture Track (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/aquaculture/)
- Coastal Zone Management Track (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/coastal-zone-management/)
Plan of Study

JD/MPS students may follow the Plan of Study Grid corresponding to their respective area of focus. The Plan of Study Grid identifies required and elective courses for each area of focus; however, a student’s schedule will be decided on a case-by-case basis during academic advising. JD/MPS students select from a variety of multidisciplinary courses across many departments and schools at RSMAS/UM, in a holistic effort to meet their personal and professional goals.

- Marine Conservation Track
- Underwater Archaeology

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