

University Senate

Proposed: September 24, 2010
Adopted: September 24, 2010
by voice vote with no dissent

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM LEADING TO
THE THREE-YEAR J.D./M.B.A. DEGREE**

WHEREAS, there is an increasing demand for people trained in both law and business, and

WHEREAS, students enrolled in the Law School and the Business School as well as applicants to both schools have requested a three-year J.D./M.B.A. program, and

WHEREAS, the proposed three-year JD/MBA allows students to enter the workforce a full year earlier than the existing four-year program does, and

WHEREAS, four of our peer schools offer accelerated joint degree programs, and

WHEREAS, the new program creates a number of jointly taught offerings that allow students increased access to interdisciplinary study and allow both faculties increased opportunities for cross-University collaboration, and

WHEREAS, the new program will not replace any existing Columbia programs,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate establish the Three-Year J.D./M.B.A. Degree.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Education Committee shall review the program in five years.

Proponent:

Committee on Education

Purpose:

Columbia Law School and Columbia Business School are jointly proposing a new three-year J.D./M.B.A. Dual Degree Program that will complement the existing four-year J.D./M.B.A. program. This new program will take advantage of significant untapped synergies between Columbia Business and Law Schools to establish an accelerated J.D./M.B.A. program that will (i) increase the number of courses that are jointly taught and cross-listed between the two schools, and (ii) shorten the required period of residence from four to three years. This program identifies existing law courses that are particularly important for business students, especially those interested in corporate finance, and existing business courses that are particularly useful to law students, particularly those interested in business law. The program creates a number of jointly taught offerings that allow students increased access to interdisciplinary study and allow both faculties increased opportunities for cross-University collaboration.

In the program, students spend their first year in residence enrolled in the standard first-year law curriculum, their second year in residence enrolled in the standard first-year business curriculum, and their third year in residence taking courses in both schools. During the second and third years, the student course load is larger than is typical for a law student, but not for a business student. In addition, students may take intensive law courses in August of the second year. This combination of intensive August terms, jointly taught and cross-listed courses, and the relatively high course load allows a select group of highly motivated students to earn both degrees on this accelerated schedule.