

Harvard Kennedy School
Joint and Concurrent Degree Programs

COMBINED DEGREE GUIDE

2022-2023



HARVARDKennedy School
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
About the Combined Degree	2
How Do Joint and Concurrent Degrees Differ?	2
Approved Combined Degree Programs	2
The Graduate Institute, Geneva	4
Advantages and Disadvantages of a Combined Degree Program	4
Admission and Enrollment	5
Applying to a Combined Degree Program	5
More Admission Information	6
Enrolling in a Combined Degree Program	6
Academic Rules	7
Meeting HKS Course and Residency Requirements	7
Number and Type of Required Courses	7
Cross Registration	10
Residency Requirements	10
Switching to the MPA Program	10
Policy Area of Concentration	11
Policy Analysis Exercise and Second Year Policy Analysis	11
Logistics	12
Staying in Touch with HKS	12
Receiving or Applying for Financial Aid	12
Which School Provides Financial Aid?	
Where and When Do I Apply?	12
Deferring HKS Admission: Impact on Financial Aid Package	13
Avoiding Early Repayment When Moving Between Schools	13
Visa Documentation for International Students	14
Summer Internship Fund	14
Health Insurance	14
Transitioning Smoothly Between Schools	15
Graduating	15
Contact Information	16

INTRODUCTION

A number of Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) students pursue joint and concurrent degrees with professional graduate schools either at Harvard or other academic institutions approved by HKS faculty members. This challenging degree track is rewarding, but not for everyone.

This guide is designed to help you—current and prospective HKS students—understand the intricacies of a combined degree experience to determine whether it is the right fit for your unique academic, career and personal aspirations.

If you are a combined degree student currently enrolled at HKS, you will benefit from this guide as well. You will need to have a clear understanding of the rules and regulations at both schools, and this guide can be useful in navigating the HKS portion of your degree program.

About the Combined Degree

Joint and concurrent degrees allow you to earn two degrees in less time by reducing your coursework and residency requirements. To be eligible, you must be admitted to HKS as well as a professional graduate school either at Harvard or another academic institution approved by HKS faculty members. In recent years, about 25 percent of our two-year master's students enroll in a joint or concurrent degree program.

Typically, you complete your degree in one year less than if you earned them consecutively. For instance, it takes five years to earn a Master in Public Policy (MPP) and a Juris Doctor (JD) separately—two years for an MPP and three for a JD—but only four years when pursued concurrently.

As a joint or concurrent degree student, you are committing yourself to two degree programs at two different institutions. Because of this commitment, HKS will only award your Harvard Kennedy School degree once you have met the requirements for both degrees. If you decide to no longer pursue the joint or concurrent degree, you must satisfy the HKS residence requirement and all other degree requirements to be awarded your HKS degree.

How Do Joint and Concurrent Degrees Differ?

Harvard Kennedy School offers two distinct combined degree programs.

The joint degree program with either [Harvard Business School](#) or [Harvard Law School](#) features integrated coursework that has been developed by faculty members from HKS and HBS or HLS to provide a more holistic learning experience.

The concurrent degree program allows you to pursue degrees at HKS and at a partner school; however, the coursework is not as closely integrated as the joint degree program. As a student in a concurrent degree program, you are responsible for weaving together the two halves of your learning experience on your own.

Approved Combined Degree Programs

Harvard Kennedy School faculty members approved 22 joint and concurrent degree programs with partner schools both within and outside Harvard. Aside from U.S. medical schools, it is unlikely HKS will approve additional joint or concurrent degree programs at this point in time.

Only MPP, MPA/ID or two-year MPA students may enroll in combined degree programs.

› **Joint Degrees with Harvard Business School or Harvard Law School**

HKS has formal joint degree programs with Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School. Due to the unique nature of the curricular requirements, you may only enroll in these programs if you are an MPP or MPA/ID student.

As an HKS/HBS student, you spend your first year at HKS, the second year at HBS, and one semester at each school for your final year. As an HKS/HLS student, you spend a full year—either during your first or second year of the combined program—at HKS to complete your core curriculum, after which you are in residence at HLS; you register at HKS for the courses you need to complete your HKS degree.

As a joint degree student, you must complete specifically designed coursework as well as a capstone seminar, which includes either the Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE) or Second Year Policy Analysis (SYPA) for HKS/HBS students, or the Integrated Written Project (IWP) for HKS/HLS candidates.

› **Concurrent Degrees with Harvard Divinity School, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Harvard Medical School or Harvard School of Dental Medicine**

You can earn concurrent degrees with [Harvard Divinity School](#) (HDS), [Harvard Graduate School of Design](#) (GSD), [Harvard Medical School](#) (HMS) or [Harvard School of Dental Medicine](#) (HSDM).

As an HKS student concurrent with HDS or GSD, you must spend one year at that school, one year at HKS, and one semester at each school for your final year. If you are concurrent with HMS or HSDM, you spend one year at HKS, after which you are in residence at HMS or HSDM and register at HKS for courses you need to complete your HKS degree.

› **Concurrent Degrees with Schools Other Than Harvard**

You may combine your MPP, MPA/ID or two-year MPA degrees with a business, law or medical degree so long as it is:

- + a professional degree (e.g., an MBA or JD, not a PhD or academic master's degree)
- + at least a two-year program
- + completed at an institution that has been approved by HKS faculty members

As a concurrent degree student, you alternate between HKS and the other school throughout your degree program rather than completing one degree before beginning the other. You must complete at least three semesters at HKS. If you are an MPP or MPA/ID concurrent degree student, you must spend a full academic year at HKS to complete your core curriculum, and then split your final year between your two schools. If you are an MPA student, you may split either your first or final year at HKS; if you choose to split your first year, you must be in residence at HKS for the fall semester.

You may pursue concurrent degrees with the following approved non-Harvard schools:

BUSINESS

- + MIT Sloan School of Management
- + Stanford Graduate School of Business
- + Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth
- + Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania

LAW

- + Berkeley Law, University of California
- + Columbia Law School
- + Duke University School of Law
- + Georgetown University Law Center
- + New York University School of Law
- + Northwestern University School of Law
- + Stanford Law School
- + University of Michigan Law School
- + University of Pennsylvania Law School
- + Yale Law School

MEDICAL

- + University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
- + Ad hoc programs may be permitted with other U.S.-based Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)-accredited medical schools. Email jointconcurrentdegrees@hks.harvard.edu if you are interested in pursuing a concurrent degree with other medical schools.

› **The Graduate Institute, Geneva**

HKS has partnered with the [Graduate Institute, Geneva](#) to offer a two-year dual degree program that may only be combined with the Mid-Career MPA (MC/MPA) Program. As a dual degree student, you pursue a [Master in International Affairs](#) or a [Master in Development Studies](#) at the Institute, and earn an MPA degree at HKS through the MC/MPA Program during your second year. After completing the program requirements for both schools, you will earn two master's degrees in two years rather than three (if you had attended the programs consecutively).

Advantages and Disadvantages of a Combined Degree Program

There are realities associated with pursuing a joint or concurrent degree. Consider the advantages and disadvantages listed below:

› **Advantages—by combining two degrees, you:**

- + develop broader insight from a second discipline
- + gain additional skills and perspective in a shorter amount of time
- + save on tuition and enter the job market faster than earning two degrees independently
- + present additional degree credentials to potential employers

› **Disadvantages—pursuing a combined degree does have some costs. You:**

- + typically graduate with classmates other than those with whom you began your program
- + take fewer elective credits because of reduced course requirements, but the degree program core or distribution requirements remain the same
- + assume extra moving expenses if pursuing a concurrent degree with a school outside the Cambridge/Boston area
- + face logistical challenges as you balance the demands of two different programs

ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT

You must be admitted to HKS as well as the other school if you are interested in pursuing a combined degree. Admission to one program does not guarantee admission to the other.

Applying to a Combined Degree Program

Different schools have different application requirements and options. See below for a brief explanation.

› **Harvard Business School**

You must apply and be admitted to both HKS and HBS in the same year. If admitted to both schools, you can opt in to the HKS/HBS joint degree program. All joint HKS/HBS candidates spend their first year at HKS.

› **Harvard Law School**

You have the option to apply to the HKS/HLS joint degree program at the same time or apply to one school while enrolled in the first year at either school. If admitted at the same time, you can typically decide whether to begin the program at HKS or HLS.

Once admitted to both schools, you must follow instructions from HKS and HLS to formally enroll as a joint degree student and confirm where to be in residence for each academic year. Note that potential financial assistance packages awarded by HKS—including merit-based fellowships—may be rescinded if you begin at HLS.

Students who are in their second or third years at HLS may not apply to HKS for the joint degree program.

› **Concurrent Degrees**

There are two options to apply to a concurrent degree program. You may apply to HKS and the partner school at the same time, or apply to one school while enrolled in the first year at the other. If you are already in medical school, you should apply to HKS during the admission cycle before you would like to enroll.

› **The Graduate Institute, Geneva**

Students pursuing the combined degree with The Graduate Institute, Geneva spend their first year at the Institute to pursue a Master in International Affairs or a Master in Development Studies, and their second year at HKS in the Mid-Career MPA Program. Applicants may apply to both programs at the same time or apply to HKS while enrolled in the first year at the Institute. Applicants who begin their studies at HKS are not eligible to enroll at the Institute through this program.

More Admission Information

You are typically required to submit GRE or GMAT scores as part of your HKS application.

If you are an HKS/HLS applicant, you may submit LSAT scores only if you are a first-year at HLS, but you must submit a written request to the HLS admissions office to have your LSAT scores sent to HKS. If you are an applicant not enrolled at HLS, you must submit GRE or GMAT scores.

If you are an HKS/HMS applicant, you may submit your MCAT score rather than the GRE or GMAT, but you must submit a written request to the HMS admissions office to have your MCAT scores sent to HKS. If you are applying from medical schools other than HMS, and do not have valid GRE or GMAT scores, please be in touch with the HKS Admissions Office.

The MPA/ID Program does not accept LSAT or MCAT scores.

If you are a first-year HKS student applying to a concurrent degree program that requires a school official to complete a certification form (“Dean’s Certification” or “Statement of Good Standing”), provide the form and a stamped envelope addressed to the correct admissions office to the Registrar’s Office.

Enrolling in a Combined Degree Program

Once you are admitted and decide to enroll at HKS and your other school, you must share your plans with the appropriate HKS office.

Prior to matriculating at HKS, you must notify the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid by submitting the “Combined Degree Study Plan” in the New Admit portal. If you are admitted to a joint or combined degree program after beginning your studies at HKS, you must e-mail the HKS Registrar’s Office (hks_registrar@hks.harvard.edu) to notify them of your change in status. Once your status is officially changed, you will have access in my.harvard.edu to submit your “flight plan”—the schedule for when you will be in residence at your two schools. You must also notify your other school about your joint or concurrent degree status and submit any required paperwork.

You are expected to follow your submitted flight plan, but if your plans change you must notify the HKS Registrar’s Office as soon as possible and update your flight plan in my.harvard.edu. It is your responsibility to ensure that your flight plan accurately reflects your intended enrollments.

Please note: while you are pursuing your concurrent degree at a non-Harvard school, Harvard considers you an inactive student without access to library facilities, gyms, and health insurance.

ACADEMIC RULES

As a joint or concurrent degree student, you earn two degrees at the same time and are given a “discount” on your coursework and residency requirements. You must keep careful track of the rules and requirements specific to your course of study. You are responsible for understanding the HKS academic regulations to ensure that you are eligible to graduate from your degree programs.

Meeting HKS Course and Residency Requirements

You are responsible for ensuring that you meet all HKS course and residency requirements to be eligible to graduate.

› **Number and Type of Required Courses**

The number and type of required courses for your combined degree vary based on your program. Different scenarios are illustrated below.

JOINT DEGREES	HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL		MPP	MPA/ID	MPA	MC/MPA
		# of HKS credits	52 HKS + 3 Joint	60 HKS + 3 Joint	N/A	N/A
		HKS requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPP core – First-Year Joint Degree Seminar – Second-Year Joint Degree Seminar – Third-Year Business-Government Integrative Course – PAE/Seminar** – At least 12 elective credits (Year 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPA/ID core – First-Year Joint Degree Seminar – Second-Year Joint Degree Seminar – Third-Year Business-Government Integrative Course – SYPA/Seminar – At least 8 elective credits (Year 3) 	N/A	N/A
		Years total	3	3	N/A	N/A
	Semesters in-residence at HKS	3	3	N/A	N/A	
	HARVARD LAW SCHOOL		MPP	MPA/ID	MPA	MC/MPA
		# of HKS credits	48 + 2 Joint	58 + 2 Joint	N/A	N/A
		HKS requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPP core – Joint Degree Program Seminar (Year 3) – Integrated Written Project, including writing workshop module (Year 4) – At least 12 elective credits after completion of Year 1 at HKS (preferably in different semesters) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPA/ID core – Joint Degree Program Seminar (Year 3) – Integrated Written Project, including writing workshop module (Year 4) – At least 12 elective credits (preferably in different semesters) 	N/A	N/A
		Years total	4	4	N/A	N/A
	Semesters in-residence at HKS*	2	2	N/A	N/A	

* You must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits per semester to satisfy the HKS residency requirement.

** If you are a joint or concurrent MPP student and would like to be an **International and Global Affairs (IGA)** concentrator, you must also complete IGA-100, 8 IGA-approved distribution credits, and 4 additional elective credits.

CONCURRENT DEGREES	HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL or HARVARD SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE		MPP	MPA/ID	MPA (HSDM only)	MC/MPA
		# of HKS credits	48	52	48	N/A
		HKS requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPP core – PAE/Seminar** – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPA/ID core – SYPA/Seminar – 0 to 12 additional elective credits (depending on other school) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Four credits in each of the 3 methodological areas – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements 	N/A
		Years total	5	5	5	N/A
		Semesters in-residence at HKS*	2	3	2	N/A
CONCURRENT DEGREES	HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL or HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN		MPP	MPA/ID	MPA	MC/MPA
		# of HKS credits	48	52	48	N/A
		HKS requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPP core – PAE/Seminar** – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPA/ID core – SYPA/Seminar – 0 to 12 additional elective credits (depending on other school) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Four credits in each of the 3 methodological areas – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements 	N/A
		Years total	3	3	3	N/A
		Semesters in-residence at HKS*	3 HDS / 2 GSD	3 HDS / 2 GSD	3 HDS / 2 GSD	N/A
NON-HARVARD CONCURRENT DEGREES	BUSINESS MIT Sloan School of Management Stanford Graduate School of Business Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania		MPP	MPA/ID	MPA	MC/MPA
		# of HKS credits	48	52	48	N/A
		HKS requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPP core – PAE/Seminar** – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPA/ID core – SYPA/Seminar – 0 to 12 additional elective credits (depending on other school) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Four credits in each of the 3 methodological areas – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements 	N/A
		Years total	3	3	3	N/A
		Semesters in-residence at HKS*	3	3	3	N/A

* You must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits per semester to satisfy the HKS residency requirement.

** If you are a joint or concurrent MPP student and would like to be an **International and Global Affairs (IGA)** concentrator, you must also complete IGA-100, 8 IGA-approved distribution credits, and 4 additional elective credits.

NON-HARVARD CONCURRENT DEGREES	LAW		MPP	MPA/ID	MPA	MC/MPA
	Berkeley Law, University of California	# of HKS credits	48	52	48	N/A
	Columbia Law School	HKS requirements	– MPP core – PAE/Seminar** – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements	– MPA/ID core – SYPA/Seminar – 0 to 12 additional elective credits (depending on other school)	– Four credits in each of the 3 methodological areas – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements	N/A
	Duke University School of Law					
	Georgetown Law					
	New York University School of Law	Years total	4	4	4	N/A
	Northwestern University School of Law	Semesters in-residence at HKS*	3	3	3	N/A
	Stanford Law School					
	University of Michigan Law School					
	University of Pennsylvania Law School					
Yale Law School						
MEDICINE			MPP	MPA/ID	MPA	MC/MPA
	University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine	# of HKS credits	48	52	48	N/A
	Other accredited U.S. medical schools on a case-by-case basis	HKS requirements	– MPP core – PAE/Seminar** – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements	– MPA/ID core – SYPA/Seminar – 0 to 12 additional elective credits (depending on other school)	– Four credits in each of the 3 methodological areas – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements	N/A
		Years total	5	5	5	N/A
		Semesters in-residence at HKS*	3	3	3	N/A
DUAL DEGREE	THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE, GENEVA		MPP	MPA/ID	MPA	MC/MPA
		# of HKS credits	N/A	N/A	N/A	32
		HKS requirements	N/A	N/A	N/A	– Four credits in each of the 3 methodological areas – Additional elective credits to fulfill overall requirements
		Years total	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
		Semesters in-residence at HKS*	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 + MC/MPA Summer Program Mason Program Summer Seminar (if applicable)

* You must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits per semester to satisfy the HKS residency requirement.

** If you are a joint or concurrent MPP student and would like to be an **International and Global Affairs (IGA)** concentrator, you must also complete IGA-100, 8 IGA-approved distribution credits, and 4 additional elective credits.

› **Cross Registration**

You must be aware that zero (0) credits will be applied to an HKS degree for courses that are in the same discipline as your joint or concurrent degree—regardless of whether you are completing the other degree at a Harvard school. For example, if you are pursuing an MPP/JD degree with Columbia Law School, you cannot apply any courses completed at HLS to the 48 credits required for an MPP degree. This rule is retroactive. If you are a first-year HKS student and have applied or plan to apply to other schools for a combined degree, cross-registered courses in that discipline cannot be applied to your HKS degree requirements.

› **Residency Requirements**

Pursuing a combined degree reduces the amount of time you are required to be in residence at HKS from four semesters to either two or three—depending on the school where you are completing your combined degree.

As an HKS/HLS, HKS/HMS or HKS/HSDM degree student, you must be in residence at HKS for a full academic year, after which you can register into HKS during your remaining years at Harvard to complete your HKS degree requirements. As an HKS/HBS student, you must be in residence at HKS for a full academic year, then spend the next academic year at HBS and register for courses at both schools during year three. As an HKS/GSD student, you must successfully complete a minimum of 12 credits at HKS and a minimum of 12 credits at GSD during year 3 of the dual degree program. These credits may be completed throughout the third year. If you are pursuing combined degrees with HDS or a school other than Harvard, you must be in residence at HKS for a full academic year plus one additional semester before graduating from either degree program.

You must be enrolled in at least 12 credits each term while at HKS to satisfy residency requirements. This may mean you will have more total credits than the minimum required to earn your HKS degree.

If you are a concurrent degree student, you may only enroll in January term courses at HKS if you will be in residence for the spring semester that immediately follows.

MIT does not reduce the required number of credits needed to earn an MIT Sloan MBA. If you are pursuing a concurrent degree with MIT Sloan, you can cross-register into courses at MIT while you are in residence at HKS; however, these cross-registered MIT courses cannot be applied toward your HKS degree.

› **Switching to the MPA Program**

If you are a concurrent MPP student, you may switch to the MPA Program if you meet the admissions pre-requisites for the degree. This includes a minimum of three years of full-time work experience and graduate-level course work similar to the MPP core curriculum.

If you are pursuing a concurrent MBA, you may switch once you have completed the first-year core curriculum of either degree program (MPP or MBA). If you are pursuing a concurrent degree other than an MBA, you are eligible to switch programs after completing the first-year MPP core curriculum. You may not switch to the MPA Program if you are pursuing a degree with HBS, HLS or HMS.

You must make your program change request prior to the start of the semester. If you are interested in switching to the MPA Program, contact MPP_Program@hks.harvard.edu.

› **Policy Area of Concentration**

Generally, as a joint or concurrent degree student you do not need to complete the additional requirements for a Policy Area of Concentration. If you are a joint or concurrent MPP student who would like to pursue the **International and Global Affairs (IGA)** concentration, you should refer to the IGA Fact Sheet for more information.

Policy Analysis Exercise and Second Year Policy Analysis

If you are a combined degree MPP student—with the exception of joint HKS/HLS students—you must complete the Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE) and related seminar. If you are a combined degree MPA/ID student—with the exception of joint HKS/HLS students—you must complete the Second Year Policy Analysis (SYPA).

As an HKS/HLS student, you must complete the Joint Degree Program Seminar in Year 3 and the Integrated Written Project and related writing workshop in Year 4 instead of the PAE or SYPA requirement.

The PAE and SYPA seminars are held from September through March. If you are a concurrent student at HKS during the fall semester, you can complete your PAE or SYPA in late December or early January, or adhere to the March deadline. If you are an MPP candidate who is only at HKS in the spring semester, you can begin your PAE during the fall semester while not in residence or wait to begin your PAE when you arrive at HKS in the spring. In either case, you must contact your PAE or SYPA seminar leader(s) at the beginning of the academic year to establish a timeline and ask for guidance. All students must complete their PAE or SYPA by the March deadline.

If you are a joint MPP or MPA/ID student pursuing an MBA at HBS, you must identify an HBS advisor—in addition to your HKS advisor—for your PAE or SYPA project. Similarly, if you are concurrent with HMS, you must identify an HMS mentor to oversee your project.

If you are a concurrent student who is required to spend three semesters in residence at HKS, you receive full-course credit for the PAE or SYPA seminar during your final semester, despite the seminar being a full-year course. The credits associated with the PAE or SYPA seminar will be applied to the 12-credit minimum needed to meet the residency requirement.

LOGISTICS

Completing a combined degree has unique challenges, particularly being away from the HKS community and fulfilling requirements for two schools. This section provides some practical information and tips on how to ensure a smoother experience.

Please note: While you are pursuing your concurrent degree at a non-Harvard school, Harvard considers you an inactive student without access to library facilities, gyms, and health insurance.

Staying in Touch with HKS

Before leaving for your other school, you must share your new mailing address with the HKS Registrar's Office to ensure that you receive mail from HKS; you can do this at my.harvard.edu. You are urged to check your HKS e-mail regularly. If your timing changes after submitting a flight plan, you must notify the HKS Registrar's Office as soon as possible to confirm when you will return to HKS.

Receiving or Applying for Financial Assistance

This section addresses some commonly asked questions about financial assistance, which you may receive to fund your education. Every situation is different, so we urge you to meet with your assigned financial aid counselor to talk about your degree plans or contact the HKS Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.

› **Which School Provides Financial Assistance? Where and When Do I Apply?**

Financial assistance is awarded for a specific semester, term or academic year by the school where you are registered for that semester or term. Stay up to date on the financial assistance application deadlines and requirements for HKS and your other school. If you receive a two-year HKS fellowship but will be in residence for only two or three semesters as a full-time HKS student, you will receive funding only for those semesters. The following examples illustrate some different scenarios.

+ **I am pursuing a combined degree with a non-Harvard school**

Financial assistance is only provided by the school in which you will be enrolled at any given semester or term. You must apply for financial assistance at each school for the semesters that you will be enrolled. At HKS, you will only apply for financial assistance when you are submitting your HKS admission application; assistance will be renewed each semester unless otherwise advised. Aid offered and accepted during the financial aid process will be provided during your HKS residency according to your flight plan.

For example, if you are a concurrent degree student with Wharton, you will apply for financial assistance at HKS at the following time:

Enrolled term	School	Where to apply	When to apply
Fall 2022 and Spring 2023	HKS	HKS	Before your initial enrollment at HKS
Fall 2023 and Spring 2024	Wharton	Wharton	Wharton school policy
Fall 2024	Wharton	Wharton	Wharton school policy
Spring 2025	HKS	HKS	No application process

In this scenario, you will return to HKS for your third semester in Spring 2025 and must notify the HKS Office of Admissions and Financial Aid of your enrollment before the start of the 2024–2025 academic year.

+ **I am pursuing a combined degree with HBS, HDS or GSD**

If you are enrolled at HBS, HDS or GSD, you will follow the same timeline as students pursuing concurrent degrees with non-Harvard schools as illustrated. Because you are required to complete three semesters at HKS, you will apply for financial assistance when you submit your HKS admission application.

+ **I am pursuing a combined degree with HLS, HMS or HSDM**

If you are enrolled at HLS, HMS or HSDM, you must apply for financial assistance for the year you are in residence at HKS. For the remainder of your degree program, you will apply for and receive financial assistance from your other school. Even when you are taking classes at HKS but the majority of your courses are held at HLS or HMS, you must apply for and receive financial assistance from HLS or HMS.

> **Deferring HKS Admission: Impact on Financial Assistance Package**

Any financial assistance packages—including merit-based fellowships—that you may receive are only distributed in the year in which they are awarded. If you apply to HKS and the other school at the same time, and defer HKS admission to begin at the other school, you must reapply for financial assistance and meet all applicable deadlines before enrolling at HKS. There are no guarantees that the HKS financial assistance package will be the same combination of fellowships, scholarships, work-study and loans that were originally awarded.

> **Avoiding Early Repayment When Moving Between Schools**

If you have taken or plan to take out student loans to help fund your education (all degrees including undergraduate), you cannot go into repayment while completing your degrees. The U.S. government pays the interest on subsidized loans while you are enrolled in school; however, your loans will accrue interest once you graduate.

If this scenario applies to you, your loans from one school do not need to go into repayment while you are enrolled at the other so long as the second school has reported you to the National Student Loan Clearinghouse as an enrolled student. You can check your enrollment status on the U.S. Department of Education database. Regardless of which school you are attending, you should be listed as full time at the top of the screen. If this is not the case, contact the Registrar's Office of the school in which you are currently enrolled as soon as possible to make sure your loans do not go into repayment.

If you are completing a concurrent degree with a non-Harvard school and have student loans that have extended beyond the grace period, you must take action the summer between moving from one school to the other to avoid going into repayment. If you find yourself in this situation, you are eligible for a summer bridge deferment, but it is not automatic and requires you to take extra steps. Contact your lender(s) to inform them that you are enrolled in two different programs as a concurrent degree student and will continue your studies in the fall. Lenders must allow a summer bridge deferment and may require you to submit documentation in writing.

› **Visa Documentation for International Students**

As an international student pursuing a combined degree, you are responsible for obtaining and maintaining valid visa documentation.

You must ensure that your immigration documents (the I-20 for an F-1 student visa; the DS-2019 for a J-1 student visa) are issued by the school where you are currently enrolled. For instance, if your current I-20 or DS-2019 is issued by Harvard, you must request a transfer of your F-1 or J-1 record before you can begin classes at another institution.

The general transfer process is as follows:

1. Complete the Financial Certification process for the school you will be attending in the next semester.
2. Request a transfer-in form for the school you will be attending for the upcoming semester. You will complete the form with your current institution's international student advisor.
3. Your current school's international student advisor will transfer your F-1 or J-1 record to your new school.
4. Your new school will receive your F-1 or J-1 record and issue you a new I-20 or DS-2019 that you will need for all future travel outside the U.S. During the transfer process, your SEVIS ID number will remain the same, allowing you to continue using the same F-1 or J-1 visa stamp in your passport throughout your combined degree program. You will only need to apply for a new F-1 or J-1 visa stamp if you are traveling outside the U.S. and your current visa has expired.

However, each school will have specific procedures and policies for you to follow to transfer immigration sponsorship. Familiarize yourself with these procedures after you are admitted to each school. Note that you will need to proactively complete this process each time you change schools during your combined degree program. For details on transferring your F-1 or J-1 record from another institution to Harvard, review [Transfer to Harvard and Change of Level](#).

If a sponsoring agency (AMidEAST, Fulbright, IIE, LASPAU, or USAid, for example) is preparing the DS-2019 for your J-1 student visa, ask them about the procedures you will need to follow.

Due to the transfer process, obtaining U.S. work permission—F-1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT), F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT), J-1 Academic Training (AT), or even on campus employment—as a combined degree student will involve extra planning and coordination. It is important that you proactively discuss plans to work in the U.S. with your international student advisor at the beginning of your program so you are aware of each school's procedures and policies.

Please note: all international students must be enrolled at HKS in the spring semester prior to obtaining summer work authorization through Harvard. F-1 students in the MPA and MPP programs must also be enrolled at HKS in the fall semester following summer F-1 CPT authorization. Contact the [Harvard International Office](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

› **Summer Internship Fund**

As a combined degree student, you are eligible to receive funding from the Summer Internship Fund (SIF) starting the summer after you are in residence at HKS. SIF funding is awarded one time only.

› **Health Insurance**

You must have a clear understanding of the individual requirements and waiver policies at each of your schools. This will ensure that you are not double-charged for health insurance or find yourself without coverage.

While you are enrolled at your other school, you are not covered by Harvard’s health insurance because you are not considered an active Harvard student. If you intend to be covered by Harvard University’s health insurance, you must buy this additional coverage, laid out in the procedures in the “Leaving Harvard” section of the [Harvard University Health Services](#) website.

Once you enroll at HKS, you can extend your Harvard health insurance plan for up to two semesters at your other school; however, primary care benefits under the university plan may be limited or subject to co-pays and deductibles if you are unable to use Harvard student clinics for primary care.

Please note: Massachusetts law requires all students to have valid health insurance. More information is available on the [Harvard University Health Services](#) website.

Transitioning Smoothly Between Schools

You are advised to take specific steps to ensure a smooth transition between your semesters at HKS and your other school. Consider doing the following:

- + Notify the HKS Registrar’s Office if your flight plan has changed. You can do so on [my.harvard.edu](#) on the Flight Plans page under the Student Home tab.
- + Decide if it would be easier to return to HKS in the fall or spring for your final semester. If you are an MPP student, it may be easier to complete your PAE by returning in the fall. As an MPA/ID, you must return in the fall semester to finish your second-year core requirements.
- + Find out if HKS’ spring grade reporting deadline in late May will interfere with your graduation plans from your other school. Typically, partner schools will accept written confirmation—instead of an official grade report—from the HKS Registrar’s Office confirming that you are on track to graduate.
- + Confirm deadlines to apply/reapply for financial assistance at HKS and your other school.
- + Create a moving and housing plan if you are pursuing a concurrent degree with a school outside the Cambridge/Boston area. [Harvard University Housing \(HUH\)](#) resources may be useful. If you are interested in applying for Harvard housing, contact the HKS Registrar’s Office ahead of the application deadline to receive your enrollment confirmation. HUH offers one-year leases that only correspond to the academic year. You should not apply for university housing if you plan on being at Harvard for less than a full academic year.
- + Check with other combined degree students who are in their final year to see who will return for the fall or spring semesters. You might find a classmate to share a one-year lease with if you are returning to HKS for different semesters.
- + Understand your health insurance options, confirm you are adequately covered and ensure you are not double-charged.

Graduating

You must apply to graduate from HKS and your other school at the same time. HKS will contact the other school to confirm you have met the graduation requirements.

You will need to stay up to date on the graduation application deadlines for HKS and your other school. The HKS application deadline is usually in March to graduate in May.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about	Contact
<p>Joint and concurrent degree tracking forms, HKS enrollment, and enrollment verification</p>	<p>HKS Registrar’s Office 124 Mt. Auburn Street, Suite 165 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 617-495-1155 hks_registrar@hks.harvard.edu</p>
<p>Academic requirements for HKS degrees (e.g., PACs, distribution, core requirements)</p> <p>Degree program change forms and questions about combined degrees</p>	<p>Degree Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Cate Lagueux, Director, Master in Public Policy (MPP) Program 617-496-1100 cate_lagueux@hks.harvard.edu — Carol Finney, Director, Master in Public Administration in International Development (MPA/ID) Program 617-495-7799 carol_finney@hks.harvard.edu — Emma Heffern, Director, Master in Public Administration (MPA) Programs 617-496-4312 emma_heffern@hks.harvard.edu
<p>HKS admissions and financial aid</p>	<p>Office of Admissions and Financial Aid 124 Mt. Auburn Street, Suite 165 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 617-495-1155 admissionsandaid@hks.harvard.edu</p>
<p>Admission to or requirements for other schools</p>	<p>Contact the school’s combined degree coordinator or Registrar’s Office, and/or their admissions office</p>



HARVARD Kennedy School
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

UPDATED 12/2022

JOINT AND CONCURRENT DEGREE PROGRAMS

Degree Programs and Student Affairs
Harvard Kennedy School
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

WWW.HKS.HARVARD.EDU/JOINT-CONCURRENT | JOINTCONCURRENTDEGREES@HKS.HARVARD.EDU