

## Important considerations:

- Dual degrees are possible, but not common; **less than 10** MSW students per year pursue a concurrent degree.
- We have no “formal” concurrent degree programs. You **apply separately to both programs**.
- There is no guarantee you’ll be admitted to both programs; the School of Social Work manages **MSW admission only**.
- You must meet application eligibility requirements for **both** programs, and **apply + be admitted to both**. Most students apply for admission to the other program during their first fall MSW quarter; others apply for both programs simultaneously (but this necessitates an approved deferral request).

## Which of these applies to you?

I’m interested, but I’m **only just exploring** the idea of a concurrent degree. I’m not set on it.

A concurrent degree may save you some time and may be a good option for some students, but **most find that earning just one degree is sufficient** to achieve their career goals. Concurrent degrees add more time and higher costs, compared to one degree alone; before pursuing a concurrent degree, **consider the drawbacks** and think about if a concurrent degree is something you truly need/want.

I **absolutely** intend to complete two different Master’s degrees, no matter what.

A concurrent degree may make sense for you. For those who are certain they’ll complete two degrees no matter what, **the advantage of a concurrent degree is that it may save you some time**. But before you commit to a concurrent degree, **consider the drawbacks** too.

### Drawbacks of a Concurrent Degree

1. **It adds time and it’s more expensive than one degree alone.** Choosing to earn two degrees means more years, and more credits (additional tuition).
2. **Your tuition will likely be higher.** UW charges varying tuition rates for graduate programs; MSW tuition rates are among the lowest of any UW graduate program. University policy requires that students enrolled in concurrent programs pay the **higher tuition amount**. This means that once enrolled in both programs as a concurrent degree student, you’d pay more for MSW classes than you would if you were just completing an MSW degree alone!
3. **It disrupts the MSW cohort experience.** Rather than following your MSW cohort peers throughout your program, you’d be leaving them to complete your other program’s requirements before returning; this is important to consider, if close cohort relationships are important to you.
4. **Scheduling conflicts:** In some quarters, you may find it difficult (or impossible) to schedule courses at both of your Schools—due to time conflicts, practicum commitments, and competing priorities. Since we have no control over class schedules in other Schools, we cannot guarantee the absence of conflicts.

<b>MSW + MPH (Master of Public Health)</b>	<b>MSW + MPA (Master of Public Administration)</b>	<b>MSW + JD (Juris Doctor)</b>	<b>MSW + a different degree (other than MPH, MPA, JD)</b>
<p>The MPH is offered by UW's School of Public Health.</p> <p><b><u>Public Health Electives / Graduate Certificates</u></b> Before committing to an MSW+MPH, you might alternatively consider taking some School of Public Health electives or doing a graduate certificate instead. Unlike a concurrent degree, a certificate won't raise the tuition costs of your MSW classes.</p> <p>The School of Public Health offers 12 certificates, including: Global Health, HIV &amp; STIs, Maternal and Child Health, and Global Injury and Violence Prevention. Earning a graduate certificate may extend your graduation time by a quarter or more, but is not as time-intensive or expensive as a concurrent degree.</p> <p><b><u>MSW + MPH Concurrent Degree</u></b> The MSW+MPH is the most common concurrent degree that MSW students pursue (but only a small number).</p> <p>Along with the MSW+MPA, the MSW+MPH is one of two concurrent degrees that is easiest for MSW students. You'd work with advisers from both Schools to complete classes and practicum requirements for each program. Students typically complete both programs in approximately 3 years (including summers) compared to the 4 years it takes to complete each separately.</p>	<p>The MPA is offered by UW's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.</p> <p><b><u>Interested in Policy?</u></b> Full-time MSW students can pursue a macro-focused Administration &amp; Policy Practice MSW specialization; first decide if that path may lead you to your goals, rather than pursuing a longer and more expensive MSW+MPA concurrent degree.</p> <p><b><u>Public Policy Graduate Certificates</u></b> Before committing to an MSW+MPA, you might alternatively consider taking some Evans School electives or doing a graduate certificate instead. Unlike a concurrent degree, a certificate won't raise the tuition costs of your MSW classes.</p> <p>The Evans School offers 2 certificates: Nonprofit Management, and International Development. Earning a certificate may extend your graduation time by a quarter or more, but is not as time-intensive or expensive as a concurrent degree.</p> <p><b><u>MSW + MPA Concurrent Degree</u></b> The MSW+MPA is the second most common concurrent degree that MSW students pursue (but only a small number).</p> <p>Along with the MSW+MPH, the MSW+MPA is one of two concurrent degrees that is easiest for MSW students. You'd work with advisers from both Schools to complete classes and practicum requirements for each program. Students typically complete both in approximately 3 years (including summers), compared to the 4 years it takes to complete each separately.</p>	<p>The JD is offered by UW's School of Law.</p> <p><b><u>Interested in Law and Policy?</u></b> The School of Law also offers a Master of Jurisprudence (M.J.) program for non-lawyers seeking a deeper knowledge of law, without becoming practicing lawyers. Likewise, full-time MSW students can pursue a macro-focused Administration &amp; Policy Practice MSW specialization. And the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance offers a Master of Public Administration (MPA). Consider if one or more of those degree(s) is right for you.</p> <p><b><u>MSW + JD "Concurrent" Degree</u></b> This is very rare; in the past 5 years, no MSW student has pursued an MSW+JD concurrently.</p> <p>Additionally, this is not truly a "concurrent" degree the way the MPA or MPH concurrent degrees are.</p> <p>We ultimately don't offer a true JD/MSW "concurrent" degree, but the School of Law may be willing to defer your JD start, to allow you to complete an MSW first. This does not reduce the time in either program. And because it's not truly a concurrent degree, it also would not raise the tuition amount of your MSW classes.</p>	<p>There is no UW policy preventing students from combining any two degrees. But realistically, some combinations may be difficult or even impossible given the complexity of competing requirements and timelines of programs (classes, practicum, schedules, etc.).</p> <p>MSW students have pursued concurrent degrees in other fields. Examples include UW's Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of International Studies (MAIS) programs.</p> <p>You'll need to check with advisers from the other program you're interested in, to determine if a concurrent degree is possible or not; first and foremost, it depends on the flexibility of the other program. Generally, such concurrent degrees will not reduce your program length despite for either program unless your other program is able to use your MSW practicum/classes toward program requirements, in such a way that it reduces the time to graduation in your other program.</p> <p>Also don't forget that MSW tuition is among the lowest of all of UW's graduate program tuition rates. Enrolling concurrently in two programs with different tuition amounts will result in needing to pay the highest of the two tuition amounts, for all classes; your MSW classes will be more expensive if you're simultaneously enrolled in another program with a higher tuition amount.</p>

**All students** considering a concurrent degree should review the UW Graduate School's Memo 35: Concurrent Degree Programs, describing how both formal and informal concurrent degrees work. Both the MSW/MPA and MSW/MPH dual degree programs are considered an **informal** Concurrent Degree program. It is the responsibility of each student to make sure their plan of study aligns with requirements of the respective schools and the UW Graduate School: <http://grad.uw.edu/policies-procedures/graduate-school-memoranda/memo-35-concurrent-degree-programs>