

JD/MPA WMU Degree Requirements

Cooley JD Degree Requirements:

Cooley students *must* complete a total of 90 credit hours and maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.0. Of the 90 hours, 63 are required courses and a minimum GPA of 2.0 must be maintained in required courses. The required courses are designed to prepare students to successfully pass the bar and enter practice in any jurisdiction in the United States. The remaining class work consists of 27 hours of electives, allowing students to focus their electives in their chosen area of practice. For more information visit cooley.edu.

WMU MPA Degree Requirements:

Western Michigan's MPA program is designed to prepare students to pursue careers in government service or public interest law. The course work covers administrative law, as well as the substantive matters that are typically addressed by governmental agencies. Students who want to complete a joint JD/MPA degree must complete a total of **39 credit hours** with a requirement of 21 credit hours completed in the law concentration of the program. (Pre-career students must complete an internship, raising total degree requirements for them to 42 credit hours). Visit wmich.edu/spaa for curriculum details.

Note:

- All J.D. requirements should be fulfilled within six years of completing the first law course. Similarly, WMU policies require that all master's-level requirements must be completed within six years of enrolling in the first WMU graduate course. Exceptions to these six-year limits may sometimes be granted by both institutions for extenuating, documented reasons.
- Students whose first course work as a degree partnership student is at Cooley Law School must satisfactorily complete 27 credits of Cooley courses before taking their first WMU MPA course. Students whose first course work is at WMU may begin taking Cooley Law School courses after completing at least 18 MPA credits.
- Students pay tuition and fees for Cooley Law School courses at the established Cooley rates and pay tuition and fees for Western Michigan University courses at that school's rates. In general, students may receive financial aid at one or the other institution in a given semester. Financial aid will be coordinated by Cooley Law School and WMU to determine the maximum award that most benefits each partnership student within Federal regulations.
- Students are always advised to avoid combined course loads at both institutions that might jeopardize their good academic standing. At Cooley Law School, a student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher to remain in good academic standing. At Western Michigan University, a student must maintain a 3.0 or higher.