J.D./M.S.F.S.
(Master of Science in Foreign Service)
JOINT DEGREE
STUDENT HANDBOOK

GEORGETOWN LAW
2016–2017
January 2017

Dear J.D./M.S.F.S. Student:

As a J.D./M.S.F.S. student, your experience at Georgetown Law will be shaped by the interdisciplinary nature of your program of study as well as your membership in two academic communities with distinct rules, procedures, and cultures. The academic careers of J.D./M.S.F.S. students are primarily administered by the policies of Georgetown Law and the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service as articulated in the Georgetown Law Student Handbook of Academic Policies and the Graduate School Bulletin and Catalog. The handbook you are currently reading addresses areas in which unique policies have been developed to meet the particular needs of J.D./M.S.F.S. and other joint degree students.

Specifically, this handbook contains (1) Georgetown Law and Main Campus academic calendars, (2) a roster of administrators in the program, (3) summaries of policies and procedures that affect J.D./M.S.F.S. students, and (4) candid commentary from former J.D./M.S.F.S. students on a variety of academic and career-related topics offering helpful insight and perspective. A checklist of J.D./M.S.F.S. program requirements is included as an Appendix to assist you in planning your program of study.

The nature of a joint degree program demands that students keep up with the administrative details of both programs. Both programs will communicate with you via your Georgetown e-mail account. Important Law Center deadlines are also posted via the Master Calendar online at https://schedule.law.georgetown.edu/MasterCalendar/MasterCalendar.aspx?data=UkJlz1bbJnXP0tf9AKbNsQ%3D%3D.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the material that follows or if I can be of assistance. It is important to keep this handbook throughout your four-year program. Students will be informed of any policy changes by e-mail. Please contact me at (202) 662-9041 or ew484@law.georgetown.edu to schedule an advising appointment.

Sincerely,
Emily Wack
Director, J.D. Academic Programs
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. JOINT DEGREE 2016–2017 ACADEMIC CALENDAR ................................................................. 1

II. PROGRAM DIRECTORY ........................................................................................................ 3

III. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS .................................................................................................... 1

   A. Georgetown Law Requirements ......................................................................................... 1
   B. M.S.F.S. Requirements........................................................................................................ 2
      1. M.S.F.S. Core Courses .................................................................................................... 2
      2. M.S.F.S. Concentrations ............................................................................................... 2
      3. M.S.F.S. Workshop ........................................................................................................ 2
      4. M.S.F.S. Foreign Language Proficiency Requirements ................................................. 3
      5. M.S.F.S. Oral Examination ........................................................................................... 3
      6. M.S.F.S. Internship ......................................................................................................... 3
   C. Program Requirements Grid .............................................................................................. 4

IV. PLANNING YOUR CURRICULUM ......................................................................................... 5

   A. General ............................................................................................................................. 5
   B. Identifying Courses of Interest ......................................................................................... 5
      1. Law Courses .................................................................................................................. 5
      2. M.S.F.S. Courses .......................................................................................................... 6
   C. Transitioning between two academic communities ......................................................... 6
   D. Participating in Specific Programs .................................................................................. 7
      1. Clinics ............................................................................................................................. 7
      2. Karl F. Landegger Honors Certificate in International Business Diplomacy .......... 8
      3. Institute for the Study of International Migration ........................................................ 8
      4. Regionally-Based Certificate Programs ....................................................................... 9

V. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES ............................................................................................ 10

   A. Credit Load ....................................................................................................................... 10
   B. J.D. Registration ............................................................................................................... 10
   C. M.S.F.S. Registration ....................................................................................................... 11
   D. Cross-Campus Schedule Coordination ......................................................................... 11
   E. M.S.F.S. Course Waivers ............................................................................................... 12
   F. Registration for Language Courses ................................................................................ 12
   G. Exam Conflicts ............................................................................................................... 12
   H. Commuting Between Campuses .................................................................................... 13
   I. Tuition ............................................................................................................................... 14
   J. Financial Aid .................................................................................................................... 14

VI. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES .................................................................................... 14

   A. Barristers’ Council ........................................................................................................... 15
      1. Trial Advocacy Division ............................................................................................... 15
      2. Appellate Advocacy Division ....................................................................................... 16
      3. Alternative Dispute Resolution .................................................................................... 16
## I. JOINT DEGREE 2016–2017 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Please review online academic calendars for the most up-to-date information at [http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-services/registrar/course-registration/Academic-Calendars.cfm](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-services/registrar/course-registration/Academic-Calendars.cfm) (Law) and [https://registrar.georgetown.edu/academic-calendars/maincampus](https://registrar.georgetown.edu/academic-calendars/maincampus) (Main Campus)

### Fall 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>GEORGETOWN LAW</th>
<th>MAIN CAMPUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., July 25</td>
<td><strong>Tuition due for First Year J.D. Students</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Aug. 22–Fri., Aug. 26</td>
<td><strong>Orientation</strong> for Full-Time First Year J.D. Students</td>
<td><strong>Orientation</strong> for Incoming M.S.F.S. Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Aug. 24</td>
<td><strong>Registration</strong> for Full-time First Year J.D. Students</td>
<td><strong>Registration</strong> for Graduate Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Aug. 25–Fri., Aug. 26</td>
<td><strong>Tuition due for all Continuing Students</strong></td>
<td><strong>Classes Begin for All Students</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Aug. 26</td>
<td><strong>Classes Begin for All Students</strong></td>
<td><strong>Language Placement Exams</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Aug. 29</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Orientation</strong> for Graduate Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Aug. 30</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Classes Begin for All Students</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Aug. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Registration changes accepted</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Monday classes meet instead of Tuesday classes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Sept. 5</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>----LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: No classes meet----</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Sept. 6</td>
<td>Add/Drop ends for Fall Courses*</td>
<td><strong>Add/Drop ends for Fall Courses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Sept. 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Oct. 10</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>----COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY: No classes meet----</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Oct. 11</td>
<td><strong>Monday classes meet instead of Tuesday classes</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Oct. 31– Sat., Nov. 12</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Spring Semester preregistration</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Nov. 15</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Last day to withdraw from courses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Nov. 23–Sun., Nov. 27</td>
<td><strong>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: No classes meet</strong></td>
<td><strong>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: No classes meet</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., Nov. 24–Sun., Nov. 27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Dec. 3</td>
<td><strong>Last Day of Classes</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Dec. 3 and Mon., Dec. 5</td>
<td><strong>Rescheduled Classes and Reading Day</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Dec. 6–Sat., Dec. 17</td>
<td><strong>Final Exams</strong></td>
<td><strong>Last Day of Classes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Dec. 7</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Registration completion for Spring Semester begins</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., Dec. 8</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Final Exams</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Dec. 12–Tues., Dec. 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Dec. 16</td>
<td><strong>All Papers Due†</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Dec. 19; Tues., Dec. 20; Wed., Jan. 4; and Thurs., Jan 5</td>
<td><strong>Fall Exam Deferral Dates</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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* Special Rules apply to “Mini-Courses” starting after the Add/Drop period—see the course description in the Curriculum Guide for details.

† Unless other due date set by the professor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Jan. 9</td>
<td>Week One Classes and Mini Courses begin‡§</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Jan. 10</td>
<td>Spring Tuition due for All Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Jan. 11</td>
<td>Classes begin for All Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Jan. 13</td>
<td>Classes begin for All Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Jan. 16</td>
<td>Classes begin for All Students ---MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: No classes meet----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Jan. 18</td>
<td>Classes begin for All Students ---INAUGURATION DAY: No classes meet----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Jan. 22</td>
<td>Add/Drop ends for Spring Courses*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Jan 24</td>
<td>Add/Drop ends for Spring Courses*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Feb 20</td>
<td>----PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY: No classes meet----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Feb. 21–Wed., Feb. 22</td>
<td>Faculty Retreat: No classes meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., Feb. 23</td>
<td>Monday classes meet instead of Thursday classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Mar. 3–Sun., Mar. 12</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK: No classes meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 12–Sun., Mar. 19</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK: No classes meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Mar. 12–Thur., Mar. 16</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK: No classes meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Apr. 3–Wed., Apr. 12</td>
<td>Early registration for Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., Apr. 13–Mon., Apr. 17</td>
<td>EASTER BREAK: No classes meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Apr. 14–Sun., Apr. 16</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., Apr. 27</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Apr. 29</td>
<td>Rescheduled Classes and Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., May 1</td>
<td>May Graduates’ Papers Due**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., May. 2–Tues., May 16</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., May 5–Sat., May 13</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., May 14</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., May 15</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., May 16</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., May 19</td>
<td>All Papers Due††</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., May 21</td>
<td>M.S.F.S. Graduation and Trophaia Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., May 24-Thurs., May 26</td>
<td>Spring Exam Deferral Dates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‡ Mandatory attendance is required at all Week One class sessions, first-year and upperclass, Monday–Friday.
§ Some clinics may require their students to begin clinic activities this week.
** Unless earlier due date set by the professor.
†† Unless other due date set by professor.
II. PROGRAM DIRECTORY

SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE

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LANGUAGE DEPARTMENTS
Contact the department directly to reserve your seat for placement and proficiency examinations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic/Greek/Hebrew/Turkish</td>
<td>(202) 687-5743</td>
<td>ICC 306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese/Japanese/Korean</td>
<td>(202) 687-5918</td>
<td>ICC 306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>(202) 687-5717</td>
<td>ICC 416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>(202) 687-6051</td>
<td>ICC 468A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>(202) 687-5681</td>
<td>ICC 307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese/Spanish</td>
<td>(202) 687-6134</td>
<td>ICC 403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian/Polish/Ukrainian</td>
<td>(202) 687-6147</td>
<td>ICC 307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GEORGETOWN LAW

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III. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

J.D./M.S.F.S. degree candidates must satisfactorily complete course requirements for both the J.D. and M.S.F.S. degree program. In addition to the J.D. and M.S.F.S. degrees, a Joint Degree Certificate will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the program.

The J.D./M.S.F.S. program requires: (1) completion of 115 academic credits (76 credits in law and 39 credits in M.S.F.S. courses); (2) satisfactory performance on the M.S.F.S. oral proficiency examination in a foreign language; (3) satisfactory performance on the M.S.F.S. oral examination; (4) completion of the graduation requirements of both programs, including the M.S.F.S. internship requirement; and (5) maintenance of a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00/4.00 in the M.S.F.S. program and the required minimum cumulative grade point average for the J.D. program.

The first two years of the four-year J.D./M.S.F.S. program are dedicated to the core curriculum in the fields of law and international affairs, respectively. During their first year at the School of Foreign Service, J.D./M.S.F.S. students are required to identify an area of concentration within the field of international affairs (e.g., Global Business and Finance, International Development, Global Politics and Security, or self-designed—subject to approval, including regional and comparative studies). The M.S.F.S. program is shaped by the elective requirements in the student’s chosen area of concentration.

Note: Students may begin the joint degree at either program. Many J.D./M.S.F.S. students also become Global Law Scholars. Students interested in participating in the Global Law Scholars Program should begin the joint degree at the School of Foreign Service to continue the Global Law Scholars Program with their cohort. Students are not permitted to take courses at the other school during their first year in either program. For more information about the Global Law Scholars program, please visit: https://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/transnational-programs/global-law-scholars/.

A. Georgetown Law Requirements

Georgetown Law students must earn at least 85 credits to graduate with the J.D. degree. As a joint J.D./M.S.F.S. student, 9 credits of M.S.F.S. coursework count towards the 85 credits needed to earn the J.D. degree. Therefore, J.D./M.S.F.S. students must complete 76 Georgetown Law credits for the J.D. portion of this joint degree.

J.D./M.S.F.S. students are required to complete all requirements of the J.D. program. These include: (1) the required first-year program, (2) a professional responsibility course, (3) the upperclass legal writing requirement, and (4) for students matriculating at the Law Center in Fall
2016 or later, 6 credits of experiential coursework. All graduation requirements are described in detail in the Georgetown Law Student Handbook of Academic Policies at http://www.law.georgetown.edu/go/handbook.

In addition to the traditional J.D. requirements, J.D./M.S.F.S. students must also complete 16 credits in International Law and related courses, which must include:

- International Law I (3 credits);
- 4 additional credits in further international law “core” coursework; and
- 9 additional credits from either the international law “core” or international law “related” courses.

**B. M.S.F.S. Requirements**

J.D./M.S.F.S. students must complete 39 credits in the M.S.F.S. program. They must also meet all requirements of the M.S.F.S. program including: (1) 15 credits of core courses, (2) 21 credits of electives, (3) a 3-credit M.S.F.S. Workshop, (4) satisfactory performance on the M.S.F.S. foreign language proficiency examination, (5) satisfactory performance on the M.S.F.S. oral examination, and (6) fulfillment of the internship requirement.

**1. M.S.F.S. Core Courses**

M.S.F.S. students must successfully complete the following coursework as part of their degree:

- MSFS 507: Globalization of Intersocietal Relations
- MSFS 510: International Relations: Theory and Practice
- MSFS 527: Analytical and Statistical Skills
- ECON 541/543: International Finance
- ECON 542/544: International Trade

**2. M.S.F.S. Concentrations**

The M.S.F.S. faculty requires that students focus in one of four broad areas: (1) Global Politics and Security, (2) Global Business and Finance, (3) International Development, or (4) a self-designed concentration (subject to approval, including regional and comparative studies).

**3. M.S.F.S. Workshop**

The M.S.F.S. Program requires that all M.S.F.S. students take a 3-credit workshop in the fall semester of their third or fourth year. Workshops integrate academic coursework with practical experience related to the student’s concentration, using techniques such as policy briefings, risk assessments, budget analysis, and simulations.
4. **M.S.F.S. Foreign Language Proficiency Requirements**

The M.S.F.S. Program requires that all M.S.F.S. students pass a foreign language proficiency examination at Georgetown with a grade of “Good” or better. Proficiency examinations are administered twice a year by individual language departments. Students should arrange to sit for these examinations through the appropriate department. Students are encouraged to sit for their language examination as early as possible.

5. **M.S.F.S. Oral Examination**

The M.S.F.S. oral examination must be passed before graduation. The oral examination requires students to integrate and apply what they have learned to practical problems in the field of international affairs before a three-member panel of faculty and international affairs practitioners.

By the beginning of the final semester of study, students receive an informational briefing, a detailed information sheet, and an application for the oral examination. Examinations are held in mid-March each year for students in their final semester of study. Students completing coursework in the fall or summer semester may petition for a special examination schedule.

6. **M.S.F.S. Internship**

All M.S.F.S students must complete an internship relevant to the study of international affairs. No academic credit is necessary for the internship to fulfill this requirement.
C. Program Requirements Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEGREES/CERTIFICATE AWARDED</th>
<th>DEGREE REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J.D.</td>
<td>□ 4 year program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.S.F.S. (Master of Science in Foreign Service)</td>
<td>□ 115 credit hours (76 in law, 39 in M.S.F.S. courses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Program Certificate</td>
<td>□ Satisfactory performance on the M.S.F.S. foreign language proficiency examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ M.S.F.S. Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Pass the M.S.F.S. oral examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ J.D. upperclass legal writing requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Professional Responsibility course*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ 6 credits of J.D. experiential coursework (students matriculating in Fall 2016 or later)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPICAL CREDIT DISTRIBUTION</th>
<th>CURRICULUM/COURSE REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td>24 M.S.F.S. credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students are also expected to complete a 15–20 hour/week internship during this year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year</td>
<td>31 J.D. credits**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required first-year law school curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Year</td>
<td>21 J.D. credits 9 M.S.F.S. credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 credits of International Law J.D. courses including: International Law I, 4 credits of International Law “core” courses, and 9 credits of International Law “core” and/or International Law “related” courses + 5 elective credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Over the four years, students must complete a total of 21 M.S.F.S. elective credits related to one of four broad divisional concentrations: (1) Global Business &amp; Finance, (2) International Development, (3) Global Politics &amp; Security, or (4) a self-designed concentration (subject to approval, including regional and comparative studies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Year</td>
<td>24 J.D. credits 6 M.S.F.S. credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 credits in additional upperclass law courses, including Professional Responsibility and completion of the upperclass writing requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M.S.F.S. Workshop (3 credits) + 3 elective credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Students typically enroll in Professional Responsibility in the same semester they plan to take the M.P.R.E. (Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination). Detailed information about the M.P.R.E. is available online at http://ncbex.org/exams/mpre/. Some states may have special timing rules on when you must take the M.P.R.E.

** Students matriculating in Fall 2015 or later complete their 1L year with 30 or 31 credits, depending on whether they take the optional first-year Week One experiential course. Credit distributions for upperclass years should be adjusted accordingly.
IV. PLANNING YOUR CURRICULUM

A. General

J.D./M.S.F.S. students take 9 fewer law credits and 9 fewer M.S.F.S. credits than their colleagues enrolled in the programs individually. As noted above, J.D./M.S.F.S. students must take International Law I (3 credits) and 13 additional credits from the international law “core” and international “related” course listings. Past joint degree students had the following suggestions about fulfilling these requirements:

**Student Notes:**

1) I found that I ended up taking the required international law courses anyway because of my interests. Two strategies I would offer: 1) take International Law I as a first-year elective and 2) take advantage of the crossover classes (i.e., those that don’t seem international but qualify for international “related” credit such as Taxation II, Communications Law, etc.).

2) My third year in the program, I have taken five courses each semester, four M.S.F.S. and one J.D. I highly recommend that J.D./M.S.F.S. students try to take International Law I during their third year in the program because it is a recommended course for most other international law courses. Better yet, J.D. students can take the first year elective International Law I. The difference is between having three or four semesters in which to take international law courses.

B. Identifying Courses of Interest

1. Law Courses

The Curriculum Guide, [http://apps.law.georgetown.edu/curriculum/index.cfm](http://apps.law.georgetown.edu/curriculum/index.cfm), is an excellent research tool to assist students in identifying courses of interest. Using the drop down menu under the Curriculum tab, J.D./M.S.F.S. students should consult the essays on “International Law and Comparative Legal Studies” and “International/National Security Law” for course offerings. Students may also search for courses by keyword and/or review faculty profiles using the Curriculum Guide.

A list of “core” and “related” international law courses can be found on the Curriculum Guide. Georgetown Law’s broad course offerings in the areas of comparative law, international trade and business, and national security allow J.D./M.S.F.S. students substantial flexibility in fulfilling this distribution requirement.
International Law “core” courses include:

- J.D. courses listed in the online Curriculum Guide (select “JD/MSFS (International Law Core)” from the Course Cluster drop down menu)
- “International focused” LAWG courses that are cross-listed with the J.D. program
- A supervised research project (see http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-services/registrar/course-registration/jd-supervised-research.cfm), if approved in advance as a “core” course by the Director of J.D. Programs.

International Law “related” courses include:

- J.D. courses listed in the online Curriculum Guide (select “JD/MSFS (International Law Related)” from the Course Cluster drop down menu)

In addition, J.D./M.S.F.S. students may be particularly interested in the specialized courses offered in the Law Center’s Graduate Programs. Students may take up to 6 credits in the LL.M. program (“LAWG” courses), without special permission. Students who wish to take more than 6 credits in the LL.M. program must request permission to do so from the Director of J.D. Programs.

Beyond the required courses that J.D./M.S.F.S. students must complete, students have many choices for upperclass course selection. For advice on academic planning, students should schedule an advising appointment with an advisor in the Office of J.D. Academic Services by calling (202) 662-9041 or by emailing jdas@law.georgetown.edu.

2. M.S.F.S. Courses

M.S.F.S. course descriptions are provided by the M.S.F.S. Director of Academic Affairs in advance of each semester and are also available online at http://explore.georgetown.edu/. Appointments to discuss M.S.F.S. courses should be made with the M.S.F.S. Assistant Director of Academic Affairs.

C. Transitioning between two academic communities

The nature of an interdisciplinary program of study requires that students are simultaneously members of two distinct academic communities. The differences between J.D. and M.S.F.S. coursework can present unique challenges.
**Student Notes:**

1) M.S.F.S. courses, unlike law courses, seem to have papers/assignments due throughout the semester. This can sometimes be difficult to reconcile with law courses, where there is typically nothing to hand in, and just a final to prepare for. It helps to know what the M.S.F.S. course will require, in terms of papers, etc. before signing up.

2) After your 1L year, you may expect M.S.F.S. classes to be easy by comparison. Don’t. The classes are a rude shock to those of us who grew used to having only one exam per class per semester. M.S.F.S. classes are like normal college classes with papers, quizzes, and exams. So try to prepare mentally for that. There is nothing you can do to prepare otherwise, except read a major newspaper, Foreign Affairs, and The Economist (which I highly recommend everyone does).

3) MIDTERMS! Most M.S.F.S. classes have some form of work that is due before the final exam or paper, so that is rather a shock after the first year of law school. In addition, most M.S.F.S. classes are more discussion-oriented than many law school classes, so you are “on call” every class. I think that many J.D.s feel a little like they are “regressing” when they have to turn in homework assignments for M.S.F.S. classes; however, it’s nice not to have your whole grade depend on your final exam.

**D. Participating in Specific Programs**

1. **Clinics**

Georgetown Law offers two clinics with an international focus. The International Women’s Human Rights Clinic (10 credits) works to promote improvement to the legal status of women around the world using international human rights arguments and focuses particularly on ending practices such as forced and child marriage, sexual harassment, domestic violence, polygamy, female genital mutilation, and the denial of women’s right to own and inherit property. Students enrolled in this clinic will draft proposed legislation and human rights reports or litigation papers applying human rights treaties. The other clinic, the Center for Applied Legal Studies (10 credits), represents non-citizens seeking political asylum in the U.S. because of threatened persecution in their home countries. Students enrolled in this clinic will litigate cases before federal administrative law judges.

Both clinics count towards the International Law “core” credits. For more detailed information about our clinical program, please visit [http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/clinical-programs/our-clinics/index.cfm](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/clinical-programs/our-clinics/index.cfm).
Student Notes:
1) I participated in the International Women’s Human Rights Clinic, and it was a great experience. I recommend the clinics because they give you some real world experience, which is really nice given the length of the J.D./M.S.F.S. program! In addition, my clinic had an international focus, allowing me to fulfill the J.D./M.S.F.S. international law requirements as well. The only problem is that the high number of credits that you get for participating in clinics (CALS is 10 credits) make it hard for J.D./M.S.F.S. students to do one.

2) Many J.D./M.S.F.S. students take clinical courses but I didn’t because I preferred to spend my time and credit hours on “staple” law courses (i.e. Evidence, Commercial Law, etc.) to complement my international focus.

3) I do not plan to participate in a clinic. I work in a law office 15 hours a week during the semester, so I feel like I get enough practical legal experience. Also, working in my office has let me keep my “legal edge” during time when I am not taking any classes at Georgetown Law.

2. Karl F. Landegger Honors Certificate in International Business Diplomacy

The School of Foreign Service has an academic honors program called International Business Diplomacy (IBD). Students interested in the IBD honors program are encouraged to register for one of the Landegger Program Gateway courses (e.g., Business Ethics in a Global Political Economy, Business, Government and the Global Economy, Corporate Responsibility and International Competitiveness, or Globalization: Challenges for Developed Countries). J.D./M.S.F.S. students who complete this course with an honors grade of A or A- will be invited to become candidates for the IBD Honors Certificate. IBD candidates must use their elective courses to complete an approved six-course sequence. J.D./M.S.F.S. students have fewer elective credits available and should contact Program Counselor Rosaelena O’Neil at rao@georgetown.edu for guidance.

Student Notes:
1) J.D./M.S.F.S. students can do the IBD program, and even if you don’t make the grade cutoff to enter IBD, you can still (with very few exceptions) take all the same courses.

2) With some manipulation, one can do the IBD program. I’ll need to get one law school course approved by the IBD office.

3. Institute for the Study of International Migration

The Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) offers a certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies for master degree students in the School of Foreign Service. The certificate program prepares students to work in international organizations, government and private agencies specializing in emergency relief, human rights and humanitarian activities. All
students admitted into the certificate program will take Introduction to Human Rights and Humanitarian Crises, which provides an overview of major principles, legal frameworks, theories, operational concerns, and public policy issues. In consultation with their faculty advisor, students will choose an additional five courses from a broader list of offerings designated for certificate credit.

The courses enable foreign policy professionals and regional experts to address some of the most challenging issues facing the international community today. To ensure broad coverage of the field, each student must fulfill certain distributional requirements by taking at least one course in each of three substantive areas: (1) refugee and humanitarian emergencies/disaster relief, (2) human rights, and (3) conflict prevention and resolution. Students admitted into the certificate program may also petition ISIM for approval of courses not listed for certificate credit.

4. Certificate in Diplomatic Studies

The Institute for Diplomatic Studies offers a graduate certificate in Diplomatic Studies. This certificate is designed to prepare students to work effectively and successfully in an interdisciplinary, interagency and multilateral context on evolving global issues. It is not limited to those seeking careers in diplomacy, but encompasses those whose careers will require an understanding of the processes, players and core principles and competencies within which diplomatic strategy and policy are formulated and diplomacy is conducted. The certificate is not about tradecraft but the theory and practice of diplomacy as an element of statecraft in furtherance of national interests. It draws on an understanding of the inter-related roles of history, economics, culture/religion, domestic political actors, development and security, law and science, and demands core skills of quantitative, as well as qualitative, analysis, negotiation, mediation and policy entrepreneurship.

5. Regionally-Based Certificate Programs

M.S.F.S. students may pursue the following graduate-level certificate programs offered by the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies, the Asian Studies Program, and the African Studies Program:

- Certificate in Arab Studies
  (http://ccas.georgetown.edu/academics/certificateprograms)
- Certificate in Eurasian, Russian and Eastern European Studies
  (http://ceres.georgetown.edu/academics/certificates)
- Certificate in Asian Studies
  (http://asianstudies.georgetown.edu/academics/graduate)
- Certificate in African Studies
  (https://africanstudies.georgetown.edu/graduatecertificate)
V. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

A. Credit Load

J.D./M.S.F.S. students in the first year at the Main Campus must observe the credit limits for all M.S.F.S. students (i.e., four courses plus a fifth optional course in a language or an internship). After completing the first year of required courses in both programs, J.D./M.S.F.S. students typically have 60 total credits remaining. Thus, J.D./M.S.F.S. students must take an average of 15 credits in each of their four upperclass semesters.

Full-time joint degree students must enroll in 10 to 16 credits of Law Center courses in each semester. Student must successfully pass at least 10 credits each semester to meet the Law Center’s per-semester credit minimum requirement. A full-time joint degree student may be approved to enroll in fewer than 10 Law Center credits in a given semester if: (1) the combined University-wide (i.e., Law Center and Main Campus) credits totals at least 10 credits; and (2) the student receives permission from the Director of J.D. Programs prior to the end of the Law Center’s add/drop period. If a full-time joint degree J.D. student fails to successfully complete at least 10 University-wide credits in a semester, the student will not have successfully completed that full-time semester and must meet an academic advisor to discuss how they plan to meet their program requirements and request a waiver to maintain their expected graduation date.

Full-time joint degree students will be approved to enroll in up to 22 University-wide credits (no more than 17 of which may be Law Center credits) during the Fall or Spring semester. Students are encouraged to discuss their plans for completing their degree requirements with an academic advisor, particularly when considering enrolling in the maximum number of credits in a semester.

B. J.D. Registration

Georgetown Law students typically pre-register for the following academic year (fall and spring semesters) in late May/early June. Main Campus pre-registration occurs each semester. Therefore, the Main Campus course offerings for the following spring semester won’t be available when J.D./M.S.F.S. students pre-register for their J.D. courses. Nonetheless, J.D./M.S.F.S. students are strongly encouraged to pre-register for spring classes at the Law Center and make any necessary adjustments during the appropriate add/drop period.

In order to plan for possible alternative schedules on the Main Campus, some J.D./M.S.F.S. students pre-register for more law courses than they will actually take. Joint degree students may hold up to 22 credits university-wide (i.e., J.D. and M.S.F.S. credits combined) per semester.
through the Law Center’s add/drop period. However, full-time students must drop to 17 law credits per semester by the end of the Law Center’s add/drop period.

C. M.S.F.S. Registration

Main Campus registration for courses in the M.S.F.S. Program is done each semester. The Main Campus Registrar’s Office notifies J.D./M.S.F.S. students of the M.S.F.S. registration dates, and students complete pre-registration online. The M.S.F.S. office may email you to suggest changes in your registration, so you should check your email account(s) regularly during the pre-registration period. Results of fall and spring semester pre-registration can be checked during the completion period in December or May, respectively. Changes or late registration can be made during the Main Campus add/drop period (see http://registrar.georgetown.edu/registration/grad/).

Sarah Krauss, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, is available to assist students with their academic planning. Ms. Krauss can be contacted at (202) 687-5569 or srk50@georgetown.edu.

D. Cross-Campus Schedule Coordination

Coordinating course schedules on both campuses can be a challenge for J.D./M.S.F.S. students. The distance between the location of the Law Center and Main Campus demands that students allow for commuting time when developing their course schedule. In addition, Georgetown Law and the School of Foreign Service have different academic calendars—registration and add/drop periods do not coincide. Students who foresee that changes in their M.S.F.S. course schedule may require that they withdraw from a law course after the end of Georgetown Law’s add/drop period should contact the Registrar, at (202) 662-9852 or by e-mail at lawreg@law.georgetown.edu.

Student Notes:

1) You should decide what your key class desires are and arrange everything else around them. Only going to one campus per day sometimes influenced me.

2) Try to schedule classes at Main Campus for different days than law classes, or at least at the beginning or the end of the day, so you don’t have to go back and forth between campuses.

3) It seems to work best to start with the law courses you want to take, and then fit in M.S.F.S. around that. In general it seems much harder to get into the law courses (especially international ones, which seem very popular) so focus your energy on that.
E. M.S.F.S. Course Waivers

M.S.F.S. students with a substantial background in the topic areas covered by some of the required first-year core M.S.F.S. courses (e.g., International Trade, International Finance, International Relations: Theory and Practice, Analytical and Statistical Skills) may request an exemption from one or more of these courses. Waiver exams are available on the M.S.F.S. Blackboard page at https://campus.georgetown.edu/ for students seeking to waive International Trade and/or International Relations. And a waiver by examination is available in person during New Student Orientation for students seeking to waive the Analytical and Statistical Skills course.

NOTE: Waiving out of a required course does not reduce your credit hour requirements for the program. Courses that are waived must be replaced with electives. Georgetown Law courses may not be substituted for waived courses at the Graduate School. If you have any questions, please consult with M.S.F.S. Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, Sarah Krauss. She can be contacted by email atsrk50@georgetown.edu.

Student Notes:

1) I waived out of some requirements, and I think that it’s a good idea to do that. I wouldn’t recommend waiving out of all of them, though, because if you do, you won’t get to know the members of your M.S.F.S. class as well.

2) I highly recommend that J.D./M.S.F.S. students try to get all the waivers they can. I waived out of two required classes. The reason is simple: you have one less semester to take M.S.F.S. classes, so you have to pack in all you can. Better to take classes on topics you are not familiar with than to take classes on subjects you already know well.

F. Registration for Language Courses

Students must register for all language courses during the Main Campus add/drop period. Language courses are not applied to the M.S.F.S. or J.D. degree credit requirements, and they must be taken for a letter grade.

G. Exam Conflicts

Students are encouraged to work with their Main Campus faculty members to resolve exam conflicts because the Main Campus exam schedule is generally more flexible. If this is not possible, Georgetown Law exams can be rescheduled if certain criteria are met. Under Georgetown Law rules, no student is required to take two exams that begin within 25 hours. In addition, a student may seek relief if his/her exam schedule produces three exams within four
consecutive days or four exams within five consecutive days, or for extraordinary cause. Generally, the exam for the class carrying the fewest number of credits will be rescheduled. Please note that Georgetown Law exams are blind graded and you should not contact your law professors regarding exam conflicts. Check your exam schedule early in the semester and contact the Georgetown Law Registrar’s Office if you need to reschedule your exams. The exam deferral policy is found in the Georgetown Law Student Handbook of Academic Policies at http://www.law.georgetown.edu/go/handbook.

**H. Commuting Between Campuses**

Students may use the GUTS shuttle to get back and forth between the Law Center and Main Campus. Students with a valid GOCard may ride any GUTS route at no charge. The shuttle between Georgetown Law and the Main Campus runs every hour to hour and a half. In addition, the university runs more frequent shuttles to the metro stations at Dupont Circle (Metro’s Red line) and Rosslyn (Metro’s Blue and Orange lines). The GUTS schedule and NextGUTS app tool is available at http://otm.georgetown.edu/guts/.

Another popular and inexpensive commuting option is the DC Circulator bus system. For route maps, fare information, and Next-Bus information for the DC Circulator, please visit http://www.dccirculator.com/. For detailed information about Metrobus routes, please visit http://www.wmata.com.

Parking at Georgetown Law is very limited so students may not always find a space. Law Center students may pay to park in the McDonough Hall garage on level P2 on a space available basis, if they have registered their car with and obtained a hangtag from the Law Center’s parking office. GOCards issued by the Law Center are automatically programmed to allow access to the garage and will deduct the parking fee of $8.20 per entry. Parking for students at the Law Center garage tends to fill up on weekdays by 9:30 a.m. Students may access the garage for free after 5:00 p.m.

When you register your car with the Law Center Parking Office, please confirm that your GOCard has been programmed to allow you access to the McDonough Hall garage. The Law Center’s Parking Office is located in McDonough Hall, Room 154 and can be contacted at (202) 662-9330 or facilitiesmgmt@law.georgetown.edu.

The Main Campus does not permit student parking. Students may however pay (in cash) to park in a garage as a visitor if space is available.
**Student Notes:**

1) I lived in Adams Morgan, which worked well because you’re in the middle; the Metro goes to Georgetown Law and the GUTS bus goes to the Main Campus from Dupont Circle. The law school is hard to park at during key hours in the day. I almost always took the shuttle.

2) I live in Arlington which is nice because Main Campus has a shuttle route in North Arlington.

3) I live in Crystal City, which I recommend just because the rents are pretty good and the apartments are fantastic. It is also incredibly convenient to the Metro (Blue and Yellow lines), which takes you to Rosslyn for M.S.F.S. (via a GUTS shuttle) or Judiciary Square for Georgetown Law (you have to transfer at Gallery place for this trip). Another good place to live is Rosslyn, again because the rents are cheaper than DC and the apartments are good. The shuttle runs right from Rosslyn to the Main Campus, and the Metro is convenient to get to Georgetown Law.

I. **Tuition**

J.D./M.S.F.S. students pay the full-time M.S.F.S. tuition in the year they are in their M.S.F.S.-only curriculum. M.S.F.S. full-time tuition and mandatory fees for 2016–2017 is $49,332. J.D./M.S.F.S. students pay Georgetown Law tuition for the first year of law-only courses and for courses taken on both campuses in the third and fourth year of the J.D./M.S.F.S joint degree program. Full-time J.D. tuition for 2016–2017 is $57,576.

J. **Financial Aid**

Students starting the joint degree program while attending the Law Center will have their federal and other loan aid administered by the Law Center Financial Aid Office for the duration of the program. Students starting the joint degree program while attending the M.S.F.S. program will have their financial aid administered by Main Campus for the first year and the Law Center Financial Aid office for the subsequent three years. Any funding received from the School of Foreign Service must be reported to Georgetown Law’s Financial Aid Office so that your financial aid package can be adjusted accordingly. For questions about Financial Aid, please contact LaToya Parnell at (202) 662-9215 or lkp5@law.georgetown.edu.

VI. **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

A. **Law Journal Membership**

J.D./M.S.F.S. students are eligible for membership on the law journals on the same basis as all other J.D. students. **Joint degree students must participate in the write-on competition at the**
end of their first year at the Law Center. J.D./M.S.F.S. students who begin the program at Georgetown Law may not wait until the conclusion of their year at the Main Campus to participate. However, it is not uncommon for joint degree students to defer journal service for one year once they have joined a journal. Each journal has its own policy regarding deferral of service—interested students should contact the Editor-in-Chief or the Office of Journal Administration for additional information.

B. Barristers’ Council

Participating in Georgetown Law’s Mock Trial, Moot Court, or Alternative Dispute Resolution competition is an excellent way to develop practical lawyering skills. The Barristers’ Council oversees the Mock Trial, Moot Court, and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) programs at Georgetown Law.

For additional information about Barristers’ Council, please visit http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-life/activities-organizations/barristers-council/index.cfm.

1. Trial Advocacy Division

The Trial Advocacy division of the Barristers’ Council runs the Law Center’s mock trial program and hosts the White Collar Crime Invitational, a national competition that is the only interscholastic mock trial competition that focuses on white collar cases. Mock trial competitors are lawyers in hypothetical cases held before judges and juries who score students based on their advocacy skills.

The William H. Greenhalgh Mock Trial Competition: Held in the spring, the William W. Greenhalgh Competition is open to all non-graduating J.D. students. Competitors must prepare a case based on a closed packet and then argue their side to a mock judge and jury. Finalists argue before a prominent member of the local or federal bench. Those who advance to a certain level are invited to join the Barristers’ Council and to represent Georgetown Law in a national mock trial competition.

J.D./M.S.F.S. Participation: First-year J.D./M.S.F.S. students may compete in the Greenhalgh Competition. J.D./M.S.F.S. students who are offered a position on Georgetown’s national mock trial teams may choose to compete on the team while they are on the Main Campus during their second year. Alternatively, J.D./M.S.F.S. students may compete in the Greenhalgh Competition during their third year and if selected for a national team, compete nationally during their fourth and final year of the joint degree program. For more information, contact the Director of the Greenhalgh Competition at barristers.greenhalgh@gmail.com.
2. **Appellate Advocacy Division**

The Appellate Advocacy division of the Barristers’ Council runs the Law Center’s moot court program, which includes two Georgetown Law competitions each year. The Council also hosts the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Competition, a unique interscholastic moot court competition that deals with emerging international law and space law issues.

**Robert J. Beaudry Moot Court Competition**: The Beaudry Competition is held in the spring and is open to Georgetown Law first-year J.D. students. Competitors must write an appellate brief based on a closed packet and then argue their case in front of a panel of judges. Finalists argue before a panel of prominent local and federal judges. Those who advance to a certain level are invited to join the Barristers’ Council and to represent Georgetown Law in an interscholastic moot court competition.

**The William E. Leahy Moot Court Competition**: The Leahy Competition is held in the fall and is open to Georgetown Law LL.M. and upper-class J.D. students. The competition rules are similar to those of Beaudry.

For more information on the Appellate Advocacy Division, please contact the Managing Director at barristers@law.georgetown.edu.

**J.D./M.S.F.S. Participation**: As a first-year student, J.D./M.S.F.S. students may compete in the Beaudry Competition. However, if they earn a spot on a team for the following year, they must compete on this team during their year on the Main Campus. J.D./M.S.F.S. students may compete in the Leahy Competition at any point after their first-year.

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**Student Note:**

*Moot Court participation is a great use of your time because it REALLY refines writing skills and analytical thinking. Moot Court was the smartest extracurricular thing I did AND it was a lot of fun. I participated during my M.S.F.S. year, which was in some ways harder because I had to commute between campuses to meet with my teammates, but it gave me greater flexibility for further opportunities as a Moot Court coach and it helped me improve my writing and analytical thinking before I went back to my law classes. In addition, it was easier to work on a Moot Court brief when I only had four M.S.F.S. classes to worry about.*

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3. **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Advocacy Division of Barristers’ Council offers students a unique opportunity to develop sophisticated techniques necessary for competent and
ethical representation in ADR proceedings. The ADR Division’s record of success is outstanding and reflects the Council’s exceptional commitment to training and preparation. Students work closely with an impressive network of highly-regarded ADR scholars and practitioners as they prepare to represent Georgetown Law at regional, national, and international competitions focused on arbitration, mediation, client counseling, and negotiation.

**The Everett Bellamy ADR Competition:** Held in the spring, this competition is open to all Georgetown Law students. Competitors are asked to negotiate a problem in teams, based on a closed packet. Those who advance to a certain level are invited to join the Barristers’ Council and represent Georgetown Law in a national or international ADR competition.

**J.D./M.S.F.S Participation:** First-year J.D./M.S.F.S. students may compete in the Bellamy ADR Competition. J.D./M.S.F.S. students who are offered a position on Georgetown’s ADR teams may choose to compete on the team while they are in residence at Main Campus during their second year. Alternatively, J.D./M.S.F.S. students may compete in the Bellamy Competition during their third year and if selected for a national team, compete nationally during their fourth and final year of the joint program.

**C. Other Activities**

J.D./M.S.F.S. students may participate in other Law Center extracurricular activities while they are on the Main Campus. Students should contact student organizations directly to ensure that they receive information about upcoming events and/or to ask questions about participation. For more information about the active student organizations on campus, please visit [http://georgetownlaw.orgsync.com/](http://georgetownlaw.orgsync.com/).

**D. Get Involved to Stay In Touch**

J.D./M.S.F.S. students who begin at Georgetown Law graduate with neither their law school class nor their M.S.F.S. class. Thus, it is a challenge as a fourth year student to feel connected to either school. Many J.D./M.S.F.S. students make a concerted effort not to lose touch with Georgetown Law completely during their M.S.F.S. year.

**Student Notes:**

1) J.D./M.S.F.S. students are incredibly pressed for time and so is everybody else, whether they are J.D. or M.S.F.S. or both. So nobody is really "socially integrated" on either campus. I recommend making lots of friends during 1L, trying to make lots during 2nd year at M.S.F.S., and then trying to make new friends all the time. People are generally very friendly on both campuses, so this is relatively easy. Remember, everyone except your J.D./M.S.F.S. friends will be graduated and gone by your fourth year. So keep making friends. Involvement in
extracurricular activities is a good avenue to do this. Many J.D./M.S.F.S. students are involved in the International Law Society. The Gilbert & Sullivan Society had three J.D./M.S.F.S. students actively involved in its productions this year as well.

2) It can be hard to get socially integrated with your M.S.F.S. cohort because my social life was pretty well established at Georgetown Law by the time I started doing things on the Main Campus. E-mail is the key to keeping track of what’s going on both campuses.

3) It does take effort! After the second year, it becomes difficult to maintain much contact with the Main Campus and with friends there. This is a downside of the program, but there are ways to mitigate it. Keep in touch with friends, go to an occasional academic event (e.g. speaker), attend social functions, spend some time hanging out in the 7th floor lobby, etc. Small efforts can have great rewards here.

4) Frankly, the MSFS has a much better community than the law school because it is tight knit and plans more social-only events, on top of actually planning more talks than the law school, which is difficult but possible to do. I have been able to stay in touch more with MSFS now being away than I was being away from the law school.

5) A study group helped for law classes; because MSFS classes are so small, by just attending them you will maintain your connection to the campus.

VIII. GRADES AND ACADEMIC HONORS

A. Grading Scales

Students are graded on a 4-point scale carried to 2 decimal points at Georgetown Law. The Graduate School also operates on a 4-point system. A student’s academic averages at the two schools are not combined for the purpose of honors.

B. Transcripts and Grade Reports

Your law courses will be reflected on your Law Center transcript. Your M.S.F.S. courses will be reflected on a separate Georgetown transcript. If you are completing coursework on the Main Campus during a particular semester, the notation “JD/ M.S.F.S. Registration” will be added to your Law Center transcript. If you are approved to have a specific Main Campus course count toward your J.D. degree, but not the M.S.F.S. program, the Main Campus course will be recorded on your Law Center transcript.

If you request an official transcript from the Law Center Registrar’s Office, you will receive both your Law and Main Campus transcripts for a nominal fee. If you request an official transcript from the University Registrar’s Office on Main Campus, you will receive both your Main
Campus transcript and your Law Center transcript at no charge. Main campus students are charged a one-time transcript fee which covers this cost.

Graduate School grades are typically available earlier than Georgetown Law grades. Grade reports for courses in both programs are available online through MyAccess.

NOTE: Students must represent Georgetown Law and M.S.F.S. program grade point averages accurately to potential employers. Attempts to combine or equate the two averages can be misleading. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to list both GPAs on their resume and indicate which average belongs to which program along with the appropriate grading scales for comparison.

C. Dean’s List

J.D. students whose annual cumulative grade point averages place them in the top one-third of their class at the Law Center will have their transcripts marked “Dean’s List” for the appropriate academic year. All candidates for the J.D. degree at the Law Center are eligible for the Dean’s List honor provided they completed, during the academic year, at least 24 credits at the Law Center if enrolled in the full-time program or 16 credits at the Law Center if enrolled in the part-time program. Joint degree students are eligible for Dean’s List recognition based solely on their J.D. courses taken at the Law Center, if they complete at least 16 graded J.D. credits at the Law Center during the academic year and maintain full-time status in their joint degree program, if applicable. Dean’s List determination is based on a student’s annual average for the academic year, not the cumulative average. Courses taken at the Law Center in the preceding Summer session or in the Law Center’s Graduate Programs are included in the calculation of the required minimum number of credits for Dean’s List eligibility.

D. Graduation Honors

Georgetown Law graduation honors are based on the student’s cumulative grade point average for Georgetown Law courses only. The degree cum laude is awarded to students whose cumulative grade point averages place them in the top one-third of those graduating. The degree magna cum laude is awarded to students whose cumulative grade point average placed them in the top 10%. And, lastly, the J.D. degree summa cum laude is the highest academic honor that the faculty can bestow upon a graduating student. There is no cumulative grade point average that automatically entitles a student to that honor. Instead, summa cum laude is granted at the sole discretion of the faculty. To be eligible for consideration for the award of summa cum laude, a graduate must have completed at least 71 credits at the Law Center and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.70/4.00.
For the purpose of calculating students’ eligibility for degrees with honors, students graduating after a Summer session or Fall semester will be included with the class that graduated in the previous Spring semester. **M.S.F.S. grades are not included in computation of averages for Georgetown Law honors.**

**E. Order of the Coif**

Graduating students whose cumulative grade point average places them in the top 10% of their class and who have completed at least 64 academic credits at Georgetown Law are elected to membership in the Order of the Coif, the national law school honor society for the encouragement of scholarship and advancement of ethical standards in the legal profession. **M.S.F.S. grades are not included in computation of averages for the Order of the Coif.**

**IX. GRADUATION**

**A. Graduation Applications**

Fourth-year students must submit separate degree applications to each school. For the exact graduation application deadlines, refer to the Georgetown Law Registrar’s website at [http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-services/registrar/degree-application-academic-honors/Degree-Applications-and-Diplomas.cfm](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-services/registrar/degree-application-academic-honors/Degree-Applications-and-Diplomas.cfm) and the Main Campus Registrar’s website.

The approximate deadlines for the Law Center are:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deadline Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 7, 2016</td>
<td>Georgetown Law deadline for February 2017 graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, January 20, 2017</td>
<td>Georgetown Law deadline for May 2017 graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 7, 2017</td>
<td>Georgetown Law deadline for October 2017 graduation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** The Graduate School’s “Application for Graduate Degree” must be accompanied by documentation that all degree requirements have been met. A transcript showing completion of required courses, language proficiency, oral examinations, proof of current registration, and a final clearance memo from the Office of Student Accounts must accompany this application. Specific instructions will be issued from the Graduate School each spring. Do not put off completing this application. J.D./M.S.F.S. students who failed to complete this form in the past did not receive their degree with the rest of their class.

**B. Graduation Ceremonies**

J.D./M.S.F.S. graduates may participate in three graduation ceremonies, which will be held the weekend of May 19–21, 2017.
**Friday morning:** Graduate School Commencement and School of Foreign Service Diploma Ceremony  
**Friday evening:** M.S.F.S. Tropaia/Ceremony  
**Sunday afternoon:** Georgetown Law Commencement

1. **Graduate School Commencement**

The Graduate School commencement is held on Healy Lawn, weather permitting, on Georgetown University’s Main Campus. Degrees are conferred “in course” at the ceremony. J.D./M.S.F.S. students wear the J.D. tam and gown with the M.S.F.S. hood.

2. **M.S.F.S. Tropaia and Diploma Ceremony**

Diplomas are awarded at the Graduate School Commencement Ceremony and the School of Foreign Service Diploma Ceremony. Certificates are awarded at the M.S.F.S. Tropaia and Diploma Ceremony held on Friday evening in Gaston Hall. In addition to the graduates, current students, parents, and guests are invited to participate. A reception for graduates and their guests follows the Tropaia ceremony. Awards given include those for Academic Excellence, Distinction on Oral Examinations, IBD Program Certificates, and the J.D./M.S.F.S. Certificate of Program Completion.

3. **J.D. Commencement**

The J.D. commencement ceremony is held on Healy Lawn, weather permitting, on Georgetown University’s Main Campus on Sunday, May 21, 2017. Degrees are awarded “in course” and diplomas are presented individually after the general commencement ceremony. The students are divided into groups based on their first-year section assignments; each section has a different location, and the diplomas are distributed by faculty members who taught that section the first year. Joint degree graduates typically are grouped together in one section. The Office of Student Life sends expected graduates e-mail updates on commencement activities including: photos, graduation regalia, and tickets. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Life at (202) 662-9292 or studentlife@law.georgetown.edu.

C. **Cap and Gown Orders**

J.D./M.S.F.S. students order the J.D. gown, hood and tam through the Jostens website at [http://jostens.com](http://jostens.com). Detailed information about the Law Center’s commencement ceremony, including cap and gown orders can be found online at [http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-life/student-life/Commencement/index.cfm](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-life/student-life/Commencement/index.cfm). The M.S.F.S. hoods are acquired separately. Please contact the Office of Student Life at (202) 662-9292 with any questions about the J.D. regalia.
IX. CAREER PLANNING

A. How does the joint degree fit into students’ career plans?

Because of each J.D./M.S.F.S. student’s career aspirations and backgrounds are unique, J.D./M.S.F.S. students are encouraged to consult with the Law Center’s Office of Career Strategy (OCS) and Office of Public Interest and Community Service (OPICS) and the School of Foreign Service Graduate Career Development Center throughout their four years to develop a career plan that best suits their goals. Students are also welcome to meet with the Director of J.D. Programs to discuss the intersection of their academic and career interests.

Some students intend to work as a lawyer in an international field. These students draw on their M.S.F.S. training in the fields of international trade, global commerce and finance, international commercial transactions, and in specialized international litigation practices. Others ultimately want to work in non-legal jobs in foreign policy or other international fields. These students may practice law initially after graduating from the joint program but anticipate that the M.S.F.S. degree will give them greater flexibility to work in a policy or public interest job in the future.

**Student Notes:**

1) I will use my law degree first, working at the SEC, but I hope to use the M.S.F.S. in the future, moving on to other areas of the government, perhaps. I think the M.S.F.S. program offers classes with a more practical, or at least different, perspective on many issues studied in law school, so they combine to give you a more complete education, which will help wherever you work.

2) Having both degrees will allow me to work in a law firm for a number of years and then move to the State Department, Defense Department, or other government agency or NGO. I can work in both worlds with ease; if I only had a law degree, my career options would be more limited. Given globalization, people need more experience in more areas. J.D./M.S.F.S. students get this.

3) J.D./M.S.F.S. students should focus on building skills that will be useful later on whether or not they start off in a job that combines the two degrees perfectly. When I entered the program, I was more interested in the M.S.F.S. degree and thought the J.D. would be a good supplement. I had no expectation of working for a law firm. However, I changed my plans after realizing that to establish one’s bona fides as an attorney, it is necessary to work as one more or less straight out of law school. In addition, working for a firm provides valuable experience. It is possible to use the M.S.F.S. degree in a law firm setting—it’s all about finding applications for the skills and knowledge gained in the master’s program. Thus, I decided that my first step after graduating will be to work for a law firm that has plenty of international work. Though I’m starting off in a traditional legal field, I expect to be there for a maximum of four years. After that, I plan to move to a job that will involve the M.S.F.S. degree more directly. I’d like to work for an organization that strives to harness the private sector to achieve development goals. As an M.S.F.S. alumna noted during my orientation years ago, private sector experience is attractive to non-profit organizations because they need help functioning in a market-oriented environment.
B. Timing issues

The four-year program offers J.D./M.S.F.S. students an additional summer to gain experience, different employment settings, or try different geographical locations. This can be a wonderful opportunity for joint degree students to expand their knowledge base before making a commitment to an employer for post-graduation.

There are clearly consequences for different choices, and students should carefully consider each employment option and its ramifications based on their own career objectives. For example, students who hope to work in a law firm following graduation should plan to work as a summer associate at the firm in which they have the greatest interest during their third summer, which is the last summer prior to their final year of the program. Many J.D./M.S.F.S. students who spend their first year at Georgetown Law wait to participate in the Early Interview Week (EIW) program until the August before their third year because large law firms are most interested in hiring summer associates who are one year away from receiving their degrees and able to join the firm immediately thereafter. The vast majority of large law firms hire entry-level associates through their summer associate program, and it is much more difficult to find employment with large law firms outside of this structure. Small to medium firms, government, and public interest employers vary in their hiring practices, and students are strongly encouraged to speak with an OCS and/or OPICS advisor to discuss their unique career goals.

Conversely, J.D./M.S.F.S. students planning to begin their post-graduate employment in a non-legal setting should generally plan to spend their final summer working in that setting. The greatest success comes from following the typical employment path for the specific employment setting you wish to pursue—consult with your career advisors on the best path for you.

**Student Notes:**

1) I did an International internship through the law school my first summer; a State Department internship during my second summer; and worked at a US law firm my third summer.

2) As a J.D./M.S.F.S. student you have greater flexibility because after first or second year you can work as an M.S.F.S.-type for some international government agency (i.e. OPIC, Eximbank, etc.) Third year, however, you should work for a firm if that is where you want to end up.

3) It really depends on whether the individual intends to pursue a law or non-law career. My plan is this: do non-law internships during the fall and spring, and do law jobs (not necessarily at law firms) over the summer. I think fall and spring internships are SO valuable because they enhance your resume, give you great experience, and give you great contacts. The more internships you can fit in, the better off you will be.
Given the timing issue discussed above, most J.D./M.S.F.S. students do not participate in the Early Interview Week (EIW) program in August before their second year, and in fact, some employers may not be interested in interviewing students who are three years away from graduating. However, as noted in the below comments, students have varying experiences. Obviously, this is only a sampling of student perspectives. Students are strongly encouraged to speak with an OCS advisor to discuss what recruiting programs and independent outreach to employers supports their career objectives in the legal market.

**Student Notes:**

1) I didn’t participate in EIW my second year because I wanted to have an “M.S.F.S. summer” experience. Also, EIW is stressful, time-consuming, and somewhat overwhelming. On the other hand, you become very good at interviewing. If you aren’t convinced that working at a law firm is what you want to do, I would avoid it because it becomes very tempting to take a job at a firm your second summer, given the salary and the security factor of knowing you have a job by October. You don’t have an opportunity to see what else is out there before you have to decide, and that’s too bad.

2) It’s a good idea to do EIW in the 2nd year of the program. It can be hard, because many employers don’t want to hire because of the joint degree. Many will consider 2nd years as 1Ls (based on your date of graduation), and so it will be much harder to get a job. However, not all employers feel that way, and you can get a job out of it. If nothing else, it’s very good preparation for your next year.

3) The rule is this: if you want to work at a law firm, do EIW your second year. Even if you don’t get a job (and I got one just barely), you NEED to learn how to interview with law firms. It is an experience unlike any other. So go through it this year so that you know what you are doing third year when it really counts. Extra bonus: if you get a job, you get something fabulous to put on your resume, an extra summer (as compared to other law students) to figure out which area of the law is really for you, big bucks, and a chance to try living in a city where you might want to be long-term. View your extra summer as an opportunity to learn more about the pool before you dive in, because most people have to dive in having learned a lot less than you will.

4) I don’t recommend doing EIW your second year! I feel strongly that one of the advantages of the J.D./M.S.F.S. program is the “extra” summer that students get. I urge students to use it to get non-law experience. Such a job will not only be valuable in and of itself, but can give you something to talk about with interviewers who are tired of seeing students who’ve done one law thing after another. M.S.F.S. jobs show a genuine, broad interest in things international. Save EIW for your third year. In my opinion, spending yet another summer working for a law firm doesn’t add much to one’s experience or resume.
C. Marketing the Joint Degree

The substantive knowledge gained by earning a joint degree is an extremely effective tool, allowing students and recent graduates an opportunity to bring in-depth, specialized skills and training to a new job. Many graduates of the joint degree programs report that they were greatly advantaged by earning the dual credential as their “on-the-job” performance was enhanced by a thorough understanding of the law, as well as international affairs.

The degree itself, however, is not always viewed as an asset by a potential employer. Students must be prepared to articulate specific reasons for seeking the joint degree and provide examples of how the training will benefit the employee on the job. Initial skepticism can usually be overcome by explaining the motivation for seeking the dual degree and how that objective is consistent with the employer’s specific long-term objectives. For example, an interviewer for a law firm may question whether the M.S.F.S. is necessary to practice law, and whether the candidate’s long term plans are in a different employment setting. In this example, a response that clearly demonstrates how the joint degree curriculum offers insight and skills that will have direct application within the law firm’s practice area can turn a potential liability into a real asset.

Student Notes:

1) I got a lot of curious questions from law firm interviewers, but most people did not challenge my interest in being a lawyer because of the M.S.F.S. degree. I found more skepticism of my law degree at the State Department.

2) Legal employers often question your dedication to the law if you are pursuing a joint degree. I’ve often sold the program to these skeptics by claiming it was just a way to keep up with what’s going on in the world, gain a better economic background (which is important in any line of work), etc.

3) I used M.S.F.S. as a selling point saying that it gave me a chance to learn the business and economics that I would not have otherwise learned in law school. I did not have a background in economics at all before coming to Georgetown.

4) There are two main questions that the program evinces. First, what the heck is M.S.F.S.? My answer: a master’s in international affairs but with a practical, professional focus. Second question: why are you getting one? Here, it’s fairly easy to develop a 30-second answer that ties the degree in to your career plans. Just be careful not to alienate interviewers by stressing the importance of a degree that the interviewer likely does not have. Also, many students say that they are interested in doing international work, and it often seems that they think they’ll get to go jet-setting around the world doing work that is somehow gloriously and uniquely “international.” Be sure you let the interviewers know that you hold no illusions about how international work is substantively different from domestic work and that you aren’t signing up with an international firm so that you can get paid big bucks to go overseas immediately.
Finally, some may question whether the law aspect of the degree is at all watered-down. If this seems to be the case, assure the person that you’re getting a “full” law degree, or go ahead and explain that you have a minimum of 76 law credits versus 85 for a non-joint-degree student. Most firms were happy to get someone with more degrees and experience once I explained what the program is.

5) Law firms (and most strictly legal employers in general) don’t understand the point of it [the joint degree], so I end up emphasizing the international trade/finance aspect of the curriculum and the fact that I’m interested in international law. Honestly, my MSFS courses were of substantially greater value to my academic and professional development than any of my law classes.
APPENDIX A: J.D./M.S.F.S. REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Date: ____________

Name: _______________________________ Year: ___ Expected Graduation Date: ________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>COURSES/CREDITS</th>
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<td>_________</td>
<td>Required first-year law curriculum</td>
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*International Law “core” courses (7 credits):*

| _________ | International Law I: Introduction to International Law (3 or 4 credits) (or Transnational Law) |
| _________ | 4 additional credits in further “core” coursework |

*Additional International Law “core” or “related” courses (9 credits):*

| | |
| | |
| | |

*Additional upper division J.D. coursework and requirements (29 credits):*

| _________ | Upperclass Legal Writing Requirement |
| _________ | Professional Responsibility course |
| _________ | 6 credits of Experiential coursework (students matriculating at the Law Center in Fall 2016 or later) |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Degree Requirements</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>J.D.</th>
<th>M.S.F.S.</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Georgetown Law credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.S.F.S. credits</td>
<td>39*</td>
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<td>___</td>
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<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; yr</td>
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<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; yr</td>
<td>___</td>
<td>___</td>
<td>115</td>
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* Fulfillment of M.S.F.S. requirements should be confirmed with Erin Guild, Director of Academic Affairs for the M.S.F.S. Program, or Sarah Krauss, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs for the M.S.F.S. Program.