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## Doubling Up: Two New Programs Streamline the Dual Degree Process

UB Law Forum

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# Law School Report

## Doubling up

*Two new programs streamline the dual degree process*

**I**n an increasingly interrelated legal and business world, UB Law School is meeting the demand for lawyers with special expertise by adding two new interdisciplinary degree programs.

A dual program in **law and urban planning (J.D./M.U.P.)**, and another in **law and pharmacy (J.D./Pharm.D.)**, promise to position new graduates to compete for specialized jobs in those industries or in law firms that service them. These are the latest additions to a roster of such dual-degree programs in which UB Law participates, the largest being the J.D./M.B.A. program run in conjunction with UB's School of Management.

"We are uniquely well-situated to offer interdisciplinary programs," noted Professor Susan V. Mangold, UB Law's vice dean for academic affairs. With Professor Peter Pitegoff (now dean at University of Maine Law School) Mangold helped design the law and urban planning program. "We are situated right in the middle of a research university, where a lot of other law schools are physically separated from their universities." Additionally, she said, "we have many faculty with dual degrees."

Students have to enter the programs by the end of their first year of law school, Mangold said, and they apply to each interdisciplinary school separately. The advantage is that by taking advantage of cross-listed courses, students can complete the two degrees in less time than they would if they pursued the degrees sequentially.

"The key point is that the faculty who are putting together these dual degree programs have sequenced the courses so there is a clear map of what they need to take when, and commitment from the faculty that these courses will be offered. It enables the student to save a year's time and tuition,"



*"We think the J.D./Pharm.D. is a very unique program—there are only five others like it in the United States, and none in New York State."*

—Research Associate Professor  
*Sheila R. Shulman*

she said.

As well, Mangold said, the availability of such programs helps attract bright, talented students to UB Law. "There are a handful of students for whom the specific degree is a determinative factor," she said. "For a larger number of potential students, it helps that there is a package of interdisciplinary pro-

grams. We can capture students whose interests are piqued by the fact that there are a lot of interdisciplinary programs. These are students who know what they want to do and are very directed. They are desirable students for both schools."

Associate Professor Kathryn A. Foster was chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at UB's School of Architecture and Planning when she helped construct the dual degree program. She now serves as director of UB's Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth.

"We put our heads together," she said, "and realized that this is a natural degree. Real estate, environmental law and planning, housing, land use – there are so many areas that had nice intersections and synergies that we said, why wouldn't we offer a dual degree?"

Law students in the program, she said, spend their first year at the Law School, their second year at the School of Architecture and Planning, and then the final two years of the four-year program taking courses from both schools. The program also offers the equivalent of a Law School clinical opportunity – "typically a client-based real-world exercise or project or set of analyses that are done out in the community." The curriculum features a seminar specifically for dual degree students, on topics specific to those with interest in both fields.

Research Associate Professor Sheila R. Shulman is the Law School's coordinator for the newly minted dual program in law and pharmacy; her counterpart in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is Associate Professor Gayle A. Brazeau, associate dean for academic affairs.

"In the context of the modern health care system, it is important for health



Students enrolled in the new J.D./Pharm.D. program will be able to earn a dual degree in six years.

professionals to be able to talk with each other,” Shulman said. “This program will give students a knowledge base and a vocabulary to do that effectively. We think it is a very unique program – there are only five others like it in the United States, and none in New York State.”

And the market for graduates, she said, appears open-ended. “You cannot pick up a paper without reading about some issue involving both of these fields – issues involving the pharmaceutical industry, the FDA, people trying to access less expensive drugs. There are all the complexities of getting a drug to market, issues of access, various ways the law comes into play, such as the legalities of drug importation from Canada. These students will be in a good position to find themselves very interesting jobs.”

“This really is a practice-based degree,” Brazeau said. “Students can start in either the Law School or the School of Pharmacy. They spend the first year in one school, the second year in the other, and from then on it is a combined program. They receive the J.D. at the end of their fifth year and the Pharm.D. at the end of the sixth year.”

**I**t is a long program – though shorter than the seven years it would take to earn the two degrees separately – and so the leaders will make a point to provide a support network for the students. “We will try to have some cohesion here,” Shulman said. “I will make a point of keeping in touch with those students.”

Another advantage of the dual program is that it gives law students access

to the emerging field of bioinformatics, a central focus of the pharmacy program and one that has been identified as a major strength of UB as a whole.

Said Brazeau: “I really believe these graduates will become leaders in their fields.”