Online MJ Degree in Children’s Law and Policy

With small class sizes and a flexible format, Loyola’s online MJ degree in Children’s Law and Policy provides professionals throughout the United States and around the world with a firm understanding of law and policy as they affect children and families. Students in this two-year, part-time program come from a variety of fields, including social work, education, health care, and the justice system. The MJ degree does not qualify graduates to sit for the bar or to practice law, but prepares them to be informed advocates and stronger leaders within their chosen professions.

"As a clinical social worker in a school health clinic, I found the courses in education law and student discipline most helpful. It was exciting to apply what I learned from the program to my current job.”

— Addie Van Zwoll (MJ ’14)
Clinical social worker and adjunct professor, Loyola University Chicago’s Marcella Neihoff School of Nursing

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

With permission, students may complete the program at a faster or slower pace than the recommended two years. A total of 24 credit hours are required, usually sequenced as follows.

SEMESTER 1
Students take both (two credits each):
- Introduction to the Study of Law and the Legal System (LAW 665)
- Introduction to Children’s Law (LAW 667)

SEMESTER 2
Leadership Development
(LAW 668, four credits)

SEMESTERS 3, 4, AND 5
Students choose two per term (two credits each course):
- Education Law and Policy (LAW 669)
- Child Welfare Law and Policy (LAW 670)
- Juvenile Justice Law and Policy (LAW 671)
- Family Law (LAW 672)
- Mental Health Law (LAW 673)
- Legislation and Law Reform (LAW 675)
- Children’s Health Law and Policy (LAW 679)
- International Children’s Rights (LAW 678)

SEMESTER 6
Thesis/Capstone Project
(LAW 677, four credits)
ON-CAMPUS WEEKENDS
In addition to the required curriculum, students are required to travel to Loyola’s Chicago campus at least once during the program for an Education Immersion Weekend (EIW). At EIWs, students gather in person to present their thesis/capstone projects; attend workshops; recognize graduating students; and meet with faculty, students, and alumni.

DEDICATED FACULTY
The faculty at the Civitas ChildLaw Center combine professionalism and years of experience in the fields of child and family law. Students benefit from a faculty of law practitioners who both teach and practice in the various facets of child law and policy-related work. They are committed to helping students attain a deeper understanding of the complex issues in child and family law and to develop sound strategies to address those issues.

DUAL-DEGREE OPTIONS
Master of Social Work/MJ in Children’s Law and Policy
Students may pursue a dual degree and obtain both degrees in less time than if taken separately. The MSW portion is campus-based at Loyola’s Water Tower Campus.

Master of Science in Child Development with a Specialization in Children’s Law and Policy.
Offered in conjunction with the Erikson Institute, the Master of Science in Child Development is campus-based at the Erikson Institute in Chicago. Prospective students must apply to each program and school separately.

Master of Science in Child Development/MJ in Children’s Law and Policy.
Students may build on their specialization by obtaining a dual Master’s degree.

PROGRAM COSTS
- **Tuition**: $1,301 per credit hour
- **Total cost of program**: $31,224
- **Additional expenses**: textbooks, headset, wired Internet access and cost of travel to attend at least one Education Immersion Weekend.
- **Financial aid**: available for those who qualify for federal student loans. Students must be enrolled in at least four credit hours per term to qualify as a part-time graduate level student. Students are awarded loans after they have been accepted into the program and are enrolled in courses.

APPLICATION PROCESS
Applications are accepted on a rolling basis for both fall and spring enrollment. The application deadlines are August 15 for the fall term (term begins in late August) and December 15 for the spring term (term begins in early January). Prospective students will need to submit:
- Online application (no application fee)
- Statement of purpose indicating professional and/or personal reasons for pursuing the MJ degree
- Current resume
- Transcripts from all universities or colleges attended
- Two letters of recommendation
- International students need to submit a transcript evaluation from Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE)
- A GRE is not required for admission

“I chose Loyola because of its strong reputation in the field of child welfare. My professors were extremely helpful and the classes were offered at convenient times.”
—Angela Young (MJ ’14)
Teacher, Eden Child Development Ministry