

JD/PHD PROGRAM IN LAW AND PSYCHOLOGY

**Drexel University
School of Law &
Department of Psychology**

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JD/PhD PROGRAM IN LAW & PSYCHOLOGY

Background

The School of Law and the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences offer a joint and integrated JD/PhD Program in Law and Psychology. The program melds two already ongoing successful endeavors, the JD degree in the School of Law and the PhD in clinical psychology in the Department of Psychology, thus further enhancing Drexel University's leadership in multidisciplinary education. Students in the program complete all 85 credits required for graduation from the law school and all 91 credits required to complete the doctorate. The program allows those students who wish to pursue professional degrees in both law and psychology a more efficient plan of study. The program is designed to be completed in seven (7) years, including required psychology practica, a year's internship in an American Psychological Association accredited predoctoral internship, a masters thesis, a doctoral dissertation, and 50 hours of pro bono service in law.

The School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association, and the clinical psychology program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association. A few other universities offer degrees in law and psychology but on an ad hoc, nonintegrated basis, so the Drexel program is a unique interdisciplinary endeavor.

Program Philosophy

The program bridges the gap between legal and psychological training. By and large, lawyers and social scientists come from different cultures, with different interests, different cognitive approaches to solving problems, different research methodologies, and

different attitudes toward confrontation and argument. Each profession arrives at the “truth” in different ways, and its members are exposed to different styles of education during their post-baccalaureate training. Legal education develops an understanding of case analysis, statutory interpretation, the evolution of legal traditions, and methods for resolving disputes. Education in psychology develops research and clinical skills and understanding of behavioral theories, techniques, and statistical methods.

Law, which has special rules concerning evidence and proof, relies heavily on precedent and the application of legal principles to specific facts toward the goal of settling conflicts that need resolution. By contrast, psychology looks at problems through an empirical lens, using psychometrically-based tools and techniques to systematically evaluate questions, but rarely ending in a “final verdict.” Because the limits of evidence and meaning of “proof” in psychological research may differ sharply from the limits of evidence and proof in law, conflict may result when the two disciplines interact.

A major goal of the program is to foster an appreciation of and a facility with both traditions. Thus, neither training tradition dominates. There are inherent difficulties in mastering two independent disciplines that have languages, methods, and epistemologies of their own. The joint program teaches and accommodates both, while fostering students’ integration of the two disciplines. The program trains graduates to develop a unique professional identity. It produces graduates whose visions of social problems differ from those trained solely in law or the behavioral sciences, can speak “trilingually,” and who can analyze both existing policy and potential changes from a psycholegal perspective when human behavior is the central concern.

Specific Goals and Curriculum

Within the broad framework of the program's philosophy, the JD/PhD Program in Law and Psychology has three specific goals:

1. Develop scientist-practitioners who will produce legally sophisticated social science research to aid the legal system to make better empirically-based decisions;
2. Produce lawyer-psychologists who will participate in the development of more empirically and theoretically sophisticated mental health policy by legislatures, administrative tribunals, and the courts; and
3. Educate highly trained clinicians who can contribute to the advancement of forensic psychology in such areas as criminal law, domestic relations, and civil commitment.

In fulfilling these goals, the program trains students in an integrated and conceptually unified curriculum so they acquire a mature understanding of the interaction between the two disciplines. Students are enrolled in the School of Law and Department of Psychology simultaneously for six (6) years, integrating coursework in both disciplines. The sole emphasis in the first year, however, is law, and the emphasis in the second year is psychology. Students split their time relatively evenly between the institutions in the third through the sixth years. After the first year, students are encouraged to try out for the *Drexel Law Review*. Students maintain continuous contact with the faculties of both schools and the developments in both disciplines throughout the program. In the seventh year, after obtaining the JD, students complete a year-long

internship in clinical-forensic psychology and complete their doctoral dissertation. They are awarded the PhD at the end of their seventh year.

Training consists of seven elements:

1. The required existing core program in law and psychology at both schools;
2. Interdisciplinary courses; e.g., Mental Health Law, Behavioral Sciences and the Law, Expert Witnesses, and Law and the Mind Sciences;
3. Supervised psycholegal research experience;
4. Legal clinics and psychology practica and internships that combine knowledge from both fields in a practical setting;
5. Electives in both fields, e.g., bioethics, education law, health law, health psychology, employment discrimination, neuropsychology;
6. Cooperative experience and pro bono service in legal settings; and
7. Employment for at least one summer in a legal setting, e.g., public interest law firm, governmental agency, private law firm, nonprofit association.

Integrative Courses

With exceptions noted immediately below, each of the courses that make up the JD/PhD curriculum is part of the existing course of study for the PhD in clinical psychology and JD in the School of Law. Four courses/seminars comprise the integrative curriculum: Mental Health Law; Expert Witnesses; Behavioral Sciences and the Law (seminar); and Law and the Mind Sciences. These courses/seminars are required of all

students in the joint JD/PhD Program, and they are offered as electives to students in both the School of Law and the Department of Psychology.

Administration and Admissions

The JD/PhD Program in Law and Psychology is jointly administered by the School of Law and the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Program Director is David DeMatteo, JD, PhD, who holds appointments as an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and School of Law. Naomi E. Goldstein, PhD, is the Co-Director of the Program, and she holds an appointment as an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology. Three other faculty members are closely involved in the joint program: (1) Kirk Heilbrun, PhD, Professor in the Department of Psychology, a nationally known forensic psychologist, former president of the American Psychology-Law Society, and board certified (ABPP) in both clinical and forensic psychology; (2) Don Bersoff, JD, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Law and Visiting Research Professor in the School of Law, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychology, and former Director of the JD/PhD Program; and (3) Barry Furrow, JD, Professor of Law and Director of Health Law Concentration in the School of Law. Other members of the law school and psychology department faculties with appropriate expertise are also involved in the teaching, supervision, and mentorship of students in the joint program.

To be admitted to the JD/PhD program, applicants must satisfy the admissions requirements of both schools. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited undergraduate college or university. They must take the Graduate Record Examination and the Law School Admission Test. The GRE subject test in psychology is

strongly recommended. Applicants must also submit three letters of recommendation and official transcripts from all colleges and universities they have attended. The program does not enroll students for part-time or evening study.

Admission to the program is highly competitive, and only two students are admitted each year. Thus, a critical factor for admission is excellent performance on the GRE and LSAT. Generally, applicants are required to have GRE scores above 315, LSAT scores above 160, and a GPA above 3.5, although admission decisions are not made solely on the basis of test scores. The program seeks diversity in all its meanings, and such diversity is achievable only if real-life experience and accomplishment are valued as highly as an exceptional percentile ranking. Preference in admission is given to qualified applicants who wish to pursue the scientist-professional model of training, combining research and practice in law and psychology, and who have some prior experience in those areas.

Academic Requirements

Academic requirements for JD/PhD students are identical to the academic requirements for JD students and PhD students in those respective programs. The School of Law requires students to complete 85 semester hours of credits. The Department of Psychology requires students to complete at least 91 quarter hours of credits. Students in the joint degree program are able to complete both degrees through a course of study that requires fewer credits than if the two degrees were pursued separately.

Program Graduates (& A Brief Historical Note)

The Drexel University JD/PhD Program is the most recent iteration of a program that has existed for over 25 years. For many years, the program was co-sponsored by

Villanova Law School and the predecessors to the Drexel University Department of Psychology. When Drexel opened its own law school, the program became entirely self-contained at Drexel.

The JD/PhD Program has graduated several distinguished alumni. Graduates have found employment in universities, medical schools, private and public interest law firms, clinics and hospitals, federal and state governments, and consulting firms. Some have faculty positions at top universities and medical schools. Others have worked for the Federal Judicial Center performing research and policy analysis for the federal courts, others for the United States Sentencing Commission. Some have been employed in state and federal forensic units performing forensic evaluations for the courts, and some have done so for clients in private practice. Others are partners or associates in law firms specializing in family law, education law, malpractice litigation, and psychiatric patients' civil rights. Some have gone on to work for the FBI, others as staff counsel to United States Senators. One graduate is now a United States Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Brief Biographies of the Core Faculty

The Program Director, David DeMatteo, is an Associate Professor of Psychology and Law in the Department of Psychology and Earle Mack School of Law. He received his PhD in clinical psychology from MCP Hahnemann University and his JD from Villanova Law School, where he was the Executive Editor of the *Villanova Law Review* and elected to the Order of the Coif. He has co-authored numerous books, book chapters, and articles, and he sits on the Editorial Boards of several law-psychology journals. Dr. DeMatteo's research interests include psychopathy, forensic mental health assessment,

drug policy, and offender diversion, and his research program has been funded by several federal and state agencies. He served as Chair of APA's Committee on Legal Issues (2011) and as a member of the APA Council of Representatives (for the American Psychology-Law Society; APA Div. 41). He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, and he is board certified in forensic psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology.

The Program Co-Director, Naomi E. Goldstein, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology. She received her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. Her research focuses on the intersection between psychology, law, and public policy, with particular emphases on juvenile justice and adolescents' legal decision making. More specifically, Dr. Goldstein's research emphasizes adolescents' capacities to waive *Miranda* rights and offer confessions; juvenile offenders' abilities to comprehend and comply with probation requirements; international research on juveniles' legal capacities in Argentina; and anger management to reduce anger, aggression, and recidivism among delinquent girls. In addition to authoring and co-authoring a wide range of articles, book chapters, and books, Dr. Goldstein is the primary author of the Miranda Rights Comprehension Instruments and of the Juvenile Justice Anger Management (JJAM) Treatment for Girls.

Kirk Heilbrun is a Professor in the Department of Psychology and previously served as an adjunct member of the Villanova Law School faculty where he co-taught the Law and Mental Health course (with Dr. DeMatteo). He received his PhD in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1980 and then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in law and psychology at Florida State University. His research interests

include forensic mental health assessment, violence risk assessment, risk-reducing interventions, and diversion, all of which have received extramural funding since 1994. He has served as president of the American Psychology-Law Society and the American Board of Forensic Psychology. He is board certified (ABPP) in both clinical and forensic psychology.

Donald N. Bersoff retired as founding Director of the JD/PhD Program on August 31, 2012. He is now Emeritus Professor of Law and Visiting Research Professor in the Earle Mack School of Law, and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychology. He received his PhD from New York University in 1965 and his JD from Yale Law School in 1976, where he was an editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. He has taught at several universities and maintained a private practice in psychology before entering law school. In 1979, Dr. Bersoff became the first general counsel of the American Psychological Association and served in that capacity until 1990. He is the author of over 100 book chapters, articles, and papers on ethics and the interaction of law, psychology, and the social sciences. He is the author of *Ethical Conflicts in Psychology* (2008), published by the American Psychological Association and now in its fourth edition. He is also the senior author on *Law and Mental Health Professions—Pennsylvania* and an extensive chapter on the ethics of assessment and testing in APA's *Handbook of Ethics in Psychology*. He has served as president of the American Psychology-Law Society, on the American Bar Association's Commission on the Mentally Disabled, and as Chair of the Section on Mental Disability Law of the Association of American Law Schools. Dr. Bersoff was President of the American Psychological Association for 2013.

Barry Furrow is a Professor of Law and Director of the Health Law Program at the School of Law. Professor Furrow earned his JD at Harvard Law School before clerking with the Superior Court of Massachusetts and handling civil litigation with the Boston law firm of Palmer & Dodge. He founded the Health Law Institute at Widener Law School and has taught at the University of Detroit, University of Michigan, American University, and University of North Carolina, among others. He is a member of the American Society of Law, Medicine, & Ethics and the American Health Lawyers Association. Professor Furrow is the lead author of “*Health Law – Cases, Materials and Problems*” (now in its 6th edition), the leading casebook in the field, and co-author of the treatise, “*Health Law*,” which the U.S. Supreme Court has cited three times. He is also the author of *Malpractice in Psychotherapy* and numerous articles, book chapters, and papers on health care and ethics. Professor Furrow is an editorial board member and former Editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, and he serves as a peer reviewer for the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and other journals. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of *Catholic Health East*, a large hospital system. His current research focuses on patient safety, health care reform, and the role of hospitals in the emerging U.S. health care system.