Dual Admission Accelerated Program FAQs

1. If I am thinking of applying to the program, what courses should I not take before applying?

You should not take ECO231, SOC341, a Part II Foundation Course Category A, or a Part IV Category A or B free elective. These courses are not required for the program and will be substituted by MA coursework. Be sure to tell your advisor that you are thinking of applying to the program so you can be advised accordingly.

2. What if I have taken ICJ major courses not needed for the program, do they become electives?

Yes, they become electives. In some cases, they can become ICJ BA Part IV specialized areas electives if you still need to complete those.

3. What if I haven’t taken ICJ 101, POL/LAW 259, or STA 250, can I still be admitted?

You can be admitted if you have not taken all of these courses, but you should try to take them before admission, or in the summer or winter after admission, if they are offered. They are required for your undergraduate capstone course, ICJ401.

4. Can I be admitted with less than a 3.5 GPA?

No, the program is for exceptional students. You cannot graduate without a 3.5 GPA and therefore we have set the admissions standard as a minimum 3.5 GPA. While we may consider students on the cusp of a 3.5, they will need to make their case for admission with their other application materials (e.g. personal statement, reference letters, writing sample).

5. What if I have fewer than 70 credits or more than 85? Can I still be admitted?

You should wait to apply until you have at least 70 credits by the time you start the program, if accepted.

You will not be considered for application if you are over 85 credits; that is because you are too far along in your studies to be able to complete the program in five years. In this last case, you should consider applying for the MA ICJ program upon graduation. Remember, as a senior, you may take up to two graduate courses if you have a 3.2 GPA.

6. I am a transfer student and will reach the upward limit of credits allowed for admission to the program my first semester at John Jay. I know I need to establish the 3.5 GPA at John Jay in order to be considered for the program. My
grades will come in after the admissions deadline. Will the admissions committee wait for my grades to come in?

Yes, the committee can wait for your semester’s grades, but do indicate this in your personal statement within your application so you are considered for admission.

7. When are the application deadlines?

May 1st (for fall) and November 15th (for spring).

8. What sort of writing sample is required with my application?

You will be asked to respond to a prompt in the online application system. This prompt may change every semester. An example of such a prompt is “What are the primary challenges that nation-states face today in responding to transnational and organized crime? What kinds of responses are most likely to be effective?”

9. Who should my letters of reference be from and what should they say?

Your references should be from current or former professors, and preferably ICJ professors. They should be from professors who know or knew you well and gave you a high grade. They should give specific examples that demonstrate your motivation and ability to successfully complete the dual admission accelerated program. If you choose a referee from your employment or internship experience, the same advice for the letter applies. You identify your referees in the online application system and they are sent a link to complete their reference.

10. Do I have to pay an application fee?

No, you do not have to pay an admission fee.

11. Why is the program called Dual Admission Accelerated Program and not “BA/MA”?

New York State no longer registers BA/MA programs. The ICJ program is thus done outside of this framework and is called a dual admission accelerated program. The ICJ program was the first program of this kind at John Jay. However, it is very similar to the existing BA/MA programs at the College. The main difference is that students earn the BA when they reach 120 credits and the MA when they complete the program. (In the existing BA/MA programs, students get both degrees simultaneously.)

12. Are there any scholarships for the Dual Admission Accelerated program?

There are no separate scholarships but you are eligible for all BA scholarships while you are a BA student and for MA scholarships once you have your BA. See
https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/scholarships  At the graduate level, students may also qualify for fellowships or federal loans.

13. Are there scholarships available for international students?

Yes, international students are eligible to apply for scholarships providing that they meet the requirements. There are scholarships listed on the John Jay College of Criminal Justice website that are specifically for international students, such as the International Graduate Scholarship.

14. How do I list the program on my resume or linkedin?

Susan Johnson, Dual Admission Accelerated Program in International Criminal Justice. BA expected (month, year); MA expected (month, year).

15. Who do I approach for advising?

You approach the ICJ major advisor, the BA ICJ Director, the Graduate Academic Advisor of the MA ICJ program and/or the MA ICJ Director, as per below. You should seek advising each semester to stay on track. While a BA student, you will need course permission to register for MA courses, which the BA ICJ Director can arrange for you.

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<tr>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>People</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advisement</td>
<td>BA ICJ Major Advisor</td>
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<td>Provides advisement on overall course planning from admission to graduation; provides specific advisement on Gen. Ed., ICJ major and all college minors.</td>
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16. Why doesn’t my DegreeWorks match the course planning sheet?

DegreeWorks is not set up for our dual admission accelerated program yet but may be in the near future. Use your planning sheet to guide you in your studies and seek advising once a semester. When your BA is conferred, your DegreeWorks will change to the MA template.

17. At what point should I attend Graduate Orientation?

You may attend graduate orientation at any point in your MA studies, but students are strongly encouraged to attend graduate orientation during the summer/winter prior to starting classes in the MA. Contact the Graduate Academic Advisor to be sure you are registered to attend it. At this point the Graduate Academic Advisor will include you in the MA ICJ Blackboard organization and add you to the Graduate Studies student lists so that you receive Graduate Studies announcements.

18. When will my BA and MA degrees be conferred?

Your degrees are conferred separately. You should apply for graduation for your BA in the semester in which you will finish 120 credits, including your Gen Ed requirements and your major requirements (remember, some of your MA coursework substitutes for some of your BA ICJ major requirements). You should apply for graduation for your MA when you finish the MA program requirements. In the semester you finish your BA degree, you should print out a copy of your Degree Works as it will be replaced with the graduate template once you graduate with your BA.

19. At what point do I start paying graduate tuition?

This program is accelerated and intended for students to attend full-time (at least 12 cr. for undergraduate students, at least 9 cr. for graduate students). Full-time, NY State resident students pay a maximum undergraduate tuition rate of $3,465.00 regardless of course level until they complete 120 credits and earn their bachelor’s degree. Students are then graduate students and tuition is charged at the graduate rate. Students who have not yet earned the Bachelor’s degree continue to be eligible for consideration of federal and state financial aid programs including PELL and TAP. Once students move onto the Master’s portion of the program, undergraduate financial aid is not applicable. Students may apply for federal loans to finance their Master’s degree.
If circumstances occur that require students to attend part-time, tuition rates will be determined by the level of the courses (undergraduate or graduate) they are registered for.

Non-NY State resident tuition is determined by the level of the courses registered for (undergraduate or graduate).

All students in the accelerated, dual admission programs are encouraged to consult with the Financial Aid Office about their eligibility for aid under federal and state guidelines and the Bursar’s Office about tuition charges when they are considering admission to these programs.

20. **What happens if I end up with more than 134 credits?**

You may end up with more than 134 credits, if only because 134 is not a multiple of 3, therefore it is likely you will have at least 135 credits. More credits than 135 mean that you are unlikely to be finishing the program in five years, and thus defeat the purpose of the program. However, the College allows you to go over the minimum number of credits needed.

21. **I want to graduate with my BA cohort, in four years. Is that possible?**

This may be possible depending on individual circumstances and may require completing coursework in summer and winter sessions.

22. **Can I have a minor and be in the program?**

Yes. You must finish your minor within 120 credits. In some cases, you may be able to apply MA courses towards your minor. After you obtain your BA, the undergraduate portion of your records will be sealed and you cannot go back to complete the minor.

23. **Can graduate courses count for my undergraduate minor?**

If your minor coordinator agrees to accept them, yes. If these graduate courses fall outside the MA ICJ courses, you will need special permission from the respective graduate program director, and the MA ICJ Director, to take them.

24. **I know I can take up to 5 MA ICJ online courses. What is the difference between those courses and the ones in the regular MA ICJ?**

These courses have the same content as the regular MA ICJ courses, except that most are 8 weeks in duration and are taught asynchronously. For that reason, exercise caution as they can be very intense when taken with a full schedule, particularly when you are first embarking on your graduate coursework. For more information about ICJ MA online courses, reach out to Dr Katarzyna Celinska, Director of the ICJ MA program: kcelinska@jjay.cuny.edu. Note: during the pandemic, the above rule has been relaxed.
25. Can I be in the honors program and be in the program?

Yes, your BA ICJ Director will coordinate your advising with your honors advisor.

26. Can I join an honors society while in the program?

Yes, you can apply to join Alpha Phi Sigma: Eta Phi Chapter, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. See information here: https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/honor-societies

27. What happens if my GPA drops to less than a 3.5 while I am in the program?

If you fall below a 3.5 GPA in the program, you will be placed on probation and required to take fewer courses the following semester. If your GPA does not improve the next semester, you may be dismissed from the program, in which case you return to completing your BA degree only.

28. I have been dismissed from the program. Can I still pursue my MA?

Yes, you can apply to the MA program if your GPA is still above (3.0). You will need to explain in your application any extenuating circumstances that led you to be dismissed from the dual admission accelerated program. You will be also required to complete an ICJ MA admissions packet with requirements specific to the program.

29. At what point can I run for graduate student positions? (program representative, graduate student council) and am I no longer eligible to run for undergraduate student positions?

Students interested in joining student council should consult the student charter https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/student-government. Usually, there is a credit requirement per title and students must be in good academic standing.

For ICJ MA student representative to the ICJ MA Governance Committee, applicants must have completed at least 1 semester at the graduate level in order to apply.

30. What advanced certificates can I obtain as part of the MA program?

Two advanced certificates sync with the MA ICJ program: The Advanced Certificate in Terrorism Studies and the Advanced Certificate in Transnational Organized Crime Studies. You earn these certificates using your required MA ICJ program electives. Students are strongly encouraged to pursue advanced certificates in transnational organized crime and/or terrorism studies as part of the ICJ Dual Admission Accelerated program. Each requires the student complete 12 credits in order to be awarded the graduate certificate(s). If you are interested, contact the ICJ MA Graduate Advisor for required Registrar forms and certificate requirements. You may start these certificates as an undergraduate student, but you should
reserve at least one course when you are a graduate student to be awarded the certificate, since these are graduate certificates.

31. Can I take undergraduate courses all the way up to my 134 credits?
You can take undergraduate courses up until the BA degree is conferred. Once you are a graduate student, you cannot take undergraduate courses.

32. I want to take an MA course that is not an MA ICJ elective. Can I do that?
Yes, with permission from the respective graduate program director. If you want the course to count for your MA electives, you need the MA ICJ program director’s permission, too.

33. Why does the course load drop from five to four courses on our course planning sheet?
Note that a fulltime course load in graduate school is three courses, and four in undergraduate studies. To finish in a timely manner, graduate students typically take four courses a semester, and undergraduate students, five courses. Graduate courses are harder and require more time. Do know that classroom time is less, however. Three-credit graduate courses meet once a week for two hours, and total 30 hours a semester. (Undergraduate courses meet for a little under three hours a week and total 45 hours a semester.)

34. What is the UNITAR program in the MA and when I can pursue it?
The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) program is a Certificate program whereby you spend a semester in a series of classes, workshops, trainings, and mentoring activities at UNHQ in NYC. If you complete the program successfully, you are awarded three external credits, which count as an MA ICJ elective. You pay the course fee directly to UNITAR (approximately $2,000) at the start of the semester. You may pursue this opportunity as of your Year 4. External credit is offered only if you pursue this program in spring or fall. The Graduate Academic Advisor can provide more information.

35. Am I eligible for BA and MA graduation awards?
You are eligible for BA awards when you are an undergraduate student, and MA graduate awards when you are a graduate student. Dean’s List is an undergraduate honor and only awarded while you are an undergraduate student.

The BA program gives a yearly award to the graduating student with the highest GPA in the program, which is presented at the commencement awards ceremony. The Master of Arts Degree Program in International Crime & Justice gives a yearly award to the graduating student with the highest GPA in the program. The award is presented at the annual Graduate Hooding Ceremony.
36. Will the dual admission accelerated program affect my Pell/Tap financial aid situation?

Pell/Tap are only for undergraduate students. Once your BA is conferred and you are a graduate student, you are no longer eligible for Pell/Tap. Check with financial aid for all financial aid issues.

37. How does being in the dual accelerated program affect international students?

International students admitted to the DAAP are eligible for their OPT only at the end of their graduate studies.

38. Are the regalia for graduation the same for undergraduate and graduate students?

No, they are not exactly the same, particularly the hood. In addition to commencement, graduate students have their own hooding ceremony in May.