



Degree Comparisons – Core and Elective

While each program will approach its curriculum differently, below are some common similarities and differences between professional degrees.

	International Affairs	Public Affairs (Policy, Administration, and Analysis)	Juris Doctorate (US)¹	Business Administration²
Core Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research / Statistical Methods • Economics • Comparative Politics and Institutions • Language Proficiency • Leadership • Policymaking and Governance • Analysis and Writing • Capstone or Thesis • Internship (often, but not always required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research / Statistical Methods • Economics • Ethics • Finance • Leadership • Management • Policy Analysis and Writing • Policy Processes and Institutions • Capstone, Thesis, or Policy Exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Methods • Civil Procedure • Contracts • Legal writing and research • Property Law • Torts • US Constitutional Law • Clinical work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting • Economics • Finance • Leadership • Management/ Operations • Marketing • Statistics • Strategy • Internship
Example Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict Resolution • Cross-Cultural Communication • Cybersecurity • Development • Global Health • Human Rights • Energy and the Environment • International Security • International Trade • International Law • Migration • Monitoring and Evaluation • Political Risk • Regional Studies • Social Enterprise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgeting • Education Policy • Economic Development • Emergency Management • Health Policy • Human Resources • Immigration • Local Government Administration • Negotiation • Non-Profit Management • Public Finance • Risk Management • Social Policy • Urban and Regional Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign Finance • Copyrights • Corporations • Criminal Procedure • Disability Rights • Employment Law • Environmental Law • Evidence • Family Law • Healthcare • Immigration • International Law • Real Estate • Tax • Wills and Trusts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agribusiness • Entrepreneurship • Financial Modeling • Healthcare • International Trade • Investment Strategies • Negotiation • Organizational Behavior • Private Equity • Real Estate • Social Enterprise • Supply Chain Management • Taxation
Core Skills Development	Navigating economic, political, cultural, and historical contexts in the world; influencing activities across borders	Designing, implementing, and evaluating policy decisions within and related to governments	Researching and analyzing legal problems	Managing and crafting strategies to help businesses operate and maximize profits

¹ Source: <https://www.lsac.org/jd/thinking-about-law-school/inside-law-school#first>

² Compiled by looking at the Harvard, Penn, Columbia, Howard, Northwestern, and NYU business school curricula.