DUAL PHD/JD
DEVELOPMENTAL
PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW

Cornell University
Nearly every aspect of the law involves psychology. As the study of human behavior, psychology is at the heart of all crimes, all investigations, all trials: What do witnesses remember? What is their testimony and what influences it? How do juries reason? How do judges judge?

Despite psychology’s relevance to the law, research that investigates psychological issues tied to the law often does not reflect a deep understanding of the law itself. Few highly trained scholars in psychology concentrate their efforts on, or lend their expertise to, questions directly informing the law and those who adjudicate, write, and enforce laws. The number of lawyers who are also social scientists with PhDs is even smaller. An American justice system informed by knowledge gained through the empirical study of psychology and human development requires an increase in psychologists trained in the law and lawyers trained in psychology.

“The College of Human Ecology is at the center of a burgeoning academy of faculty across campus performing cutting-edge research at the intersection of law and the social sciences. I know I share Dean Stewart Schwab’s enthusiasm in announcing a dual degree Ph.D. and J.D. graduate program that furthers important cross-college collaboration. A six year dual degree in Developmental Psychology and Law not only reflects the excellence offered by the graduate and legal programs at Cornell, but adds unique depth to a field of study with broad implications for the legal system.”

– Alan Mathios, Ph.D.
Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean, College of Human Ecology

“Cornell University’s dual PhD/JD program in Developmental Psychology and Law will prepare the next generation of scholars who work on the interface between the law, psychology, and human development. Education at the Law School combines inspired teaching with cutting-edge scholarship in a close-knit and collegial intellectual community. Located in the College of Human Ecology, the Department of Human Development provides graduate students with world-class training in the general discipline of psychology, as well as focused training in one or more of its sub-areas of research: cognitive, social-personality, biological, infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Students conduct original research and acquire a common scholarly background that enables them to function as part of the community of psychological scientists and to engage at a high level in intellectual dialogue with colleagues. The dual degree will provide PhD students with the legal education that is necessary to conduct research and teach in this field at the highest level, and will provide JD students with the research training that is necessary to practice and teach scientifically-based law.”

– Charles Brainerd
Faculty Chair, Department of Human Development, College of Human Ecology
Director of the Law, Psychology and Human Development Program
CHARLES BRAINERD  
PhD, Developmental and Experimental Psychology  
Department of Human Development  
Director of Law, Psychology and Human Development Program  
Charles Brainerd is an expert on human cognition and memory and is a co-developer of Fuzzy-Trace Theory, which is standard content in contemporary psychology textbooks.

VALERIE P. HANS  
PhD, Social Psychology  
Professor of Law  
Valerie P. Hans is one of the nation’s leading authorities on the jury system, juvenile death penalty, racial and gender discrimination, court legitimacy, and media impact on the justice system.

STEPHEN J. CECI  
PhD, Developmental Psychology  
Helen L. Carr Chaired Professor of Psychology  
SUNY Distinguished Professor  
Stephen J. Ceci is an expert in children’s testimonial competence and the accuracy of children’s memory.

VALERIE F. REYNA  
PhD, Developmental and Experimental Psychology  
Department of Human Development  
Valerie F. Reyna is internationally recognized for her expertise in using memory principles and mathematical models to explain judgment and decision making, as well as for co-developing Fuzzy-Trace Theory with her colleague, Charles Brainerd.

JEFFREY J. RACLINSKI  
JD, PhD, Psychology  
Professor of Law  
Jeffrey J. Rachlinski studies the influence of psychology on decision making by courts and administrative agencies, and has advanced our understanding of litigation strategies, environmental law, civil procedure, and torts.

JOHN BLUME  
JD, Professor of Law  
Director of Cornell Death Penalty Project  
Director of Clinical, Advocacy and Skills Programs  
John Blume is a leading scholar in capital cases, the role of race in prosecution, victim impact, voir dire, and jury deliberation, and a leader in involving students in empirical scholarship on the death penalty.

SHERI L. JOHNSON  
JD, Professor of Law  
Assistant Director of Cornell Death Penalty Project  
Sheri L. Johnson is an expert on the interface of race and issues in criminal procedure and teaches both constitutional and criminal law.

DAVID A. DUNNING  
PhD, Psychology  
Department of Psychology  
David A. Dunning studies accuracy and illusion in human judgment, and is an expert in determining which questions should be asked of the eyewitness to reveal whether identification is accurate or erroneous.

JOHN ECKENRODE  
PhD, Psychology  
Department of Human Development  
Director of the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research  
John Eckenrode is an expert on child abuse and neglect, their causes, prevention, and repercussions.

WENDY M. WILLIAMS  
PhD, Psychology  
Department of Human Development  
Wendy M. Williams is founder and director of the Cornell Institute for Women in Science. She studies the development, training, assessment, and societal impact of intelligence and related abilities in real-world contexts.

FACULTY  
Cornell University’s LPHD faculty spans three colleges—Human Ecology, the Law School, and Arts and Sciences —and includes some of the leading scholars in topics ranging from memory and eye-witness testimony to decision-making, jury psychology, and cognition in children and adults. Their work aims to shed light on topics intrinsic to the law and justice, with the hope that advancements in our knowledge of people, crime, memory and testimony, motivation and culpability can lead, ultimately, to a more just legal system.

www.human.cornell.edu/hd/dual-phd-jd/Faculty.cfm
THE VALUE OF CORNELL’S DUAL DEGREE

FAVORABLE TIMELINE:
A fully-blended PhD/JD in six years allows students to complete both degrees at a more efficient pace than pursuing both degrees consecutively.

INTELLECTUAL SUPPORT:
Students benefit from a three-member supervisory committee composed of Human Development and Law faculty from the start of their studies, a tight-knit community, and a legal education that boasts small class sizes and low student-to-faculty ratios.

FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES:
Full funding for PhD graduate studies in Human Development, a history of high bar-passage and employment rates, and nationally recognized scholars and faculty to help students prepare for success in the legal and academic job markets.

EXPERIMENTAL FOCUS:
The rare dual PhD/JD program with a strong focus on empirical research.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:
The intellectual rigor of a top-tier law school and ground-breaking research with leading scholars in the fields of law, psychology, and human development exemplify the strengths of Cornell’s collaborative culture.
The Cornell dual PhD/JD in Developmental Psychology and Law is a 6-year (12-semester) program, for a total of approximately 167 credits. The program is divided into three years of full-time PhD study, two years of full-time JD study, and a blended year of PhD/JD study. Up to 12 HD semester credits may be counted as electives towards the 84 credits that are required for the JD.

Students must spend their first, second, and fifth summers conducting master’s and doctoral thesis research. All PhD required core courses must be completed, and a research-based master’s thesis must be completed and defended in Human Development, by the end of the second year. Upon completion of the fourth year, all JD core courses must be completed, and the “A” exam for the Graduate Field of Human Development must be taken. During the sixth year, students complete and defend a research-based dissertation, and complete their remaining requirements for the JD.
ADMISSION AND TUITION

To participate in the dual degree program, students must initially apply to and be accepted by both the Graduate Field of Human Development and the Law School. Admission to one program does not guarantee admission to the other. Note that applications to the PhD/JD program in Developmental Psychology/Law will be reviewed continuously; however, it is strongly recommended that prospective students apply as early as possible to both schools. To facilitate review of applications, students who intend to apply for dual degree studies should contact the Law, Psychology and Human Development Program Assistant (lphd@cornell.edu) in advance for further instructions.

Final Application Deadlines
Graduate School: January 1st
Law School: February 1st

PROGRAM INFORMATION
http://www.human.cornell.edu/hd/dual-phd-jd

APPLY TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (GRADUATE SCHOOL)
http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu/admissions/applying

APPLY TO THE LAW SCHOOL
http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/admissions/apply/index.cfm

The first two years of the dual degree program are spent enrolled in the Graduate Field of Human Development, the third and fourth years in the Law School, the fifth year in the Graduate Field of Human Development, and the sixth year in both the Law School and the Graduate Field of Human Development. For the 3½ years of the program spent in Human Ecology, full support will be provided. Students are expected to pay Law School tuition in years 3 and 4, and the Spring semester of year 6. During the 2½ years the student is in the law school, it is possible, but not guaranteed, that they will have some grant funding.

“A great strength for Cornell Law School is the world-class research university in which it is embedded. The JD/PhD Psychology dual degree program with Human Ecology is a prime example of the benefits of these connections. With the great faculty members from the two schools already in place, Cornell will soon be recognized as having the leading Law and Psychology graduate program in the world.”

– Stewart J. Schwab
the Allan R. Tessler Dean & Professor of Law,
Cornell Law School

www.human.cornell.edu/hd/dual-phd-jd/Applying.cfm
GIVING OPPORTUNITIES
A gift to Cornell University’s Developmental Psychology and Law Dual Degree Program is a gift to support improved legal education in the United States. If you are interested in funding opportunities for this program, please call Alumni Affairs and Development at 800.453.7703.