Pre-Law Orientation

Ashley Roseberry
Pre-Law Advisor

Pre-Professional Advising Office
Office of the Vice President of Instruction
Orientation Overview

• Pre-Law Office Services

• Application Timeline

• Law School Application Components

• GPA/LSAT

• Letters of Recommendation

• Personal Statement

• Resume/Extracurricular activities

• Pre-Law Organizations

• Where Should I Apply?

• What if I Am Not Competitive?
About the Pre-Professional Advising Office

• The Pre-Professional Advising Office serves UGA students and alumni who are interested in pursuing careers in law.

• We are located in 130 Memorial Hall
  • Website: prelaw.uga.edu
  • Email: prelaw@uga.edu
  • Phone: 706-542-0444

• Visit our website:
  • To join our Pre-Law UGA listserv
  • To check out view the Pre-Law Event Calendar for upcoming meetings/workshops/events.
  • To make an appointment with the Pre-Law Advisor—via SAGE as well
Pre-Law Advising Services

- Pre-Law Orientations
- UGA Law School Fair
- Feedback on Personal Statement
- Prelaw Listserv
- Fall Writing Workshops

- Advising Appointments
- Campus Visits from Admission Administrators
- Legal Exposure opportunities
- Resource Library
What's law school all about?

• Train future lawyers/judges.

• Prepare for the bar examination.

• Three-year program

• 90% of law school graduates end up in bar-passage required jobs (2019).

What is “Pre-Law?”

• Stating that you are pre-law means you have an *intention* to attend law school.

• There is **no specific major** required to attend law school.

• Bachelor's degree required.
What is “Pre-Law?”

• Factors to consider when selecting a Major
  • Performance
  • Enjoyment
  • Emotional and cognitive development
  • Flexibility
  • Double Majors/Challenging course load
Political Science the most common major.

Economics majors have the highest average LSAT score.

85% of History, Economics, Philosophy majors admitted at one or more law schools.
Law School Application Timeline—Freshman/Sophomore

• Attend Pre-Law Orientation
• Academic Excellence
• Get to know your professors.
• Extracurricular Activities
• Research, research, research!
Law School Application Timeline—Junior

• Maintain a GPA **above** your target law school’s median.

• Continue developing relationships with faculty. Think about letters of recommendation.

• Continue research.

• Meet with the Pre-Law Advisor.

• Allow adequate study time to prepare for the LSAT.

• Take the LSAT (ideally summer before senior year).
Law School Application Timeline—Senior

• Meet with the Pre-Law Advisor to work through application process.

• Submit applications in the fall, preferably by December.
LSAC & CAS

- Your LSAC.org account is the gateway to the law school admission process.

- Pay for the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) at least 6 weeks before your first law school application deadline.

- The CAS fee is currently $195.
Law School Application Components

1. GPA
2. LSAT
3. Letters of Recommendation
4. Personal Statement
   • Diversity Statement
   • Supplemental Essays
5. Resume & Extracurricular Activities
   • Volunteering and Community Involvement
   • Leadership
   • Work experience—research and writing
GPA

- Maintain a strong GPA
- Median GPA will vary from school to school
- Use academic withdrawals carefully—two or less

Trends

- Did you challenge yourself?
- Did you improve over time?
- Do you have only 1-2 withdrawals?
Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)

- LSAT scores range from 120-180
- Cost=$200
- Goal is to only take the LSAT once
  - Three times per testing cycle (June-May) max
  - Five tests life-time
- The test consists of five 35-minute sections of **multiple-choice questions**. Four of the five sections contribute to the test taker’s score.
  - You will be tested on Reading Comprehension, Analytical Reasoning, and Logical Reasoning.
Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)

• You can study for the LSAT on your own or take a prep-course
  • Key is to make a study plan and take practice tests!
  • Most students study for 3-4 months.
Upcoming LSAT Dates

• Saturday, October 3, 2020
• Saturday, November 14, 2020
2021
• Saturday, January 16, 2021
• Saturday, February 20, 2021
• Saturday, April 10, 2021
## 2019 Georgia Law Schools Class Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law School</th>
<th>Median GPA</th>
<th>Median LSAT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UGA</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMORY</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA STATE</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERCER</td>
<td>3.37</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOHN MARSHALL</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 2019 Law Schools Class Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law School</th>
<th>Median GPA</th>
<th>Median LSAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YALE</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>173</td>
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<tr>
<td>STANFORD</td>
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<td>171</td>
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<tr>
<td>HARVARD</td>
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<td>173</td>
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<tr>
<td>DUKE</td>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYU</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Letters of Recommendation

• Most programs require **two letters** (but plan for 3).
  • Academic letters are preferred.
  • Professor, TA, Lab Instructor

• Letters should come from people who know you!
  • Will need to describe you as an individual—behavior, character traits, maturity-level, etc.
Asking for Letters of Recommendation

- Ask early!
  - Mention goal submission date
- Email about meeting in person, then ask for letter during meeting.
Asking for Letters of Recommendation

• Always ask whether they can write you a strong and positive letter!

• If possible, provide the following to your letter writers:
  • Resume or CV
  • Draft of personal statement
  • Information about the programs you’re applying to and your goals
Personal Statement

• **Your chance to introduce yourself beyond the numbers.**
  - Pay close attention to word count requirements.
  - DO NOT exceed maximum length
  - Triple-check for grammar and spelling errors!

• **Start early! Give yourself at least a month (or two) to work on your statement.**
  - Have several people read it (letter-writers, advisor, etc.)
  - UGA resources: Honors College, Career Center, Pre-Law Advisor
Questions to Consider

• What is something you have overcome? A lesson you’ve learned?

• Explain a defining moment that helped steer you toward a career in this field.

• Why do you want to be an attorney? Why do you want to go to law school?

• What motivates you?

• What do you want schools to know about you that hasn't been disclosed in other sections of the application?
Application Addendum

• Explanation for poor grades

• Report anything you think might be an issue. Not reporting is considered the same as lying.
  • Honor Code violations
  • Traffic violations
  • Legal issues

• If you have had a violation expunged, be sure to pull record and verify. Come see me to discuss.
Resume

Does not have to have a legal focus.

• Leadership
• Passion
• Consistency
• Teamwork
• Communication Skills

• Attention to detail and readability are key!
Phi Alpha Delta, Pre-Law Fraternity serves as the University's pre-professional organization to aid students interested in a career in law. We hold weekly meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 in MLC 207. Meetings consist of speakers in established lawyers in the community and current UGA Law Students. We also hold meetings that pertain to Law School Fair prep and foster an environment for questions about the LSAT and the application. There are many chair positions and exec positions in Phi Alpha Delta to gain leadership experience.
Pre-Law Organizations

Moot Court

The Undergraduate Moot Court Team at the University of Georgia prepares and practices oral arguments similar to those presented before the Supreme Court and competes in intercollegiate tournaments.
Pre-Law Organizations

Mock Trial

UGA Mock Trial is one of the nation’s most successful student-run and student-coached undergraduate mock trial programs. ugamocktrial.org
Pre-Law Organizations

Women in Law

Women Pre-Law Students Association promotes a driven atmosphere of pre-law students. We provide our members with resources, mentors, and professionals to guide their undergraduate to a career in law through monthly meetings.
Where should I apply?

• Location
• Tuition
• Student Body
• Faculty
• Programs / Externships
• Placement Office
• Bar Passage Rates
• Ranking
Research Using 509 Disclosures

• http://www.abarequireddisclosures.org/
### 2020 Estimated Cost to Apply to (Six) Law Schools

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LSAT Prep</td>
<td>$500-1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credential Assembly Service</td>
<td>$195</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSAT+LSAT Writing</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSAT Report</td>
<td>$45 x 6 = $270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Fees</td>
<td>$50-100 = up to $600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1700-2700</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
What if my numbers are not competitive?

• Rethink your school selection.

• Hire a tutor and re-take the LSAT.

• Consider another career if you are on the fence about law school. There are many ways to make a difference.
  • Career Services: http://career.uga.edu/majors_careers/assessments

• Consider taking a gap year.
Gap Year

• Why take a Gap Year?
  • I didn’t get in where I want to attend.
  • I am not ready to apply.
  • I need a break from school.

• Work on weak spots in your application.

• Interesting opportunities
  • Teach for America, Fulbright, Peace Corps, job offers.
Unique Opportunities at UGA Law for UGA Students

• 3+3
  • 3 years of undergrad + 3 years of law school.
  • SPIA, Grady, Terry, Franklin, Odum only.
  • Must complete major requirements by 3rd year.
  • Reach out to UGA Law with your questions.

• UGA Scholars
  • 3.5 or higher
  • 85th percentile on SAT/ACT
  • Apply without taking the LSAT
  • Program must be renewed every year. Planning to apply early is key! Limited to 10% of the class.
Takeaways

• Allow yourself enough time for the application process.

• Having great LSAT/GPA is the best way to stand out.

• Submit your application as early as you can (but don’t rush it)!

• Always have a Plan B!

• Utilize the Pre-Professional Advising Office!
  • Join the Pre-Law listserv
Questions?

Pre-Professional Advising Office
Website: prelaw.uga.edu
prelaw@uga.edu
Pre-Law Advisor email
Agrose@uga.edu

@ugaprelaw

Make appointments on SAGE and be sure to join the Pre-Law listserv.