Pre-Law Orientation

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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: ppa0.uga.edu/law
  • Email: prelaw@uga.edu
  • Phone: 706-542-0444
  • IG: @ugaprelaw

• 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
- Pre-law Listserv
- Fall Writing Workshops
- Advising Appointments
- Campus Visits from Admission Administrators
- Legal Exposure opportunities
- Resource Library
What's law school?

• 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
Law School Application Timeline—Freshman/Sophomore

- Attend Pre-Law Orientation
- Academic Excellence
- Get to know your professors.
- Extracurricular Activities
- Research, research, research!

La w 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 November.
LSAC & CAS

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

• Pay for the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) prior to sending transcripts and Letters of Rec.

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

1. GPA
2. LSAT
3. Letters of Recommendation (2)
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=$215
- Goal is to only take the LSAT once
  - Three times per testing cycle (June-May) max
  - Five tests life-time
- The test consists of four 35-minute sections of **multiple-choice questions**. Three of the four 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.
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

• 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
Personal Statement

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
Pre-Law Organizations

Phi Alpha Delta- Pre-law, International Pre-Law Fraternity

Phi Alpha Delta, Pre-Law Fraternity serves as the University's pre-professional organization to aid students interested in a career in law. 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. EMAIL: padrecruitment2@gmail.com
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. EMAIL: ugamocktrial@gmail.com

@ugamocktrial
Black Pre-Law Association
An organization to cultivate and foster community among black students who are interested in attending law school.

@bplsassociation
Where should I apply?

• Location
• Tuition
• Student Body
• Faculty
• Clinics/Externships
• Career Services
• Bar Passage Rates
Research Using 509 Disclosures

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

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<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>LSAT Prep</td>
<td>$500-1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly Service</td>
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<td>LSAT+LSAT Writing</td>
<td>$215</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSAT Report</td>
<td>$45 per law school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1700-2700</strong></td>
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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 end of 3rd year.
  - Reach out to UGA Law with your questions.

• **UGA Scholars**
  - 3.5 or higher and at LEAST six semesters at UGA
  - 85th percentile on SAT/ACT
  - CAN’T TAKE THE LSAT
  - Extremely competitive
Takeaways

• Allow yourself enough time for the application process.

• Having great LSAT/GPA is the best way to stand out, but it’s a holistic process

• 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
Keep in Touch!

Pre-Law GroupMe

Instagram @ugaprelaw

Join the Listserv