

Pre-Law Quick Facts



Pre-Law Advising
Pre-Professional Advising Office
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

You should prepare for a career in law by building credentials in scholarship, leadership, humanitarian/community service, sitting-in on law school courses, and by gaining some legal-related work experience. There is **no “best” major** for pre-law students. Pursue a major you are genuinely interested in so that you will excel academically. Remember to consult the pre-law advisor about your individual plan.

Median Matriculant Numbers

- Overall GPA: 3.54
- LSAT: 157

General Information

What is a JD?

A degree that will prepare you to pass a state bar exam. Most jobs in the legal field are bar-passage required positions. If you want to be a lawyer or judge, you will need to pass the bar. JD programs are three years long.

Components of a J.D. Application

- GPA (transcripts)
- LSAT (or GRE in some cases)
- Personal Statement
- 2-4 Letters of Recommendation
- Resume/CV

Law schools want to see evidence of certain skills in an application. Use **your coursework, extracurricular activities, and work opportunities to develop the following skills.**

- Problem solving
- Critical reading
- Writing and editing
- Oral communication and listening
- Research
- Organization and management
- Public service and promotion of justice
- Relationship-building
- Background Knowledge
- Exposure to law

GPA Expectations

Law schools look for evidence of sustained academic success when evaluating an application. They want to admit applicants who are committed and prepared for the academic rigor of law school. Do not give up if you have one poor semester. Law schools will observe the trends in your academic performance, and appreciate any continuous improvement. However, they will also notice negative trends and multiple course withdrawals. While an instance or two is not a deal-breaker, a pattern of behavior should be avoided. You must demonstrate the ability to handle difficult courses. Law schools will primarily take in to account the GPA for your first undergraduate degree earned (UGPA). Although, law schools will have access to transcripts for graduate work.

DISCLAIMER: There are NO required courses for pre-law. You might also find courses not listed to the right which will develop your skills for law school or give you some exposure to the law.

Courses to Consider

Philosophy 2010, 2020, 2030, 2500

Political Science 4700, 4710, 4720, 4730
4740, 4750,

History 2111, 2112, 4060, 4990

Sociology 3070, 3140, 3150, 3810, 3830,
4830

JURI 2000 or 3000-level courses

Minors/Certificates

Certificate of Legal Studies

Criminal Justice Minor

Environmental Law Minor

Minor in Law, Jurisprudence, and the State

Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

The LSAT is required for admission into most law schools and is usually offered eight to ten times per year at a cost of \$200. You should plan to take the LSAT only once. The standard LSAT consists of four sections designed to assess your reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, and logical reasoning skills. You will have 35 minutes to complete each section. Registration for each LSAT test administration closes six weeks in advance. Make sure to register early! In order to receive your score for the LSAT, you must complete the written LSAT.

To prepare for the LSAT you should plan to devote 6-9 months for preparation. LSAC offers free resources through Khan Academy. You should also consider taking a LSAT prep course either through UGA or with a private testing prep company. Taking as many practice tests as possible is the key to success. Visit LSAC.org for more info.

Campus Involvement, Volunteering & Research

Your resume should reflect your values, skills, and preparedness for law school.

Extracurriculars/Volunteering: Evidence of leadership is critical to a successful law school application. Join a campus club or volunteer with a community organization that interests you. Do not over-extend yourself. Demonstrating continuous involvement with increasing responsibility is preferable to the quantity of activities. Your extracurriculars do not have to be related to the law. Law schools want to see that you care about your campus or local community.

Work Experience and Internships: Try to find a position or internship that relates to the legal field. This will give you exposure to the law, and help you to decide if the career path is a good fit for you. Consider shadowing a lawyer. Shadowing allows you to observe the day-to-day activities of an attorney or legal professional to better understand the complexities of legal professions. Look into UGA's Mentor Program at mentor.uga.edu if you need help getting connected with a practicing attorney. Finally, you must invest time in honing your research and writing skills. Look for Research Assistant positions that will introduce you to professional-level research. You don't need to find a research position in the legal field. Show that you can master a subject's technical language and citation format.

Letters of Recommendation

You will need up to two Letters of Recommendation (LOR) to apply to law school. Some law schools will allow you to submit up to four. Make sure to develop a relationship with professors or a TA early-on. It's preferable that you submit LORs from those that can attest to your academic success. If you have been out of school several years, a LOR from an employer is acceptable. Law schools do not care about the prestige of the LOR writer. Do not ask a politician or dignitary who has no specific knowledge of your academic abilities.

Academic Honesty & Personal Conduct

To be admitted into a state's bar you will have to pass a moral character and fitness review. Law schools want to fill seats with students who will be accepted into the bar. Any lapse in judgement can impact your chances at getting into law school or being certified to practice law. You will have to disclose any felonies, misdemeanors, personal misconduct, or violations of UGA's Academic Honesty Policy. Do not under any circumstances plagiarize the work of others. SEE: honesty.uga.edu

Law School Application Timeline

Freshman & Sophomore Year

Build credentials for law school: shadow, volunteer, do research, build relationships with faculty, etc.
Do **not** wait until junior year to begin!
Attend the UGA Law Fair to meet with recruiters

Junior Year

Fall	Continue shadowing, doing research, volunteering, etc.
Jan - May	Study for the LSAT.

Summer

June/July/Aug	Take the LSAT (Make sure to register at least six weeks in advance).
Late July	Request Letters of Recommendation.
July/August	Send all academic transcripts to LSAC. Start drafting your personal statement and optional essays.

Senior Year

September 1st	Most law school applications open Decide if you will apply Early Decision
Sept/Oct/Nov	Complete application requirements and pay for the Credential Assembly Service (CAS).
October	Fill out FAFSA application to ensure that you are prepared to apply for financial aid.
December 1st	Plan to have your applications completed and submitted.
Feb-June	Law school application window closes (check each law school for precise deadlines).