

# Pre-Law Quick Facts

You should prepare for a career in law by building credentials in scholarship, leadership, humanitarian/community service, shadowing, and professional development. There is **no “best” major** for pre-law students. Pursue a major you are genuinely interested in so that you will excel academically. The pre-law track is simply an interest in applying to law school.



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

## General Information

### What is a JD?

A three-year degree that will prepare you to pass a state bar exam. Most jobs in the legal field are bar-passage required positions.

Law schools take a **holistic approach** when reviewing applications. This approach considers your standardized test score and undergraduate GPA, but also the following:

### Components of a J.D. Application

- GPA (transcripts)
- LSAT (or GRE/GMAT in some cases)
- Letters of Recommendation
- Resume
- Personal Statement
- Optional Essays
- Interview (not all law schools interview applicants)
- The rigor of undergraduate or graduate curriculum
- Grade trends
- Experiences since college
- Employment
- Significant achievements in extracurricular activities in college
- Contributions to campus or community through service and leadership
- Personal qualities displayed
- Military service

## Academic 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 continuous improvement. Demonstrate the ability to handle difficult courses. Law schools will primarily take in to account the GPA for your first undergraduate degree earned (UGPA). Law schools will have access to transcripts for graduate work.

**DISCLAIMER:** There are NO required courses for pre-law. Courses not listed to the right will help you develop your skills for law school or provide background information on 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

Minor in Law, Ethics, and Philosophy

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 \$238. The LSAT consists of four sections designed to assess your reading comprehension and logical reasoning skills. You will have 35 minutes to complete each section. Three sections are scored. Registration for each LSAT test administration closes six weeks in advance. Make sure to register early! To receive your score for the LSAT, you must complete the written portion of the LSAT. The written portion is unscored.

To prepare for the LSAT you should plan to devote 6-9 months for preparation. LSAC offers free resources through LawHub. You may qualify for the LSAC fee waiver. This is a need-based fee waiver. Make sure to apply to this at least six months before you plan to take the LSAT. Consider using an online platform or a live-online prep course to prepare for the LSAT. Consult our PPAO Resource Library to borrow LSAT prep books for free.

**Ppao.uga.edu**

## Campus Involvement, Volunteering & Research

Your resume should reflect your values, skills, and personal interests.

**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 will help you develop professional skills. No legal experience is required. 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.

**Research:** Hone 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 (LORs)

In most cases, you will need 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 for 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. No character references will be

## Academic Honesty & Personal Conduct

To be admitted into a state's bar you will have to pass a 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 of 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](http://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.
Sept - May	Study for the LSAT.

### Summer

April - August	Take the LSAT (Make sure to register at least six weeks in advance).
Summer	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 – APPLY EARLY IN THE CYCLE -Decide if you will apply Early Decision
Sept/Oct/Nov	Complete application requirements and pay for the Credential Assembly Service (CAS).
October 1st	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).

