Pre-Professional Advising Office
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Pre-Law Quick Facts

Academic Expectations

Minors/Certificates: (NOT required)

- Environmental Law Minor
- Minor in Law, Ethics, and Philosophy
- Minor in Law, Jurs and the State*
  - POLS 110 required to apply
- Certificate in Legal Studies*
  - LEGL 2700 required to apply

*Application required.

There is no "best" major for pre-law students. Pursue a major you are interested in. The pre-law track is only an interest in applying to law school. There are NO required courses for pre-law.

Median Matriculant Numbers

Overall GPA: 3.68
LSAT: 159

Selectivity varies from law school to law school!

Grade Trends

- Sustained academic success is most important.
- Law schools will primarily take in to account the GPA for your first undergraduate degree earned (UGPA).
- Demonstrate the ability to handle difficult courses.
- Law schools will have access to transcripts for graduate work.

Law schools are admitting a person, not a GPA or test score!

What is a Juris Doctor (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.

Components of a J.D. Application

- GPA (transcripts)
- LSAT (or GRE/GMAT in some cases)
- Letters of Recommendation
- Resume
- Personal Statement
- Optional Essays
- Interview (in some cases)

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

- 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

1st & 2nd Year

Build Credentials

Shadow, Volunteer, Network with Faculty and legal professionals

Do not wait until junior year to begin!

3rd Year

Fall: Continue shadowing, doing research, volunteering, etc.

Sept - May: Study for the LSAT.

Summer Before 4th Year

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.

4th Year

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.

Extracurriculars/ Volunteering

Evidence of leadership is critical to a successful law school application.

Demonstrating continuous involvement with increasing responsibility is preferable to the quantity of activities. Your activities do not have to be related to the law. Law schools want to see that you care about your campus or local community.

If interested, look for Research Assistant positions that will introduce you to technical language and citation formats. You don't need to find a research position in the legal field.

Law School Admission Test

The LSAT is a standardized test that most law schools accept. It is held multiple times per year, and has multiple choice and short essay sections.

Includes:

- Logical reasoning
- Analytical reasoning
- Reading comprehension

Registration closes ~6 weeks before test date

Work Experience & Internships

Law schools do not expect legal experience. You do want to get familiar with the profession by shadowing or taking informational meetings.

Law schools value different types of professional experiences.

Think about the skills you are acquiring while working. Focus on learning new things and doing your best.

LSAT Preparation

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 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. Plan to devote 6-9 months to LSAT preparation. You can borrow study books for our PPAO Resource Library.

Some schools accept the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), which has a verbal, a multiple choice and a short essay section.

Academic Honesty & Personal Conduct

To be admitted into a state's bar you will have to pass a character and fitness review.

Any lapse in judgement can impact your chances of getting into law school or being certified to practice law.

- Full disclosure of academic or legal issues is required
- Past issues are not always disqualifying, but honesty is critical

Letters of Recommendation

Typically two letters - check with your target schools!

Who to ask?

- A professor or TA
- Supervisor from a meaningful professional or extracurricular experience

<u>Tips</u>

- Request a strong, supportive letter.
- Reach out early.
- Avoid redundancies by asking those who have varying perspectives on your abilities.