

This is an unofficial guide only. This information is valid to the best of our ability effective spring 2015. It is the student's responsibility to research and communicate with all university programs to which he/she intends to apply to establish prerequisites and admission requirements. Prerequisites vary and are subject to change without notice.

"Pre-Law" is not a specific major, but more a planning pathway for a student intending to go to law school. In order to eventually earn a law degree you must first complete a Bachelor's degree. A bachelor's degree involves four years of full time undergraduate study, followed by three years of law school. Law school graduates receive a Juris Doctorate (JD) degree in Law.

Law schools do not prefer any major over another. Students should major in a subject in which they are interested, can do well, and maintain a strong GPA. The major you choose should offer preparation not only for admission to law school, but also for an alternate career. Admission to law school is competitive. A high grade point average is an influential factor in determining whether students will get admitted to law school. It is also important to take a full load of courses to accurately reflect scholastic abilities as the academic load in law school is a full time intensive commitment.

The Bellevue College **Associate in Arts and Sciences** degree provides general education curriculum that deals with developing a critical understanding of the human institutions and values related to law. A few popular majors for Law students include Business, Criminal Justice, Economics, History, International Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration and Public Policy. A few universities may also offer a Law and Justice Major.

Law is mostly reading, writing and research, and much of a law student's time is spent in a library. Beyond the required English composition, take all the writing you can to improve your writing and research skills. Include courses dealing with human values, institutions, and behavior. To select courses for a specific major students should consult with their advisor in the department of their major. If you haven't decided on a major yet, start by taking general education requirements.

Recommended Courses (NOT major specific)

English 101, English 201 or 235

Philosophy 102, 115, 120

Political Science: 202, 203, 204, 206,
220

Economics: 201 and/or 202

History: 146

International Studies: 204

Communication Studies: 220

Psychology: 100, 203, 205, 220

Sociology: 101, 201, 270

Criminal Justice: 101, 106, 110

Anthropology: 100

Applying to Law School

Law Schools Admission Test

After completing a Bachelor degree students need to take the Law Schools Admission Test (LSAT) and then apply to law schools. The LSAT is designed to measure skills that are considered essential for success in law school: the reading and comprehension of complex texts with accuracy and insight; the organization and management of information and the ability to draw reasonable inferences from it; the ability to think critically; and the analysis and evaluation of the reasoning and arguments of others.

Areas of Specialization in Law:

Students considering law school might explore various areas of specialized practice, such as Corporate Law, Civil Rights Law, Criminal Law, Employment Law, Environmental Law, Family Law, Health Care Law, International Law and Tax Law.

Resources

The National Association for Law Placement (NALP) www.nalp.org

Law School Admission Counsel www.lsac.org

Pre-Law Student Services www.ilrg.com/pre-law.html

American Bar Association www.abanet.org

Council on Legal Education Opportunity www.cleoscholars.com

Washington State Bar Association <http://www.wsba.org/>