



Prelaw at CWRU

General Information for Undergraduates at Case Western Reserve University

COURSE SELECTION AND MAJORS

Prelaw at CWRU is not a fixed course of study. Students are free to choose any one of the many major fields in the arts and sciences or engineering. Students may also choose a double major or a major and a minor field.

While political science is still the single most popular prelaw major, it is chosen by no more than 1 out of 5 of the total national pool of law school applicants. More than 200 different majors are usually represented in each year's national pool of applicants.

Recent CWRU graduates who have been admitted to law school have majored and double-majored in accounting, anthropology, biology, business, chemistry, communications, computer science, economics, English, geology, history, international studies, music, nursing, political science, psychology, sociology and several different fields of engineering.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND VALUES

The American Bar Association, which accredits the nation's 192 law schools, considers the following core skills and values to be essential for competent lawyering:

- Analytic and problem-solving skills;
- Critical reading ability;
- Writing skills;
- Oral communication and listening skills;
- Research ability;
- Task organization and management skills;
- The personal values of serving others and promoting justice.

To learn more about these skills and values, go to <http://www.abanet.org/legaled/prelaw/prep.html>

General education requirements at CWRU, as well as the various majors and minors, all help our students to develop these skills. In addition,

CWRU students can choose from a wide range of extracurricular activities that also help to develop these skills and values, including such traditional prelaw favorites as the Model United Nations, mock trial team, Phi Alpha Delta (prelaw fraternity), and student government.

RECOMMENDED AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE

The American Bar Association recommends several areas of knowledge as important preparation for law school. Each of these areas is an important component of the liberal arts education available to all students at CWRU, including those who major in engineering or nursing.

- A broad understanding of history, particularly American history, and the various factors (social political, economic and cultural) that have influenced the development of the pluralistic society that presently exists in the United States;
- A fundamental understanding of political thought and theory, and of the contemporary American political system;
- A basic understanding of ethical theory and theories of justice;
- Grounding in economics, particularly elementary micro-economic and macro-economic theory, and an understanding of the interaction between economic theory and public policy;
- Some basic mathematical and financial skills, such as an understanding of basic pre-calculus mathematics and an ability to analyze financial data;
- A basic understanding of human behavior and social interaction; and
- An understanding of diverse cultures within and beyond the United States, of international institutions and issues, and of the increasing interdependence of the nations and communities within our world.

A PRELAW TIMETABLE

Freshmen are encouraged to focus their attention first on becoming acclimated to college life and their academic studies. If time allows, prelaw students can become involved with Phi Alpha Delta and also introduce themselves to the Prewlaw Advisor, who is a part of the team of advisors available in the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

Sophomores may also wish to join the Phi Alpha Delta and become active in other extra-curricula activities that help build their prelaw skills. Since an applicant's GPA is a key factor in law school admissions, sophomores are also encouraged to stay focused on their coursework.

Juniors often meet with the prelaw advisor in the fall semester to begin researching law schools and preparing for the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test), which is required by all accredited law schools. The LSAT consists of multiple-choice questions in analytical reasoning, reading comprehension, and logical reasoning, as well as a thirty-minute writing sample. The applicant's GPA and LSAT score are the two most important factors in law school admissions. Juniors are advised to take the LSAT in June following the junior year. Those anxious for a head start on the LSAT can log onto www.lsac.org, the website of the Law School Admission Council for more information.

The LSAC website includes links to all of the ABA-approved law schools to help students begin researching law schools. Juniors should also attend one of the several regional and local Law School Fairs to talk with admissions staff and to gather bulletins, brochures, and other information about the various law schools.

Seniors who plan to enter law school right after college are especially busy in the fall semester working with the Prewlaw Advisor to select their final lists of law schools and to prepare the resumes and personal statements that are part of the applications. Seniors who didn't take the LSAT in June should take the October test so that they will have results in time to refine their selection of law schools

Seniors not already registered will return to the www.lsac.org website to register with the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS) that acts as a central repository for transcripts and letters of recommendation.

Law schools and LSAC are doing everything they can to make the application process fast, easy, and less expensive. Once registered with LSAD, applicants have access to the on-line application forms for all of the accredited law schools and they can file their applications on-line.

Not everyone plans to attend law school right after college. There are many other options available to prelaw seniors, including prestigious fellowship opportunities, Master's programs, or employment for a year or more before applying to law school. In fact, nationally nearly two-thirds of law school applicants have been out of college for a year or more before applying and the average age of entering law school students is 25.

RECENT SUCCESS WITH LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Each year several CWRU seniors and alums are admitted to our own School of Law. In addition, over the years CWRU seniors and graduates have been admitted to most of the nation's other accredited law schools.

In fall 2007, ninety-two seniors and alums from CWRU applied to law school. Thirty-seven of the applicants (40%) were seniors. They submitted an average of seven applications and were admitted to an average of two law schools. Seventy-one of the applicants (77%) were admitted to one or more of the eighty-five law schools shown below. **The asterisk indicates the thirty law schools where one or more applicants from CWRU enrolled in 2007.**

American University (DC)*
Baylor University (TX)
Benjamin Cardozo (NY)*
Boston College*
Boston University*
Brooklyn Law School
Capital University (OH)
Case Western Reserve University*
Catholic University of America (DC)*
IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law (IL)
Cleveland State University*
Columbia University
Cornell University
DePaul University (IL)
Duke University*

Florida Coastal School of Law
Florida State University
Fordham University*
Franklin Pierce Law Center (NH)
George Mason University (VA)
George Washington University*
Georgetown University*
Golden Gate University
Harvard University*
Indiana University – Bloomington
John Marshall Law School (IL)
Lewis & Clark - Northwestern (OR)
Loyola Marymount Law School - Los Angeles
Marquette University
Michigan State University
New England School of Law (MA)
New York Law School
New York University
Northeastern University (MA)
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University (IL)
Ohio Northern University
Ohio State University*
Pace University (NY)*
Pennsylvania State University (Dickinson)*
Pepperdine University (CA)
Quinnipiac University (CN)
Rutgers – The State University – Newark*
Seattle University
South Texas College of Law
St. Louis University (MO)
St. Thomas University (FL)
Stanford University
Suffolk University (MA)
Syracuse University
Temple University (PA)
Thomas M. Cooley Law School (MI)*
Touro University (NY)
Tulane University (LA)
University of Akron*
University of California Los Angeles
University of California - Berkeley
University of California - Davis
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado*
University of Dayton

University of Detroit Mercy
University of Houston
University of Maryland
University of Miami*
University of Michigan*
University of Minnesota*
University of New Mexico*
University of Pennsylvania*
University of Pittsburgh
University of San Diego*
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of Texas
University of Toledo
University of Virginia*
University of Wisconsin
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University (PA)*
Wake Forest University (NC)
Washington and Lee University (VA)*
Washington University (MO)
Western New England (MA)
Widener University (DE)
William and Mary (VA)

THE RESOURCES OF THE CASE SCHOOL OF LAW

Undergraduates at CWRU have a wealth of prelaw resources available at our own outstanding school of law. Those who undertake law-related research projects have access to the excellent law library. Several law professors also teach undergraduate courses in history, political science and economics. Both law faculty and law students participate in programs of the Phi Alpha Delta and law students and graduates help coach the undergraduate Mock Trial team.

Prelaw students have also participated as witnesses and jurors in mock trials held as a part of the law school course in Trial Tactics.

Some undergraduates are employed by the law school in part-time positions as library or office assistants or as actors portraying clients in courses that train law students to interview and counsel. Others take advantage of opportunities to sit in on a law school class or to watch law students compete in moot court or mock trial programs.

Undergraduates are also invited to attend the many lectures offered each year at the law

school by nationally known legal scholars and experts.

And, of course, undergraduates can learn a lot about law school just by meeting and talking with current law students at the law school, on campus, or even in their dorms, where frequently law students are Resident Directors.

BOOKS AND WEB RESOURCES

The CWRU Library, local public libraries, and local bookstores have a variety of books about preparing for the LSAT, applying to law school, succeeding in law school, and finding employment in the legal profession. A recent search for prelaw resources at www.BarnesandNoble.com and www.amazon.com yielded over 150 books on LSAT preparation alone, and more than 30 books about applying to, and succeeding at law school!

A variety of websites also offer valuable information and resources for prelaw students.

PRELAW ADVISOR

Undergraduates who have questions about prelaw education and opportunities at CWRU or who want more information about legal careers and the law school admissions process are invited to contact the Prelaw Advisor, JoAnne Urban Jackson. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University School of Law and has many years of experience in the practice and teaching of law.

BLACKBOARD

For access to more prelaw information specific to CWRU students, students can enroll in the Prelaw Blackboard Organization by sending an email request to the Prof. Jackson including name and expected year of graduation.

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