Pre-Law Advising

General Overview

For students interested in attending law school after graduation, the Department of Social Sciences provides pre-law advising. The purpose of a pre-law advisor is to prepare students to be successful law school applicants and law school students. This entails providing advice on courses of study, application strategies, LSAT preparation, and general topics related to the student’s interest in the legal field. Pre-law advising is available for all Pittsburg State University students, regardless of major field of study.

Law School

Knowing what to do to go to law school and knowing whether or not to actually go are two different questions. After all, just because you can get into law school does not mean you should go. Some people are better qualitative fits for law school than others. More importantly, some people are better fits for careers as lawyers. This fit has less to do with knowledge and ability and more to do with personality and priorities. A career in law can be rewarding, but it can also be taxing. Pay may be high, but you will work long hours and other things of value in your life may have to be put on hold. Generally, the job of being a lawyer requires attention to detail, competitiveness, practicality, and a thick-skinned, dispassionate disposition. The decision to attend law school is a personal one, but the pre-law advisor can help you get a realistic perspective of the legal profession.

Recommended Courses of Study

Unlike medical or some other professional schools, law schools do not require a particular degree or course of study for admission. The only requirements for admission to a law school are a bachelor’s degree and a score from the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Therefore, there is no recommended major for students interested in law school. The only good piece of advice in terms of major selection is MAJOR IN A FIELD IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED. Law is a broad field with application in numerous fields of study. In fact, earning a degree in a field less immediately associated with law may make you a more attractive applicant to a law school. At a minimum, studying in a field in which you are interested should make you a better student.

Despite the academically open nature of law school admissions, there are certain types of courses that are highly recommended to serious law school applicants. Some of these courses prepare the student for the LSAT examination. This examination tests the student’s abilities in reading comprehension and logical and analytical reasoning. Therefore, a student should take courses with advanced reading loads and courses in logic and critical thinking. Other courses prepare the student to do well in law school by developing writing and language skills, in addition to skills in reading in critical thinking. The student should take courses that develop a broad and critical understanding of social values and development, with an emphasis on effective communication. Useful courses exist in various disciplines, including politics, history, philosophy, sociology, economics, the arts, foreign language, communication, and many more.

Law Centered Courses

Although law schools do not require background knowledge of law for admittance, it is advisable for students considering applying to law school to take some courses that deal with law. Not only will such courses introduce the student to material that he or she will study in greater depth in law school, but it also helps to student to determine whether he or she has a genuine interest in the subject matter of law. Several majors offer particular courses that focus on the law. These majors are diverse, ranging from biology and technology to communications and marketing. Additionally, the Department of Social Sciences offers several courses with legal content. The following is a partial list of courses that will prepare you for both law school and the LSAT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Justice Studies</th>
<th>Accounting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Procedures</td>
<td>Financial Accounting</td>
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<td>Evidence and Imperatives</td>
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Applying to Law School

One of the services provided by the pre-law advisor is assistance with the law school application process. While completion of the application and law school selection must be a personal endeavor, the pre-law advisor answers questions related to individual applications, personal statements, financial assistance, and general application and selection strategies. Students who have graduated from Pittsburg State University since 2008 have been accepted at over 40 different law schools, including:

Baylor University
Boston University
College of William and Mary
Creighton University
George Washington University
Oklahoma City University
Rutgers University
Saint Louis University
Texas Tech University
University of Kansas
University of Missouri
University of Missouri – Kansas City
University of Nebraska
University of Oklahoma
University of Southern California
University of Texas
University of Tulsa
Vanderbilt University
Washburn University
Washington University (MO)

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