PRE-LAW PREPARATION

MAJOR

Law schools do not require any specific coursework or particular major. The basic requirement is to have a bachelor’s degree in order to apply to law school; this degree can come from any discipline. In selecting an undergraduate major, students are urged to select a major that they will enjoy and do well in academically, since the undergraduate GPA plays a significant role in the admissions process.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are certain courses, however, which help develop skills that are necessary and useful in law school. These are courses that help develop analytical skills, logical reasoning skills, public speaking skills, and an enhanced understanding of human nature, business, the economy, and history.

ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

The law school application process includes four major factors: GPA, LSAT Score, letters of recommendation, and personal essay. The stronger the applicant in these areas, the higher the chances of being accepted at top law schools. Generally, law schools consider an applicant’s Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and grade point average together.

LSAT:

The LSAT consists of five 35-minute sections and a writing sample. The test is scored on a scale of 120-180 points. “Repeat” scores are calculated differently from school to school. Some schools will average scores, while others may take the highest or use a formula.

LETTERS:

Letters of recommendation are another factor in law school admissions, and most law school require them. Typically one to three letters are required as part of the application to law school. These should be written by individuals who know you well and can assess your ability to succeed in law school. Letters from professors, internship supervisors or employers are most appropriate. At least one letter should be written by a professor who can assess your academic potential for law school.

ESSAY:

The last factor is the personal statement. This is an important aspect of the application for admission to law school. Law schools do not offer personal interviews, so this is an important substitute. An applicant's statement (usually 2-3 pages, typed, double-spaced) should include one's initial interest in studying law, confirming experiences. The admissions committee is also interested in knowing about one’s significant life experiences, whether they have been scholarly, personal or in the workplace. Such experiences demonstrate growth, values, motivation as well as any hardships or struggles the applicant has overcome.

For further information, you must see a counselor. You can make an appointment to see a counselor by calling (562) 938-4561 for LAC or (562) 938-3920 for PCC.