Preparing for Law School at Pacific University

Pacific University has sent dozens of students to law school, ranging from prestigious national places (such as New York University) to strong law schools in the Pacific Northwest (such as Lewis and Clark, Willamette, and Gonzaga). We have many alumni practicing law.

Pacific does not offer a specific pre-law major because the American Bar Association has cautioned against such majors. Law schools do not seek people with a partial legal training. Rather, they seek people who are broadly educated and have shown a strong capacity for critical thinking, clear writing, and analytical work.

Many majors can serve as excellent preparation for law school, so you should choose your major based on your interests, so long as you tend to developing certain core skills through both classes and experiences outside of the classroom. Whatever path you choose, you will need a high grade point average and strong performance on the Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT) to maximize your law school choices (and financial aid packages!)

Pacific has an active student group, the Pacific Pre-Law Society, which meets regularly to discuss and plan activities, such as hosting law school recruiters; visiting law schools, judges, and law firms; and hosting practicing lawyers at discussion sessions.

Pacific recommends all students interested in law school reach out to the campus pre-law advisor (Dr. Paul Snell in the Politics and Government department) who will be happy to work with you on the full range of considerations for law school, from preparation through application.

There are lots of great resources on preparing and applying to law school.

We recommend the Law School Admissions Council (http://www.lsac.org/) as the best place to start.