

Preparing for Law School at Pacific University

We have many alumni practicing law. Pacific has sent dozens of students to Top 14 schools (such as New York University) and to outstanding regional schools (such as Lewis and Clark, Willamette, and Gonzaga).

Law schools seek students who excel in three areas: critical thinking, clear writing, and detail-oriented work. As you can see, the liberal arts education you are receiving here will help you develop these three skills. Pacific, therefore, does not offer a pre-law program, nor does it recommend that students choose one major over another if they want to go to law school. If you are considering law school you would, however, benefit from taking certain courses.

Aside from a high grade-point average, and strong performance during the last two years of college (especially in the major), the most important factor for admission is an outstanding Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT) score. Admission to a Top 14 is virtually impossible without one, and regional schools often offer generous financial packages to those with one. Doing extremely well on the LSAT is to your advantage. The LSAT asks three types of questions: reading comprehension, analytical, and logical. You would, therefore, be well served enrolling in:

- PHIL 212: Language and Logic

Although a legal background is not required, it would not hurt to have some familiarity with the substance of the law, which the courses listed below broadly address in some way:

- CJLS 101: Introduction to Law and Society
- POLS 140: Introduction to US Politics
- CJLS 200: Criminal Justice
- PHIL 315: Philosophy of Law
- POLS 325: American Constitutionalism I: National Powers
- POLS 326: American Constitutionalism II: Rights and Liberties

There are a variety of resources on campus to help you broaden your interest in the law, and apply to law school. The Pacific Pre-Law Society hosts law school recruiters, practicing lawyers at discussion sessions, and visits law schools, judges, and law firms. The campus pre-law advisor, Dr. Paul Snell in the Politics and Government department, is happy to talk with you about all matters related to the law and law school.