Prelaw at NYU

A Presentation for CAS Transfer Students
Choose a Major that interests YOU

• At NYU, there is no such thing as a prelaw curriculum
• Law school admissions committees welcome applicants from ALL majors; they are most interested in how well you do academically
• If you choose a non-liberal arts major, however, be sure to take elective courses that strengthen your analytical research, writing and communication skills.

Get Involved

• Join volunteer and community service activities on and off-campus that interest you, and be sure to take on a leadership role
• The activities you choose do not have to be directly related to law

Attend Our Prelaw Events

• If you haven’t done so, sign up to receive our newsletter, The Legal Brief - contains a list of upcoming prelaw events and other useful information for prelaw students

Start to Research Law Schools

• Consider factors such as national/regional schools, location, faculty, resources, student body, special programs, and cost, for instance.
• Your prelaw advisor in the Preprofessional Advising Center can help you decide what law schools can be a good fit for you
• ABA-Approved Law Schools list
Law Schools consider:

- **LSAT scores**
  - The LSAT scores range from 120-180
  - Some law schools are accepting GRE scores as a suitable substitute for the LSAT
  - LSAT is offered six times a year
- **Undergraduate cumulative GPA**
- **Letters of Recommendation**
  - Law schools prefer 2 letters from professors
  - Admissions officers find most helpful if the professors assess your skills in comparison with peers
- **Personal Statement**
  - Your time to shine - it’s a way to tell the admissions committee what makes you qualified to go to law school, and why you chose that particular school
  - Avoid cliché statements
  - Grammar and spelling must be impeccable
- **Résumé**
  - Any extracurriculars, internships, work experience should be added here
  - Use the opportunity to showcase your skills and abilities relevant to the study of law
- **Other admissions criteria** (diversity statement, addendum)
Other Factors

• Rigor of the applicant’s major and courses
• Honors courses and seminars
• Carrying light or heavy credit loads
• Overloading on pass/fail classes or lower-level courses
• Withdrawals from courses or repeating multiple times
• Working while simultaneously attending college
• History of poor performance on standardized tests
• Extracurricular activities
• Undergraduate research
• Demonstrated leadership on- and off-campus

Meet with a preprofessional advisor to discuss any of these factors and how you should address them in your application
What you can do now to prepare for law school in the future

• There **ARE** things you can do now and throughout your time in college to best prepare yourself for law school admissions – **DO NOT WAIT** until you apply.

• Get to know **at least** one faculty member well enough for them to write you a convincing letter of recommendation.

• Join a few prelaw related clubs and organizations at NYU.

• Get to know some law students and lawyers through mentoring programs, shadowing, internships, workshops, info sessions, and law school visits.

• Do your best academically!
The Preprofessional Advising Center’s staff of advisors provides individual advising as well as workshops, seminars, and other programs throughout the academic year to assist you in preparing for law school and, ultimately, a career in the law.

Our weekly email newsletter, The Legal Brief, features events, articles, announcements, and job listings that are of interest to prelaw students. You can join the listserv now by going on our website, http://cas.nyu.edu/prelaw.html and clicking on “Join the Prelaw Listserv to Receive The Legal Brief.”

We encourage you to watch the Prelaw Overview on our website and meet with a preprofessional advisor often throughout your time at NYU to discuss your path to law school.

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