

Prelaw at NYU

Virtual Advising and Registration

What does it mean to be “prelaw” at NYU?

According to the **American Bar Association** (the accrediting body for law schools), **there aren’t “any undergraduate majors or group of courses to prepare for a legal education.** Students are admitted to law school from almost every academic discipline. You may choose to major in subjects that are considered to be traditional preparation for law school, such as history, English, philosophy, political science, economics or business, or you may focus your undergraduate studies in areas as diverse as art, music, science and mathematics, computer science, engineering, nursing or education.

Whatever major you select, **you are encouraged to pursue an area of study that interests and challenges you, while taking advantage of opportunities to develop your research and writing skills.** Taking a broad range of difficult courses from demanding instructors is excellent preparation for legal education. A sound legal education will build upon and further refine the skills, values, and knowledge that you already possess.”

What does it mean to be “prelaw” at NYU?

At NYU, there is no “prelaw major”

You are encouraged to embrace the flexibility of prelaw by:

- Developing a course of study that is interesting and challenging for *you*
- Take opportunities to explore your interests, values, and passions, and then decide on the means to pursue them professionally
- Learn about the legal field through classes, prelaw events, networking, and internships
- Concentrate on building *yourself*, not just your resume
- Ask yourself along the journey, **Do you want to be a lawyer? If so, why?**

Useful Skills

While at NYU, focus on developing **skills** that are useful and necessary **for law students and lawyers:**

- Writing, Research, and Editing
- Oral Communication and Listening
- Problem-Solving and Critical Reading
- Organization and Task Management
- Public Service and Promotion of Justice
- Relationship-building and Collaboration

You can develop most of these skills through your core curriculum courses as well as major/minor courses!

What makes a compelling applicant for law school?

An outstanding record of achievement and involvement:

- Course of study that is rigorous, meaningful, and that helps to develop essential skills (ie, critical reading, writing, research, etc)
- Strong academic performance and test scores (LSAT or GRE)
- Involvement in extracurricular activities that are interesting and impactful
 - Opportunities to gain leadership experience
 - Not necessarily law-related; quality vs. quantity
- Great recommendations from professors

At bottom, law schools are looking for applicants:

- who are passionate and who have applied or pursued their passions in interesting ways
- who would bring an interesting perspective to their law school class and the legal profession
- who can articulate a mature and compelling reason for pursuing a legal career
- who are ready to face the challenges of law school

Admissions Criteria for Law School

Law Schools consider:

- LSAT scores
 - LSAT scores range from 120-180; average for CAS is 163 (for year 2020-21)
 - Some law schools are accepting GRE scores as an alternative for the LSAT
- Undergraduate cumulative GPA
 - Consider a program that's rigorous, meaningful, and that will provide you with substantial skills (ie, critical reading, writing, research)
- Letters of Recommendation
 - Law schools prefer 2 letters from faculty members
 - Admissions officers find most helpful if the professors assess your skills in comparison with peers
- Personal Statement
 - Your time to shine! Tell the admissions committee about yourself - they want to know who you are
 - Be ready to articulate why you want to go to law school
- 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)

A Timeline for your 1st and 2nd Years

First and Second Years: EXPLORE

- Take interesting and meaningful classes and explore interests, law-related or otherwise
- Get involved on or off campus
- Connect with your prelaw advisor and attend events - sign up to receive our weekly newsletter, [The Legal Brief](#)
- Get to know your professors and start building relationships with lawyers or other mentors

For more information about what to focus on in your junior and senior years, email us at prelaw@nyu.edu or visit our website, cas.nyu.edu/prelaw

Other Suggestions for Your First Year

- Consider challenging yourself by taking on rigorous courses – eventually, even consider taking honors courses and small seminars that require extensive reading and writing
- Consider taking on a full credit load every semester (16-18)
- Avoid overloading on pass/fail classes or lower-level courses
- Avoid withdrawing or repeating courses multiple times
- Start to build your resume for law school by joining clubs, pursuing volunteer experiences, and applying for internships
- Get started on undergraduate research – it is a great way to fine-tune many critical skills for law school
- Demonstrate your leadership and initiative on- and off-campus

Meet with a preprofessional advisor to discuss any of these factors and how you should address them in your application

Law School Admissions by the Numbers

Average GPA of CAS Students Accepted to Law School:

3.59

Average LSAT of CAS Students Accepted to Law School:

163

Top 5 Majors of CAS Students Accepted to Law School

Politics

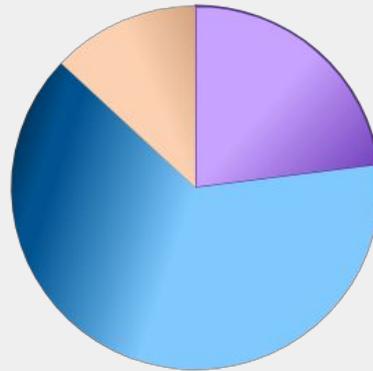
Philosophy

English

Economics

History

Percentage of Accepted CAS Students by Graduation Year



- Seniors
- 1-4 Years from Undergrad
- 4+ Years from Undergrad

Law Schools NYU CAS Students Attend

- Fordham University School of Law
- George Washington University Law School
- Columbia University School of Law
- Benjamin N Cardozo School of Law
- Brooklyn Law School
- Georgetown University Law Center
- Harvard Law School
- New York University Law School
- University of California at Los Angeles
- Rutgers Law School
- Emory University School of Law
- Boston University School of Law

Want to learn more? Contact the Preprofessional Advising Center!

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, cas.nyu.edu/prelaw, 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.

Contact us

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cas.nyu.edu/prelaw

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