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. Check out NYU Engage and attend club fest!
• The activities you choose do not have to be directly related to law

Build community on campus
• If you haven’t done so, sign up to receive our newsletter, *The Legal Brief*
• Attend as many prelaw events as you can! Lots of great info and visits from attorneys and current law students

Start building relationships with professors
• Take advantage of office hours and participate in class
• If class is remote, be sure to keep your camera on during class

Think about your law school admissions test timing
• The LSAT is offered several times a year - plan ahead
• All information is on LSAC.org
Admissions Criteria for Law School

Law Schools consider:

- **LSAT scores**
  - LSAT scores range from 120-180; average for CAS is 161
  - Some law schools are accepting GRE scores as a suitable substitute for the LSAT
- **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! Tell the admissions committee about yourself - they want to know who you are
  - 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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