

Pre-Law Advising



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS[®]
College of Arts & Sciences

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I am always happy to meet with students individually and answer their questions related to law school. Students can schedule an appointment by calling the number above.

Pre-Law Advising Services

- Provide individual and group advising for students preparing for law school.
- Help navigate the application process for law school including developing a timeline for application and the LSAT.
- Maintain information about law schools including school catalogs and brochures. Information is available in the lobby of 107 Scates Hall for student review at any time.
- Offer workshops on various topics related to the application process including personal statements, 4 year plans, and the application process.

Student Responsibilities

- Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the Pre-Law Advisor early in their academic career to discuss their interest in law school and develop a timeline for application.
- Our website is updated regularly. Students should email the Pre-Law Advisor to be added to a mailing list for notification of upcoming events.

- Students should set realistic goals and develop a parallel plan for an alternate professional school or career if admission to his or her first choice is not successful.

Picking a Major

The U of M, like most universities, does not offer “pre-law” as an actual major; rather this is your career focus. Although the American Bar Association (ABA) requires law school applicants to complete an undergraduate degree, it does not require any one major in particular, nor does it specify particular perquisite courses for admission. Although many pre-law students major in what are considered traditional majors for pre-law, such as history, philosophy, political science, and English, it is becoming increasingly common for students to major in a variety of other fields and seek (and gain!) admission to law school.

Ultimately it is up to you-choose a major you are interested in and do well in that major while taking advantage of opportunities to develop strong research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Regardless of their major, students admitted to law school excel academically, earn competitive LSAT scores, and are overall well-rounded. For a complete listing of undergraduate programs at The University of Memphis, visit: <http://www.memphis.edu/majors/ugmajors.htm>.

You will be advised in the department that houses your major but should contact the Pre-Law Advisor to be added to the pre-law mailing list.

Legal Thought and Liberal Arts Minor

The minor in Legal thought and Liberal Arts is designed to provide an interdisciplinary liberal arts program for students in any major who intend to enter the legal profession. The minor is of particular benefit to pre-law students whose majors are more professional in nature and who are not exposed to the broader liberal arts curriculum. Students will be introduced to major intellectual traditions of the West and to ethical, social, and economic issues significant to our time. The courses in the minor require that students read critically, think logically, and write clearly, all attributes required of persons in the legal profession. Students wishing to minor in Legal Thought and Liberal Arts should contact the Pre-Professional Advisor.

Minor Requirements: 18 semester hours of required courses and electives

- A. Required Core Courses: PHIL 1611 and either ENGL 3604 or 4602
- B. Electives: Select one course from four of the following five groups (each course chosen must be from a different group):
 1. Economic Context of Law: ECON 2010, 2020, 3411, 4130
 2. Historical Context of Law: HIST 3121, 3506, 3840
 3. Practical Foundations of Jurisprudence: CJUS 3510, 4521; POLS 3219, 4212, 4405, 4504, 4521

4. Theoretical Foundations of Jurisprudence: PHIL 3411, 3511, 3514, 3516, 4551; POLS 341, 3402, 3405; UNIV 3580
5. Critical Reading and Thinking: any 4000 level English literature course (ENGL 4231-4471) or ENGL 4602 if not taken as part of core, or any upper division philosophy course not taken above

Academic Planning

To be a competitive applicant for law school, strong academic performance is extremely important. Make sure you review the admissions criteria for the schools you wish to attend as well as the median GPA and LSAT score for the most recently admitted class of students. This information can be found in the entering class profile and can help you set goals for your academic performance and realistically assess your strength as an applicant.

It is understood that you have more going on in your life than just class! Many students balance family and work responsibilities with homework, time in class, and student involvement. In addition, as a pre-law student you may be gaining experience through volunteering and shadowing. Keep in mind, however, that there is no substitute for good grades when applying to law school. Make sure you take on coursework and experiences that you not only enjoy but will result in success while keeping in mind all of your responsibilities.

Most law schools take into account all grades you earned including any repeated courses. This means that the law school will consider both your old grade and new grade in your overall GPA calculation. You should avoid withdrawals after the first week of class when possible. A pattern of withdrawals and repeated courses may be viewed with concern by law schools. Poor planning may end up costing you in terms of time, money, and lost opportunities. Student involvement, volunteering, work, etc. are all aspects of a well-rounded applicant but should enhance rather than harm your GPA.

Student Involvement

There are over 200 Registered Student Organizations at The University of Memphis. Contact information for each group can be found in the RSO Database:
<https://saweb.memphis.edu/rsoreg/RSOList.asp>.

The Pre-Law Society was created to foster communication among pre-law students. Membership in the Pre-Law Society provides students with the opportunity to meet fellow students who share common interests, participate in meaningful activities, and assume leadership responsibilities. Students interested in joining PLS can pick up a membership application in the lobby of Scates Hall.

Meeting dates and times for the Pre-Law Society are updated monthly on the pre-law calendar of events: <http://www.memphis.edu/cas/pre-law-events.htm>.

Law School Admissions

Admission to law school has become increasingly competitive. According to the Law School Admission Council, there were 87,900 applicants to ABA schools in the 2009-2010 application cycle. Of those applications, 60,400 were admitted and 49,700 enrolled. In the last ten years, ABA applications have increased by approximately 11,000.

It is very important for each applicant to thoroughly research the schools s/he plans to apply to, in order to make the most informed decision. Factors you may consider include:

- Location
- Professional opportunities in community
- Diversity
- Co-curricular opportunities including externships and clinics
- Job placement
- Bar passage rate
- Cost, in consideration with personal finances

The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

The Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law relocated to beautiful downtown Memphis in 2010, overlooking the Mississippi River, just blocks from the state and federal courts. The Law School was recently named in the top 10 of the “nation’s most popular law programs by *U.S. News and World Report*, ranks at #9 Best Value nationally by *preLaw Magazine*, and has the highest bar passage rate of Tennessee public law schools.

Entering Class of 2018 Profile:

(https://www.memphis.edu/law/documents/factsheet_2018_19_web.pdf)

- Number of Students Admitted: 132
- Applications Received: 742
- Median LSAT/GPA: 152/3.42
- 75% LSAT/GPA: 155/3.64
- 25% LSAT/GPA: 148/2.93
- Male Enrollment: 44%
- Female Enrollment: 56%
- Minority Enrollment: 23%
- Age Range: 21-49
- Average Age: 25
- Total Law School Enrollment: 314