



Northern Illinois
University

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Pre-Law Pre-Professional 2016-2017 Catalog Year

What is the best major to prepare for law school?

There is no specific major recommended by the American Bar Association. Law students can come from a surprising array of backgrounds and majors from biology to music! Law schools are more concerned with your grade point average (GPA) and your Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score than your declared major. Since your grades are likely to be best in a major that fits your interests, your personal preferences should be the primary basis for selecting a major.

Are there certain classes I should take to prepare for law school?

Law schools want students who can think clearly, read critically and write with force and clarity, and who have some understanding of the forces that have shaped human experience. Academic advisors are willing to discuss what courses might prepare you to meet those expectations. Students who have taken difficult or advanced courses are judged in a more favorable light than students who have concentrated on easier or less advanced subjects. The need to show strong academic performance by attempting such courses must be balanced with the goal of obtaining a high GPA.

What GPA & LSAT scores do I need to be accepted to law school?

The “UGPA/LSAT Search” at officialguide.lsac.org approximates the odds of admission to various law schools by entering a GPA and LSAT score.

How do I prepare for the LSAT?

In addition to the UGPA/LSAT search, LSAC.ORG provides sample questions as well as a wealth of other information about preparing for law school. Beyond familiarizing yourself with sample questions, NIU offers test prep courses through the CLAS External Programming (815) 753-5200.

Where can I find Pre-Law advising?

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Office in Zulauf 201 provides information for College of Liberal Arts & Sciences students who are considering the possibility of pursuing a legal career (815) 753-0114. Students majoring in the College of Business should address questions to the Undergraduate Office, Barsema 201 (815) 753-1325.