

FAQs

What major should I choose in order to be admitted to law school?

No specific majors are required to carry out the purposes of pre-law study. However, the American Bar Association (ABA) does encourage undergraduates to develop basic skills such as language and communication, creative problem solving, a basic understanding of ethical theory and theories of justice, and critical thinking.

Since there is no “best” pre-law major, choose to concentrate in a discipline that holds genuine interest for you and in which you will be motivated to produce your best work. Seek breadth in your undergraduate program, keeping in mind the need to hone your writing skills and your abilities of logical analysis.

What criteria do law schools consider to determine admission?

Although there are numerous criteria that law schools consider, such as extracurricular activities and employment and/or internships, the primary factors are the applicant's Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score and grade-point average (GPA). Therefore, the best advice is not to sacrifice your grades by becoming too bombarded with work or extracurricular activities.

However, padding your GPA by taking easy courses at the expense of gaining a diverse and rigorous education and sharpening your analytical and writing skills will work to your disadvantage in scoring well on the LSAT and being prepared for the rigors of legal study. Make sure you are taking challenging course work and taking it seriously.

For information on the LSAT, visit the Law School Admission Council at www.lsac.org.

When should I take the LSAT?

The LSAT should be taken either in June after your junior year or in the September/October test dates of your senior year. One advantage of signing up for the summer test is that you will have your results back in time to determine an appropriate range of schools to which you can apply.

For more information about Pre-Law at RIT, please contact:

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Pre-Law at RIT



Preparing you for the unexpected.

RIT's academically rigorous programs and emphasis on communication and critical thinking skills make our graduates excellent candidates for top law programs. There are multiple ways to get involved with pre-law or legal studies on campus, both as an extracurricular activity or part of the classroom experience.

Pre-Law Society

Our Pre-Law Society is not a major or degree program. Instead, it accommodates students from any major at RIT and provides them with relevant information about applying to law school. Students will meet with an adviser who has earned a Juris Doctorate (JD) and understands the law school application process. The Pre-Law Society provides opportunity to visit a law school and sit in on a first-year course, meet admissions representatives to learn about what they look for in law school candidates, and attend LSAT review seminars.

Legal Studies Immersion/Minor

While this is not a requirement, some students interested in law school add a legal studies immersion and minor to their course work. (This can fulfill a portion of the general education curriculum in most programs.) Cooffered by the departments of criminal justice and political science, it explores the relationship of law to other aspects of society and culture, such as politics, social institutions, and the economy.

Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International

Open to all majors, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International, is a professional law fraternity advancing integrity, compassion, and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession, and the

Pre-Law Advising Application Timeline

Junior Year

- Make this your best year academically! Your acceptance to law school will largely depend on your academic record.
- Start reviewing old copies of the test and exploring the option of enrolling in a commercial test preparation course.
- Start investigating law schools.

Summer Between Junior and Senior Years

- Go to www.lsac.org to view the LSAT/ LSDAS registration form. Read the packet thoroughly to make sure you understand all phases of the application process.
- Register for the LSAT and LSDAS.
- Begin to develop a list of 10-15 law schools to which you'd like to apply. Most applicants wind up sending applications to 6-10 schools.
- Prepare for and take the LSAT.

Senior Year

- Make an appointment with the Pre-Law adviser to discuss your plans.
- Pull together ideas for a personal statement or essay. Speak to professors about letters of recommendation.
- Send transcripts and apply for financial aid at schools of interest.
- Finalize and send your applications out before Thanksgiving, if possible.
- By mid-January, follow up with law schools to ensure all application materials were received.
- Wait and hope!
- Receive acceptance, make decision, send deposit.
- After graduation, send a final copy of your transcript to the law school you will attend.