

# Pre-Law

## Pre-Law Advising Office

If you have decided to attend or are considering law school as one of many post-graduate possibilities, you should visit the Pre-Law Advising Office located in the College of Arts & Sciences, room B2, 725 Commonwealth Avenue. There you can pick up handouts which address the most frequently asked pre-law questions. There are handouts that describe the services available to you at the Pre-Law Advising Office and detail the requirements for applying to law school as well. To make an appointment with a Pre-Law Advisor, please call the Pre-Law Advising Office at 617-353-4867.

## Pre-Law Curriculum

Law Services, as well as most law schools, state specifically that a pre-law curriculum is not particularly advantageous or even desirable. Boston University, therefore, does not offer a specific pre-law major. Instead, we suggest students choose a curriculum based on personal interest in the subject matter and we urge students to acquire a broad foundation by taking courses in a number of different areas. Courses which develop reading, writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are recommended. Most important is how well you do in your classes. The higher your GPA, the wider your range of choices for law school.

## Extra-curricular Activities

Activities in which a student has had a strong leadership role and in which he or she has demonstrated the ability to work well with others can be positive factors in the law school admission process. However, it is the extent of the involvement, and not the nominal association, that is considered noteworthy.

This involvement need not be law related. Meaningful involvement in law-related activities, however, can be of great value in two ways. It may prove to the law schools that a student's desire to study law is well-considered and it also serves as an excellent way for students to discover the area and extent of their interest in law.

The Pre-Law Advising Office sponsors five student-run law groups: Pre-Law Society, Diversity in Law Association, Mock Trial Team, Mock Mediation Team, and Pre-Law Review. Each group differs in its activities and time commitment required. These programs are available for students enrolled in any program at Boston University. For more information, contact the Pre-Law Advising Office.

## Careers in Law

Lawyers are found throughout our complex society. Beginning positions for lawyers include: setting up an individual practice; working in a law firm or corporate legal department; entering government service at the local, state or federal level; accepting a judicial clerkship; and working for a public interest group, to name a few. A J.D. degree can lead to dynamic careers in business, higher education, and communications as well.

## Checklist

The Pre-Law Advising Office has a checklist that provides step-by-step suggestions throughout your undergraduate career, including how to prepare for and when to take the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT.) Get a copy and use it to plan your studies.

## Prelaw Addendum

### Freshman Year

**Register** with the Pre-Law Advising Office and attend pre-law information sessions.

Familiarize yourself with the **resources** available in the Pre-Professional Advising Office.

Check out the pre-law **student organizations**: Pre-Law Society, Minorities in Law Association, *The Pre-Law Review*, and the Mock Trial Organization.

Learn about Boston University's student clubs and organizations (including the pre-law groups) at the **Activities Expo** in mid-September.

When choosing classes, **explore all interests**.

Take courses that will enhance your **writing, reading comprehension, and analytical skills**.

Develop your **logical reasoning** ability and increase your awareness of human institutions, social values, and the world at large.

Choose a major in a field that both **intrigues** and **motivates** you to excel!

### Sophomore Year

Be serious about your studies. Your **grades** are a very important part of your law school applications.

Make efforts to **actively participate in class** and attend professors' office hours, so that professors know you and your work. You will need academic letters of recommendation for your law school applications.

Find the right **balance** between academic coursework and extracurricular activities. Pursue your interests outside of class, but not at the expense of your academic performance.

Develop a realistic view of legal careers. Look for opportunities to obtain law-related experience. Talk with lawyers about their work.

Consider a summer job/internships and study abroad program that will expand your knowledge (preferably in a law-related field).

Take a look at a past **LSAT** (Law School Admissions Test). The Pre-Law library has all of the released tests. Check out **LSAC.org** (Law School Admissions Council). Set up a tentative plan for when you would like to take the test and how you will prepare. Discuss your plan with a pre-law advisor. Allow yourself **six months to a year** to prepare for the LSAT!