

Last updated 7/1/09

2009-2010 PROGRAM GUIDE: Law schools look for students with a broad liberal arts education emphasizing skills in oral communication, writing, creative and logical thinking. In general, law school graduates must be well-rounded persons able to understand human nature as well as legal philosophy. They must demonstrate the skills necessary to develop, organize, and present their cases before a judge or jury.

Pre-law is not a major. Law schools do not require or encourage such a major. Students planning a legal career may pursue the major of their choice. Those commonly chosen are History, Political Science, English, Speech, Journalism, Business, Philosophy, Sociology, and Psychology.

In the course of fulfilling requirements in their major fields, pre-law students are urged to include as many of the following courses as possible:

GENERAL COURSES

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| Introduction to Law (PLSC 225) | 2-4 units |
| Advanced Expository Writing (ENGL 304) | 4 units |
| The Construction of American Political Life (HPSC 274) | 4 units |
| Comparative Government (PLSC 316) | 4 units |
| U.S. Constitution (HIST 430G) | 4 units |
| Persuasion (COMM 328) | 4 units |
| Law and Society (HIST 432S) | 4 units |
| Logic (PHIL 208) | 4 units |
| War Crimes and International Policy (HIST 440F) | 4 units |

MATH & COMPUTING

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| Introduction to Information Systems (CPTG 104) | 4 units |
| Introduction to Statistics (MATH 251) | 4 units |

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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| Social Psychology (PSYC/SOCI 304) | 4 units |
| Psychology & Law (PSYC 488B) | 4 units |

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

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| Financial Accounting (ACCT 211) | 4 units |
| Business Law I, II (BUAD 381, 382) | 8 units |
| Principles of Economics (ECON 254, 255) | 8 units |

Pre-Law Club:

Plan to join the Pre-Law Club, which is a university-sponsored organization.

Contact Jeff Dupée in Department of History, Politics & Society OR Gary Chartier in School of Business.

PRE-LAW

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS: Lawyers act as both advocates and advisors. As advocates, they represent one of the opposing parties in criminal and civil trials by presenting arguments that support the client in a court of law. As advisors, lawyers counsel clients as to their legal rights and obligations and suggest particular courses of action in the business and personal matters. Although most lawyers deal with many different areas of the law, a significant number concentrate on one branch of law. These include such areas as probate, international law, communication law, business law, sports law, criminal law and civil law. Lawyers in private practice may concentrate on areas such as litigation, wills, trusts, contracts, mortgages, titles, and leases.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: To practice law in the courts of any state, a person must be licensed, or admitted to its bar, under rules established by the state's supreme court. Lawyers who have been admitted to the bar in one state occasionally may be admitted in another state without taking an examination if they meet that state's standards of good moral character and have a specified period of legal experience. Federal courts and agencies set their own qualifications for those practicing before them. To qualify for the bar examination in most states, an applicant must complete at least 3 years of college and graduate from a law school approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) or the proper State authorities.

JOB OUTLOOK: Employment of lawyers is expected to grow about as fast as average for all occupations through 2014, primarily as a result of growth in the population and in the general level of business activities. Job growth among lawyers also will result from increasing demand for legal services in areas such as health care, intellectual property, venture capital, energy, elder, antitrust, and environmental law.

SALARY: In 2008, the median annual earnings of all lawyers were **\$102,470**. The middle half of the occupation earned between **\$69,910** and **\$145,600**. Median annual earnings in the industries employing the largest numbers of lawyers in 2008 were as follows:

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|--|-----------|
| Management of companies and enterprises..... | \$128,610 |
| Federal Government..... | \$119,240 |
| Legal Services..... | \$108,100 |
| Local Government..... | \$78,810 |
| State Government..... | \$75,840 |

SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Websites:

La Sierra University

<http://www.lasierra.edu/>

History, Politics & Society

<http://www.lasierra.edu/history/>

School of Business & Mgmt.

<http://www.lasierra.edu/sbm/>

Department Contacts:

History Department:

Jeff Dupée, Ph.D.

School of Business & Management:

Gary Chartier, J.D., Ph.D.

Professional Organizations:

American Bar Association

750 North Lake Shore Drive

Chicago, IL 60611

<http://www.abanet.org>

Association of American Law Schools

1 Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 370

Washington, DC 20036

Law School Admission Council

P.O. Box 40

Newtown, PA 18940

215-968-1001

<http://www.lsac.org>

*A Review of Legal Education in the
United States* (free copy available
from the ABA)

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