PRE-LAW at FSU

PRE-LAW TIMELINE

PREPARE

CHOOSING A MAJOR YOU ENJOY

• Talk with your academic advisor (http://advisor.undergrad.fsu.edu/advisors/advisor-display.php)
• Visit The Career Center or explore Career Center resources online, including Career Guides, Matching Majors to Occupations handouts, and internship opportunities (http://career.fsu.edu/Resources)
• Choose liberal studies courses that interest you or ones that can enhance skills measured on the LSAT:
  - CLT 2044 — Word Building: Greek and Latin Elements in the English Vocabulary
  - PHI 2100 — Reasoning and Critical Thinking
  - PHI 3162 — Logic and the Law (consider taking the 2100 course first)

LEARNING ABOUT LAW SCHOOL & MAINTAINING A STRONG GPA (3.0 OR ABOVE)

• Research how to prepare for law school and brainstorm any alternative plans (http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/pre_law.html)
  - Attend a pre-law workshop (http://prelaw.fsu.edu)
• Take advantage of resources to maintain a strong GPA:
  - ACE Learning Studio (Tutoring Center) — http://ace.fsu.edu/Tutoring
  - ACE Workshop Series — http://ace.fsu.edu/Workshops
  - Personal Academic Consultations (PAC) — http://ace.fsu.edu/Resources/Personal-Academic-Consultations-PAC
• Create an LSAC account (http://www.lsac.org/jd/) to explore links in the “Future JD Students” section

PREPARING FOR THE LSAT

• Take at least one practice LSAT before the end of your freshman year to determine strengths and areas for growth (http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/lsat-prep-materials)
• Try Testing Educational Resource Center (TERC) for FREE practice questions (http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/terc/tutorial/index.html)
• Learn about sections on the LSAT (http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/preparing-for-the-lsat):
  - Reading Comprehension, Analytical Reasoning, Logical Reasoning, and a Writing Sample

GETTING INVOLVED

• Develop experiences that are unique to you and your interests. Resources to get involved at FSU include:
  - Student Groups — https://studentgroups.fsu.edu/organizations
  - Research Opportunities — http://cre.fsu.edu/
  - Study Abroad — http://international.fsu.edu/
  - Internship Opportunities — http://career.fsu.edu/Students/Gain-Experience
  - Garnet & Gold Scholar Society — http://garnetandgoldscholar.fsu.edu/
  - Global Pathways — http://global.fsu.edu/students/certificate/certificate.htm
  - Other Certificates — http://www.academic-guide.fsu.edu/certificates.html
  - Honors in the Major — http://honors.fsu.edu/Honors-in-the-Major/
  - Directed Independent Study (DIS) — Visit fsu.edu and search DIS or check within your department.
  - Pre-Law Advisors and Societies — http://prelaw.fsu.edu/Important-Resources/FSU-Prelaw-Advisors
• Get to know your professors. You will be requesting letters of recommendation from them, so you want them to know who you are. Brainstorm ideas with a pre-law advisor about meeting faculty during office hours

DOCUMENTING YOUR EXPERIENCES

• Document your undergraduate experiences in the Career Portfolio skills matrix. Contact The Career Center or speak with a career advisor for assistance (http://www.career.fsu.edu/Portfolio)
• Write/revise your resume, and continue to keep it up-to-date. Drop in at The Career Center to receive feedback on your resume (http://career.fsu.edu/Resources/Career-Guides)
• Record your service hours to the community on your transcript (http://thecenter.fsu.edu/ServScript-Program)

Adapted from americanbar.org, lsac.org and prelaw.fsu.edu
RESEARCH

RESEARCHING PROGRAMS

- Attend graduate school fairs to learn about law schools (http://career.fsu.edu/students/events/law-school-fair)
  http://www.lsac.org/jd/choosing-a-law-school/forums-and-other-events
  http://www.abarequireddisclosures.org/
  http://employmentsummary.abaquestionnaire.org/

REGISTERING FOR CAS

- Register for the Credential Assembly Service (https://www.lsac.org/jd/applying-to-law-school/cas)
- Meet with a pre-law advisor to discuss how to make your application unique (http://prelaw.fsu.edu/Important-Resources/FSU-Prelaw-Advisors)

TAKING THE LSAT

- Start preparing for the LSAT and purchase LSAT prep books as needed:
  http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/preparing-for-the-lsat
  https://os.lsac.org/Release/Shop/Publications.aspx
- Research LSAT prep courses and enroll if you choose to use a prep course (http://prelaw.fsu.edu/Important-Resources/LSAT-Resources).
- Request letters of recommendation from those who can speak to your potential to be a lawyer:
  http://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/articles/2013/04/04/5-ways-to-get-standout-law-school-recommendations
  http://www.lsac.org/jd/applying-to-law-school/cas/or-evaluations
- Take the LSAT (and retake it if necessary):
  Planning to attend law school immediately after graduation? Take the June LSAT - possible - to complete applications by November - December
- Prepare your résumé (http://career.fsu.edu/Resources/Career-Guides)
- Draft your personal statements, which should be tailored to each law school prompt. Have several people review your drafts (http://career.fsu.edu/Resources/Career-Guides).

APPLY

FINALIZING CAS FILE

- Search the LSAC guide of law schools, and review law school admissions websites to create a calendar of application dates and deadlines for the schools you hope to apply to:
   Example — http://www.law.fsu.edu/prospective_students/index.shtml
- Meet with your pre-law advisor to finalize your resume and personal statement
- Complete your CAS file (http://www.lsac.org/jd/applying-to-law-school/cas)

SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

- Begin submitting applications, and keep a log of where you submit applications
- Retake the LSAT in October, if necessary
- Utilize the Law School Report section in the secure area of LSAC or contact schools to ensure materials were received

WAITING FOR ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

- Ask the Registrar’s Office to send your official transcripts to LSAC. This process can take several weeks, so be sure to request these ahead of time
- Submit your FAFSA and any other financial aid paperwork
- Evaluate your acceptance and financial aid offers to decide where you would like to attend

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