



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 <http://www.lsac.org/jd/thinking-about-law-school>

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>
 - Leadership Certificate — <http://thecenter.fsu.edu/Leadership-Studies-Certificate>
 - 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>)

RESEARCH

RESEARCHING PROGRAMS

- Research law school requirements and admissions processes (https://officialguide.lisac.org/release/OfficialGuide_Default.aspx)
- Explore law school financing options (<http://www.lisac.org/jd/financing-law-school/financial-aid-overview>)
- Attend graduate school fairs to learn about law schools (<http://career.fsu.edu/students/events/law-school-fair>)

<http://www.lisac.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.lisac.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.lisac.org/jd/sat/preparing-for-the-sat>
<https://os.lisac.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.lisac.org/jd/applying-to-law-school/cas/lor-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:
http://officialguide.lisac.org/release/OfficialGuide_Default.aspx
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.lisac.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



The
Career Center

prelaw.fsu.edu