
Brooklyn College Pre-Law Handbook 2018-2019



Preparing for Law School and a Career in Law

Brooklyn College of the City University of New York

2900 Bedford Avenue • Brooklyn, New York 11210-2889 • Telephone (718) 951-5696 • Fax (718) 951-4481

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PRE- LAW TEAM

Pre-Law Advising at Brooklyn College consists of a team of committed and knowledgeable professionals. You will notice from the listing below that each has an area of expertise that can help you successfully navigate your way through Law School preparation and planning. To get started, meet with the Pre-Law Research Assistant who can help you decide which advisor or advisors may be most helpful to you. The contact information is listed below for your convenience.

Magner Career Center for the Pre-Law Program

Pre-Law Career Advisor:

Pamela Brown
Magner Center for Career Development and Internships
1303 James Hall
Please call the Office to schedule an
Appointment: (718)951-5696
pbrown@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Faculty Advisor:

Professor Anna Gotlib
Pre-Law Academic Advisor
Philosophy Department
3307 Boylan Hall
718.951.5324
AGotlib@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Pre-Law Researcher:

Habiba Shafa
Pre-Law Research Assistant
1303 James Hall
Please call the Office to schedule an
Appointment: (718)951-5696
itrezil@brooklyn.cuny.edu



General Pre-Law Events

Sign-up for all workshops and programs by logging onto BC Web Central:
(<http://portal.brooklyn.cuny.edu> and select the *Career Tab*)

Magner Center for Career Development and Internships Orientation for Pre-Law Students with Guest Speakers

Come and speak directly with the Brooklyn College Pre-law Team. Some of the BC Alumnus will describe their career paths; offer details on skills needed to pursue a law career. In addition, LSAT instructors from the Focus Law Approach Review and Kaplan.Prep Representatives will be available to speak with students as well.

Magner Center for Career Development and Internships/Kaplan Practice Test Exams

The following practice exams will be administered:

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| • LSAT | 11:00 – 3:00 pm | Room 241 Library |
| • GRE | 11:00 – 3:00 pm | Room 242 Library |
| • MCAT | 11:00 – 3:00 pm | Room 283 Library |
| • GMAT | 11:00 – 3:00 pm | Woody Tanger Auditorium |

Take a practice exam and find out how you would score on the test day. Once you've taken the exam, an Instructor will give you exclusive strategies on how to tackle the more difficult questions you've just encountered. You will also receive a detailed analysis of your performance on the exam at the Hillel Center at Brooklyn College, including a breakdown of your performance by section and question type, along with explanations of answers for every question. In addition, lunch will be served.

LSAC Law Forum Event Off-Campus: Hilton Hotel-1335 Ave of the America, New York, NY 10009

LSAC offers pre-registration online at www.lsac.org for the Law School Forums. Attendees can register their information with LSAC ahead of time, saving them the time of filling out a paper form on-site. At the event, there will be pre-Law Advisors present to counsel attendees. LSAC staff is available as well. In addition, there will be a minority resource table to answer questions and provide information of particular interest to minority candidates considering careers in law. For everyone's convenience, there will be a schedule of events posted at the registration area of the law school forum. See you there!

Navigating Global Careers and International Internships

(This event is open to all majors, all-undergraduate and graduate students as well as alumni) Join us at this event and you will gain a much broader view of the international landscape and current events within your own field of study. **Representatives from the US State Department, Peace Corps, United Nations, CRCC-Asia, and Global Career Employer/ Professionals.**

Here are ten reasons to intern Abroad:

Make your resume stand out; Discover a new country; Receive academic credit; Expand your global network; Improve your language skills; Learn a new language; Develop your 'Soft Skills'; Prove you can take initiative; Gain confidence; Develop a global perspective and understanding; It's an experience you will never forget!

Magner Center/Kaplan / Personal Statement Writing Seminar

This event will provide students with tips, tools and feedback on all things related to personal statements for law school applications.

Co-Sponsors: Magner Career Center

<http://career.brooklyn.cuny.edu>

Political Science Department, Legal Profession Society, Philosophy Department, and the Pre-Law Club.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/BrooklynCollege.PreLaw>

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/#!/BCPreLaw>

Look for us in social media and our app:



WELCOME PRE-LAW STUDENTS!

Come find out what Brooklyn College is offering to students preparing for law school

Discover the answers to the questions aspiring law students may have:

- What are the best ways to prepare for the LSAT?
- What GPA should I have?
- When should I start applying?
- How do I apply for scholarships?
- What should I include in a Personal Statement?
- What is the NYC Law School Forum?
- Are there Pipe-line programs that groom students for law school?
- How do I finance a law school education?

Schedule an appointment for the Pre-Law Advising Team after reviewing our online resources!

On-line Pre-Law Resources: <http://tinyurl.com/lt3mhjh>

To schedule an appointment:

Call 718-951-5696 or visit the **Magner Center at 1303 James Hall.**

The Magner Career Center

Mission Statement

Pre-Law preparation at Brooklyn College serves the mission of the institution to provide a superior education in the arts and sciences with a view to graduating men and women who are independent and critical thinkers, skilled communicators, culturally and scientifically literate, oriented to innovation, and who are marked by a sense of personal and social responsibility, the knowledge and talents to live in a globally interdependent world, and the confidence to assume leadership roles.

The Pre-Law program helps achievement-oriented students make informed decisions about pursuing a career in legal professions; assists them in assessing the academic, personal, and professional competencies and credentials they need to become successful applicants and students of the Law Schools they aspire to attend; and provides access to the academic and career advisement, resources, opportunities, and professional networks that will support them in clarifying and achieving their goals.

*****Qualified and highly motivated students who have participated in Pre-Law programs at the College and have utilized the resources provided for them will:**

1. Demonstrate incisive and independent intellectual judgment and problem-solving skills;
2. Be able to read dense and complicated texts closely and analytically and to organize large amounts of information;
3. Be confident and proficient writers whose prose is clear, compelling, effective, and unpretentious;
4. Speak clearly and persuasively, using tone(s) and diction(s) appropriate to the target audience; exercise active listening skills;
5. Demonstrate broad and working knowledge of United States history and contemporary political system;
6. Value individual and social diversity and demonstrate appreciation for difference;
7. Understand professionalism in legal careers and comport oneself professionally in legal society;
8. Be able to make reasoned ethical judgments.

Law School Preparation Checklist

First Year

Register with the Magner Career Center on the BC Portal at <http://portal.brooklyn.cuny.edu>

for law-related events and panels. Research potential job/internship opportunities (When do they hire? What do they look for?) using [HireBC](#), [Vault](#), and other job boards like [LinkedIn](#), and [Idealist](#).

- Schedule an appointment with the Center's Pre-Law Career Advisor Pamela Brown at (718) 951-5696 or the Research Assistant at (718) 951-5696.
- Take core courses and electives to become familiar with a variety of fields that develop communication skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening) and logical reasoning skills.

Second Year

- Take challenging courses that will improve your reading, writing, and analytical skills.
- Consult a Pre-law Faculty Advisor about selecting your major. Decide on your major by the time you have earned 61 credits.
- Get involved in club, community, and campus activities; engage with students from ethnic, social, political, religious, and cultural backgrounds different from your own.
- Check out campus organizations for students interested in law.

Third Year

- Schedule an appointment with the Pre-law Advisor or Research Assistant to talk about a Law School search, financing a legal education, and preparation for the Law School Admissions Test.
- Register with the LSAC, and pick up the new LSAT/LSDAS handbook at the Magner Center for Career Development and Internships.
- Check out Law School application planning on the LSAC site: www.lsac.org.
- Register for LSAT prep courses, some of which are offered on campus.
- Attend Magner Career Center Internships law-related events. View the schedule at <http://career.brooklyn.cuny.edu/students/preLawEvents.htm>.
- Consider a summer pre-law program for a preview of what Law School is like. A comprehensive list can be found at http://www.prelawhandbook.com/summer_prelaw_programs.
- Check out the available scholarship opportunities for pre-law students through the following link: <http://websql.brooklyn.cuny.edu/schtrack/schbydept.jsp>.

Fourth Year

- Create a list of Law Schools to which you are interested in applying. See lists of schools on the AALS, ABA, and LSAC websites.
- Find the GPA/LSAT score admissions projection tool on the LSAC site, consult a Faculty Advisor, and refine your list.
- Attend the LSAC Law School Forum in New York City. Find information at <http://career.brooklyn.cuny.edu/students/preLaw>.
- Ascertain application deadlines for all the schools you are considering. Consider early acceptance programs, if applicable.
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers and mentors, using the instructions and forms supplied on the LSAC website. Leave time to ask your letter writers to discuss your LSAT score in their letters, if appropriate.
- Start your applications in the fall after you get the results from the June or September/October LSAT.
- Prepare your personal statement. Contact the Learning Center's pre-law writing tutor, to make an appointment to review your personal statement.

Post-Baccalaureate

- Send the Pre-law research assistant updated contact information and let him/her know whether you are attending Law School and, if so, where;
- Join the Alumni Association and keep them apprised of your professional advancement.

Pre-law FAQs

Academics:

Q. What should I major in as a Pre-law student?

A. There is no formal pre-law major at Brooklyn College, and no major should be seen as preparing students exclusively for Law School. The American Bar Association (ABA) does not recommend any particular major. You should take any classes that most interest you or that are related to the field of law you would like to pursue. Classes should develop your writing, reading and analytical skills. A well-balanced liberal arts education, which includes Brooklyn College's Core Curriculum, is the best preparation for Law School.

Q. What courses should I take that best prepare me for Law School?

A. The Law School preparation is a process of developing a set of skills that help with both Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) preparation and success in Law School. The ABA recognizes the following skills as important to studying law: analytic/problem solving, critical reading, writing, oral communication/ listening abilities, general research skills, task organization/ management, and public service and promotion of justice. For more information:

<http://www.abanet.org/legaled/prelaw/prep.html>

Law School Admissions:

Q. What do Law Schools look for in a candidate for admission?

A. The two most important parts of a Law School application are a strong LSAT score and a student's grade point average (GPA). Admissions officers and committees use the LSAT score as a measure of the reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, and logical thinking skills needed to succeed in Law School. Admissions committees use the grade point average to assess student preparation for law study, and do take into account the degree of difficulty of the courses on which the GPA is based. Admissions staffs are looking for students who have the potential to be successful law students. This potential is demonstrated through strong analytical and verbal skills and an ability to work at high speed under pressure.

Q. What is involved in Law School applications?

A. All Law School applications are unique to the Law School. Most require the application form, a personal statement, at least 2 letters of recommendation, a resume or curriculum vitae, all transcripts, and an LSAT score. All of the elements of your application for Law School will be received and distributed through the LSDAS. Register for the LSDAS toward the end of your Sophomore year.

Components of the Law School Application

Almost all Law Schools require the following:

- Application Form
- Letters of Recommendation
- GPA/Transcript
- LSAT
- Personal Statement
- Resume w/Internships/Extracurricular Activities

I. Application Form

Law School application forms are straightforward, usually requiring you to fill in basic biographic information about yourself and family. In addition you will also be asked about GPA, LSAT scores and work experience.

How do I get the Law School's application forms?

There are two main ways to secure the application forms:

- Request the forms from the Law Schools directly. Most Law Schools have websites where you can download the application. Go to the "Links to Other Resources" page of the prelaw website to find links to websites for all the ABA-accredited Law Schools.
- Use the LSAC's on-line application process. LSAC provides detailed instructions (including video demonstrations) describing how to complete your Law School applications on-line through LSAC. See www.lsac.org.

II. Recommendation Letters

Q. Are letters of recommendation important?

A. Recommendation letters are required by Law Schools. They are a vital complement to your GPA and LSAT scores because they come from professors/employers who can attest to the quality of your work and evaluate your potential to study law. Ideally, you should choose professors with whom you have taken more than one course and with whom you have had a positive relationship. Law Schools require a minimum of two letters of reference.

Q. What can I give to those writing letters of recommendation on my behalf?

A. What to give to your letter writers:

Remember that it is very time-consuming to write a compelling letter of recommendation, and your letter-writers are likely very busy people. Therefore, make the letter writing process as easy as possible for the letter-writer. If you provide him/her with detailed, clear information, the letter-writer has more time to focus on the content of the letter (instead of trying to figure out whom it should be addressed to, where it should

be sent, etc.). We suggest that you give the letter-writer a packet of information to help him draft the letter, including:

- Statement about why you are applying to Law School. Provide your letter-writer a brief written statement (one or two short paragraphs) about why you are interested in applying to Law School.
- Copies of papers, paper comments, and grade received. Remind your letter-writer who you are and how you know the letter-writer. If you took a course or courses from the letter-writer, remind him which course(s) and your grade(s) as well as any comments he made about your written work and class participation. You can attach a copy of the papers you wrote and any comments the recommender may have made.
- Your updated resume. Craft your resume with tips and templates from our [Resume Review Guide](#). Be sure to edit your resume. It should be neat, well- organized, and easy to read.
- A deadline. Clearly indicate when your letter needs to be completed. It is proper etiquette to give your letter-writer **at least one month** to complete your letter. This may seem like a long time to you, but remember your letter-writers are busy individuals with many commitments. They'll be much happier with you and more likely to write you a detailed, compelling letter, if you provide them ample time to draft it.
- Content of the Letter. Tell your letter-writer that his letter should address attributes about you which will make you a good candidate for Law School. Among other attributes, your letter-writer can comment about your: reliability, maturity, leadership skills, community work, writing skills, analytical skills, organizational skills, ability to think on your feet, and ability to work in groups. We advise you to ask your letter-writer to draft a general letter, which you can submit to all Law Schools.

III. GPA/Transcript

Your grade point average (GPA) is an important part of your Law School application. Most Law Schools will ask you to calculate your GPA. Additionally, Law Schools will ask you to submit an official Brooklyn College transcript.

Q. How do I get my transcript?

A. To obtain a copy of your official transcript, you must order it through the Brooklyn College Registrar. This is done via the **BC Web Central** at <http://portal.brooklyn.edu>.

Q. Where should I send my transcript?

A. LSDAS requires an official transcript. Therefore, instruct the Brooklyn College Registrar to send a transcript and/or grade report to:

Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS). See <http://www.lsac.org/LSAC.asp?url=/lsac/lstdas-general-information.asp>.

IV. LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS)

Q. What is (CAS) Credential Assembly Service?

A. The LSAC'S (CAS) packages critical components of your application for Law Schools. You should register for this service through the **LSAC website**. **Nearly all schools approved by the American Bar Association require that applicants use the (CAS), which provides a report to each Law School you apply to.** This includes copies of all transcripts, all LSAT scores, writing samples, and letters of recommendation. The CAS prepares a report for each Law School to which you apply. After you register and pay a **fee**, CAS prepares and provides a report for each Law School to which you applied. With the registration, you will also receive access to electronic applications for all ABA-approved Law Schools. Using the electronic application service can save you time, allowing you to answer common questions only once (e.g., your name, address, undergraduate degree). It must be repeated that Law Schools **EXPECT** to receive applications generated by the LSAC electronic service. See www.lsac.org for more information.

V. Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

Q. What is the LSAT?

A. The Law School Admission Test ("LSAT") is a standardized test required for admission to all Law Schools. It is an important component of your Law School application. Scored from 120 – 180 (with 180 being a perfect score), the LSAT has three main types of sections: reading comprehension, logical reasoning (a.k.a., arguments), and analytic reasoning (a.k.a., logic games). The actual test consists of five sections (each 35 minutes): one reading comprehension, two logical reasoning, and one analytic reasoning, plus one experimental section (which does not count toward your score). Additionally, there is a thirty minute writing portion which does not factor into your LSAT score but is sent to Law Schools. It is suggested that on the day of your exam, you should bring bottled water **ONLY**, several pencils with erasers, a valid ID (license or passport) and maybe even a candy bar (granola bar if you're not into sweets) for energy.

Q. How do I register for the LSAT?

A. Register for the LSAT through the Law School Assembly Service at www.lsac.org. Check the website for details about when and how to register.

Q. In general, when should I take the LSAT?

A. The optimal time to take the LSAT is when you have the best chance of doing well. You should take the LSAT when you have time to focus on preparing for the test, and when you are not overwhelmed by other stresses in your life.

Q. How many times a year is the LSAT given?

A. The LSAT is generally given EIGHT times a year. Most popular times are June, October, December and February (in some years the October test is given at the end of Sept). Refer to the LSAC website at www.lsac.org for this year's specific test dates and registration deadlines.

Q. What time of year should I take the LSAT – June, October, December or February?

A. In our experience, most students take the LSAT in October of the year in which they are applying. So, students who are planning to attend Law School right after they graduate, often take the LSAT in October of their senior year. In October, the fall semester has just begun, and students' course workload is not yet intense. Therefore, students often find they have time to focus on LSAT test preparation.

1. Taking the LSAT in June of the year in which you plan to apply has advantages; you will know your score in the summer and have a better basis to select where to apply.

2. You can take the December LSAT and apply to Law School during the same academic year. The disadvantage is that you will not know your score in advance of having to submit your applications. Additionally, your applications will not be complete until your LSAT score is submitted; therefore, Law Schools will not be able to make a final decision about your candidacy until late in the application cycle.

3. If you take the February LSAT, most Law Schools will require you to wait until the following academic year to submit your application.

Q. How should I prepare for the LSAT? Should I enroll in a structured LSAT prep course, or should I study on my own?

A. One of the best ways to prepare for the LSAT is by taking actual LSAT tests which have been given in the past. You can order these tests from the LSAC website (see www.lsac.org). Some students find it helpful to enroll in a test preparation course. The benefits of enrolling in such a course include: being provided a structured study schedule, being taught test strategies, and studying with other people. However, the test prep services are costly (sometimes over \$1500). It's most important for you to be self-reflective and honest with yourself about your own study habits. If you like and need structure and outside motivation, it's best to take a course. If you prefer to study on your own, in a quiet environment, you may not need to take a prep class. The Magner Career Center offers a list of LSAT Prep programs to research. Please contact Pam Brown.

Q. How much should I study for the LSAT?

A. There is no one answer to this question. Certainly, it depends on your goal score as well as your comfort level with standardized tests. If you find timed tests stressful, it's best to err on the side of studying more rather than less. We find most students prepare for up to 3 months for this

exam. The LSAT & LSDAS Information Book has test preparation information, available in the Magner Center's Pre-Law library and is available for download at <http://www.lsac.org>.

Q. Where should I have my LSAT scores sent?

A. You should have them sent to the Law Schools to which you are applying.

Q. If I have additional questions about the LSAT, what should I do?

A. The LSAC offers FAQs about the LSAT. See <http://www.lsac.org/>.

VI. Personal Statement

Q. How important is the personal statement?

A. Along with the LSAT/GPA and letters of recommendation, the personal statement is the most important part of your Law School applications. Trends in personal statements change over time: be sure to check out resources on the LSAC site, at Magner Center Pre-Law workshops, and in the specific instructions about the personal statement offered by each school. The personal statement is your opportunity to provide a Law School some information about yourself which may not be apparent in the other components of your application. Use the personal statement to help Law Schools develop an understanding of who you are as a person. In many cases the personal statement can be the decision maker and should be designated a substantial amount of execution time.

Note: A small number of Tier 1 & 2 schools (such as Yale, NYU, etc.) require an additional essay also known as the “*Optional Essay*”. This essay is usually less specific than the first personal statement but most importantly it is **NOT** optional and must be submitted to LSAC with the rest of your documents.

Q. What are some “tips” about the personal statement? What are Law Schools looking for?

A. They are as follows:

- **The personal statement should be “personal.”** The personal statement is your opportunity to help Law Schools develop a better picture of who you are. You can highlight aspects of yourself which may not be apparent in any other place in your application. Do not, however, write a theoretical or academic essay on a particular topic (e.g., on the meaning of fairness and justice, on the history of legal thought, on the development of international law). Instead, tell a story about yourself. Use the personal statement to demonstrate to Law Schools what motivates you as a person.
- **The personal statement should be easy to read and well written.** Do not try to impress the readers with an abstruse essay. Instead, write a clear, concise, and well-organized essay. To the extent possible, use declarative sentences in active voice. Edit the statement. The Law Schools are using this statement to gauge whether or not you are a good writer, so errors will harm your chance for admission. Use standard font and margins. All essays should be edited by no less than three people. This can include:

professors, employers or any members of the Pre-Law team and Magner Center for Career Development and Internships.

- **The personal statement should *not* be a list of your accomplishments and activities.** The Law Schools will have your resume and transcript(s). Law Schools use the personal statement to learn more about who you are as an individual – what motivates you, what you will add to the Law School class and the legal profession.
- **The personal statement should be original.** Although you may want to directly answer the question “why I want to go to Law School,” remember that the individuals reading your personal statement have read hundreds of essays which answer this question. Your statement can certainly address how your background and experiences have led you to apply to Law School, but don’t merely list reasons why you want to be a lawyer.
- **Avoid making broad generalizations and too many political and social references in your personal statement and instead provide personal anecdotes or examples.** Instead of making broad statements (like “I want to use the law to make a difference in people’s lives”), provide the reader specific information about how your background and experiences have shaped your attitudes and values. In short, “show, don’t tell.”
- **MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL: ALWAYS CITE REFERENCES AND DOUBLE CHECK ANY FACTS AND/OR FIGURES THAT ARE INCLUDED IN ANY OF YOUR ESSAYS.**
 - **Never place anything in your essay that is not based on factual information. In addition always remember to cite your references.**
 - **EDIT, EDIT, EDIT!!!**

VII. Internships/Extracurricular Activities

Q. Will internships/extracurricular activities give me an edge with getting into Law School?

A. Working in Law-related internships or jobs, are always suggested for students who wish to attend Law School. Law Schools are interested in students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Ultimately working in a Law job may help you decide if the legal environment is the right fit for you. Even if you do not get “substantive” work in your legal internship, it can still be a valuable experience. And ultimately success in an internship may result in a reference or recommendation letter for the future. So make good use your internship. You are there to work and observe. Observe how the attorneys interact with one another and with clients. Observe their moods and stress level. Think about whether you could see yourself in their job.

VIII. Choosing a Law School

Q. How do I find out about particular Law Schools?

A. The ABA details at their website, <http://www.abanet.org> , which schools are accredited by them. You can also find lists of ABA accredited schools on the website of the American Association of Law Schools (www.aals.org) and on the LSAC site.

Q. How can I find out which Law Schools offer particular areas of law?

A. The best indicator of specialization areas at particular schools is the number of faculty who work in those areas. Check out faculty lists and biographies on Law School websites, which you can reach through the AALS site. For clinical areas, check Law School websites for the list of clinics the school runs. Law School admissions staff can tell you more: the LSAC holds Law School forums in various cities, including New York, generally in the fall. The forums are free. Representatives from various Law Schools are there to consult with students. Find out more at <http://lsac.org/LSAC.asp?url=lsac/law-school-recruitment-forums.asp>.

Q. How can I find out which Law Schools are likely to accept me?

A. The LSAC site provides a search tool in its “Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools” that takes a student's GPA/LSAT score (actual or hypothetical) and produces graphs that indicate where in the entering class for the preceding year for every ABA-accredited Law School in the country a student with that record would fall. This is your best guide to your odds of getting into a particular school. See the tool at <http://officialguide.lsac.org/UGPASearch/Search3.aspx>. Also, talk to a faculty pre-law advisor about strategies for applying to particular schools.

Q. Are there rankings of Law Schools?

A. The American Bar Association (ABA) offers a list of accredited schools. They offer information on when the school became accredited and break down schools by public or private status. An alphabetical listing can be viewed at: <http://www.abanet.org/legaled/approvedlawschools/alpha.html>. The U.S. News and World Report's rankings are also highly respected and used by student interested in Law School. It must be noted that different schools weigh differently depending on state, region, practice area, and student Law School performance. Talk to a faculty advisor about your particular situation, plans for the future, and geographical preferences to get a sense of how to rank the schools you are considering.

Q. What if I'm waitlisted at a Law School? What should I do?

A. If you are waitlisted at a Law School that you would really like to attend, there are several strategies you can pursue. First, it is most important that you communicate to the Law School that you would **immediately** accept if you received an offer of admission. Law Schools want to increase their yields; they are more likely to give an offer of admission if they know it will be accepted. Second, you can send additional materials. These materials might include additional letters of recommendation, more recent grade reports (**only** if your grades have improved since you sent your initial application), and additional statements. Probably the most effective statement is a simple paragraph on why you are prepared to drop everything and accept an offer of admission to the Law School and how you would rearrange your plans accordingly. For

instance, you might explain why you would be willing to move across the country at a moment's notice if the Law School accepted you. You might also explain why you think that the Law School is a particularly good "fit" for you. Of course, if there are additional circumstances that might have affected your grades, LSAT scores, and/or reasons for attending Law School that you did not communicate in your initial application, you can include this information in a short statement as well. While the chances of getting off of waitlists are exceedingly slim, there is always hope. If you use this opportunity to argue your case more forcefully to the Law School, your odds will probably improve.

NOTE: We do not however, recommend giving up other Law School admission offers - even from lower-ranked schools - while waiting on a waiting list. You can usually accept an admission offer - a deposit is often required - and then withdraw your acceptance later if you move off a waiting list at a better school.

Brooklyn College Pre-law Program

Q. What does Brooklyn College offer Pre-law students?

A. Brooklyn College offers a liberal arts education that serves as the best form of preparation for Law School. While there are many classes that are useful for pre-law students, departments specializing in classes for pre-law students are Political Science, Philosophy, and Classics. Political Science offers courses dealing with government, politics, and power. There are specific lenses of government, legal systems, and constitutions. The Philosophy Department offers classes in reasoning, logic, and ethics. A Philosophy of Law track for the philosophy major is available to students who wish to focus on questions in social and political philosophy. Classics courses can help with your analytical skills and the definition of law over time. A list of undergraduate programs, with class lists for all departments, can be viewed at: <http://www.brooklyn.edu/pub/academics.htm>.

Q. Who should I talk to if I need guidance in the Law School preparation process?

A. For career counseling, Pamela Brown, pbrown@brooklyn.cuny.edu, and the Research Assistant will be available for consultation in the Pre-Law Advisement at the Magner Center in 1303 James Hall, (718)951-5696. For academic consultation, arrange to meet with one of the faculty advisor on the Pre-Law Team.

Q. Are there law-oriented mentors on campus?

A. The Magner Career Center for Career Development and Internships offers an **Alumni Mentor program**. A key element in deciding on a career in law is to establish relationships with successful alumni and those practicing in that career field. Shadowing and participation in discussions and activities involving successful professionals is a critical part to long-term career success. The role of mentors is invaluable, and this program will pair students with professionals in the law field. For information, go to http://career.brooklyn.cuny.edu/students/alumni_mentor.html.

Q. What do I do if I am not sure Law School is for me?

A. The Magner Career Center offers pre-law students career counseling. This is a place where you can test out ideas and options, determine interests in the types of law you want to pursue, and designing a flexible career plan. The Magner Center can also match you with alumni mentors that can lend guidance.

Q. Are there law related internships I can take before I graduate?

A. The Magner Center for Career Development and Internships offers internships, which are a key part to the career decision-making process. Stipends are offered for internships in many

fields, such as working for politicians and at businesses. The Edward T. Rogowsky Internship Program runs through the Political Science Department. This program places students to work in elected officials' offices in New York City, Albany, and Washington. An internship is available in both
of these programs by taking Political Science 75.5 Urban Fieldwork for 3 credits.

Q. Are there Law School programs I can take as an undergraduate?

A. Some Law Schools hold summer sessions open to pre-law students to give a preview of what Law School is like. For a comprehensive list, visit:
http://www.prelawhandbook.com/summer_prelaw_programs.

One program that is held in New York is The Cornell University Summer Session. The program lasts the same amount of time as a summer semester. You can see what courses they offer as well as the opportunity to be placed at an internship, go to their website at:
<http://www.sce.cornell.edu/ss/courses/off/prelaw/index.php>

There is also the Law Preview program. This program offers week-long, intensive summer prep courses in cities across the country. Their professors are from many Law Schools. Their website is <http://www.lawpreview.com/>

Q. How can I find out about pre-law activities on campus?

A. The Magner Career Center's Pre-Law program is a great resource for finding out about activities throughout the semester for pre-law students. To see a list of events, go to:
<http://career.brooklyn.cuny.edu/students/preLawEvents.htm>

Guide to Courses

There is no formal pre-law major at Brooklyn College and no major should be seen as preparing students exclusively for Law School. The American Bar Association (ABA) also does not recommend any particular major. We advise students preparing for Law School to take classes that require you to read and analyze dense texts, that improve your written and oral communication skills, and that otherwise address the learning goals on p. 7 of this handbook; you may also want to select a few courses that are related to the field of law you would like to pursue. The “Guide to Courses” includes a law-related minor, a law-related concentration, and examples of courses that will help you develop the knowledge and skills you need. A well-balanced liberal arts education, which includes Brooklyn College’s Core Curriculum, is the best preparation for Law School. You should discuss your academic plan with your major advisor and a pre-law advisor.

Children and Youth Studies Minor in Pre-professional Explorations The Minor in Pre-professional Explorations: Focus on Children in Social Services and the Law requires the completion of 12 credits of courses in the Children and Youth Studies program with a grade C or higher in each course.

The requirements are:

One course from the following:

Children's Studies 2100W (20): Perspectives on Childhood or

Children's Studies 3110 (30): Human Rights of Children

Three courses from the following:

Children's Studies 3120: History of Children, Public Policy, and the Law in the United States

Children's Studies 3310 (33): Children and the Law

Children's Studies 3610 (31): Children in Crisis

Children's Studies 3620 (34): Child Abuse and Neglect

Children's Studies 3320: Children, Public Policies, Advocacy and

Legislation in New York State

Children's Studies 3700: Future Careers with Children and Young

People: Professional Orientation and Exploration

Children's Studies 4100: Internship in Applied Children's Studies

***Interdisciplinary
Minor in Law and
Society***

Courses presented for this minor may not be counted toward the political science major. Twelve credits chosen from the courses of two or more departments as specified below. Each course must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

The requirements are:

AFST. 3330 Blacks and the Law

AFST. 3331 Blacks in the American Criminal Justice System

ANTH. 3160 Political Anthropology

ANTH. 3162 Anthropology of Law and Order

POLS. 3120 Law and the Political Process

POLS. 3123 The Politics of Criminal Justice

POLS. 3122 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

POLS. 3240 POL 45.1 International Law

***Philosophy and
Law Concentration***

The Philosophy and Law concentration is within the B.A. degree program in philosophy. It is recommended for students planning careers involving public affairs, law, or planning and management.

The requirements are:

PHIL. 3203 Introductory Formal Logic

PHIL. 3210 Reasoning

PHIL. 3306 Ethics and Society

PHIL. 3307 Global Ethics

PHIL. 3308 Race, Justice, and Equality

PHIL. 3309 Environmental Ethics

PHIL. 3314 Moral Issues in Business

PHIL. 3316 Medical Ethics Political Philosophy PHIL. 3703

PHIL. 3320 Foundations of Ethics

PHIL. 3410 Epistemology: Theory of Knowledge

PHIL. 3704 Social Philosophy

PHIL. 3720 Philosophy and Feminism

PHIL. 3740 Philosophy of Law

***Business Law
and Real Estate
Concentration***

The Business Law and Real Estate concentration is within the B.B.A. Degree program in philosophy. It is recommended for students planning careers in Business and/or Law.

**This Concentration Becomes Effective Fall 2011 Required Courses
(15-16 credits -- 5 courses)**

The requirements are:

Business Law II

BUSN 2300: Personal Finance

BUSN 3220: Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

BUSN 3350: Real Estate Finance and Management

BUSN/ACCT 3360: Fraudulent Reporting or

Business 3182: Green Real Estate or

Philosophy 3740: Philosophy of Law or

Acct 3101: Income Taxation

Africana Studies

3330 Blacks and the Law – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Examination of the relationships between the American judicial system and the socioeconomic status of Blacks. The role of law in the systematic subordination of Black rights. The use of law to ease the burden of racism.

3145 Caribbean Political Systems - 3 hours; 3 credits

Comparative approach to the government and politics of the contemporary Caribbean. Major states in the Caribbean: Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, the Commonwealth Caribbean; and selected members of other territories. The political economy of these societies and the growth of mass movements. Foreign policies of various Caribbean states. This course is the same as Political Science 3305.

3331 Blacks in the American Criminal Justice System – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Exploration of the relationship between African Americans and the criminal justice system. Sociological theory and methods of collecting and understanding information. Assessment of the political, social, and economic institutions of American society as they frame race, crime, and punishment. Ways that the American criminal justice system has operated both to maintain and ameliorate a racially oppressive society. This course is the same as Sociology 2502.

Anthropology

3160 Political Anthropology – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Political and legal institutions in cross-cultural perspective. Problems of political boundaries, allocation of authority, resolution of conflict. Impact of modern nation-states on other societies.

3162 Anthropology of Law and Order

3 hours; 3 credits. The use of force by individuals and governments. Nature of law. Cross-cultural perspectives on crimes, terrorism, and police and military organizations. Case studies from various cultures at band, tribe, chiefdom, and complex industrial levels of organization. Prerequisite: Anthropology 1 or Core curriculum 3 or 9.

Biology

BIOL 3002 Animal Form and Function Laboratory - 4 hours; 2credits

Dissection and microscopic examination of the structure and development of animals.

(Not open to students who have completed Biology 3080 or 3081.

Prerequisite: Biology 3001 and any two of the following: 2073, 1072, 4019, 3006, 3003, 2011.

BIOL 3006 Evolution - 2 hours; 2 credits

Introduction to major ideas and models of evolution; emphasis on genetic mechanisms, natural selection, and other processes in explaining structures and functions of individuals and populations; current ideas to account for the biodiversification of life on earth.

(Not open to students who have completed Biology 3007W or Biology 4080. Prerequisite: Biology 1002, or *2073 and either 1072 or 1071 Biology 2011.

3007W Evolution--3 hours; 3 credits

Introduction to major ideas and models of evolution; emphasis on genetic mechanisms, natural selection, and other processes in explaining structures and functions of individuals and populations; current ideas to account for the biodiversification of life on earth. Weekly writings, a group presentation and a major paper will be required. Writing intensive course.

(Not open to students who have completed Biology 3007 or Biology 4080. Prerequisite: Biology 1002, or *2073 and either 1072 or 1071 Biology 2011.

5013 Independent Research I - IV

Minimum of 9 hours conference and independent work§; 3 credits each term. Independent research supervised by a faculty member. Weekly conference. Thesis or report.

Prerequisite of 5013: Biology 5012 and permission of the instructor and the chairperson.

Chemistry

3415W Analytical Chemistry - Writing intensive section. 3 hours lecture, 4 hours laboratory, 1 hour writing workshop; 5 credits.

Theory and practice of classical and modern analytical chemistry.

Laboratory emphasizes quantitative methods. Writing-intensive section.

(Not open to students who are enrolled in or have completed Chemistry 41.) Prerequisite: Chemistry 2 and English 2.

4780 Environmental Chemistry 3 hours lecture; 3 credits

Principles of chemistry applied to problems of the environment. The course covers sources, reactions, and effects of chemical species on the environment. General and specific problems of analysis, interpretation of results, and pollution control. Methods and impact of energy production. Prerequisite: Chemistry 41 or 41W, and 52.

**Computer and
Information
Science**

CC 1312 Computing: Nature, Power, and Limits –3 hours; 3 credits

The nature, power, and limits of the computer and computing. The components of the computer information representation, computer Networks and the Internet, and the World Wide Web. The nature of algorithms, problem solving, and computer programming. Feasibility and computability. Computer and network security and privacy.

(Not open to students who are enrolled in, or have completed, any course in Computer and Information Science, other than CIS 1050 with a grade of C or higher 1050 Microcomputers in Business and Administration.

CISC 2820W Computers and Ethics - 3 hours; 3 credits

Analysis of ethical issues pertaining to computers and the workplace, anonymity and privacy, copyright and patent law (as applied to software), computer crime, security, unauthorized use, codes of conduct for computer professionals, access and availability of computing technologies. Application of theoretical frameworks such as virtue ethics, deontological theories and utilitarianism to the ethical problems encountered in computing technologies.

This course is the same as Philosophy 3318. Prerequisite: Core Curriculum 1312 or Computer and Information Science 1000 or Computer and Information Science *1110 and English *1012.

English

1010 English Composition I – 3 hours and conference; 3 credits.

Workshop in expository writing: strategies of, and practice in, analytical reading and writing about texts. Fundamentals of grammar and syntax. Frequent assignments in writing summaries, analyses, comparisons of texts, and such other expository forms as narration, description, and argumentation. Emphasis on writing as a process: invention, revision, editing.

Prerequisite: placement in the course on the basis of the score of 480 or higher on the verbal SAT, or 75 on the New York State Regents Examination in English, or a score of 7 in the ACT Writing Examination.

2115 Advanced Exposition and Peer Tutoring – 2 hours lecture, 3 hours tutoring; 3 credits.

Intensive study of and practice in writing the principal rhetorical forms. Training in principles of peer tutoring and three hours of tutoring writing in the Learning Center or other appropriate setting.
Prerequisite: A grade of (A) in 1010 English Composition I and permission of the chairperson.

Judaic Studies

3050 History of the Holocaust-- 3 hours; 3 credits

History and analysis of Nazi Germany's attempt to annihilate European Jewry, 1933-45. Ghettos and killing centers. Deportations and killings. Jewish physical and spiritual resistance, liberation, and postwar displaced persons camps. This course is the same as History 3243.

Philosophy

3203 Introductory Formal Logic – 3 hours; 3 credits.

An introduction to modern sentential and predicate logic. Among the topics are validity, consistency and proof, formal analysis of sentences and arguments in natural language. (Not open to students who are enrolled in or have completed Philosophy 3204)

3210 Reasoning – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Examination and development of reasoning skills. Informal logic. Topics such as meaning, definition, the analysis of arguments, fallacies. Use of examples in reasoning to apply principles studied. Legal reasoning, support for claims about public policy, scientific and philosophical arguments.

3306 Ethics and Society – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Critical consideration of issues in social ethics. Discussion of such topics as racism and sexism, economic justice, civil disobedience, capital punishment, environmental pollution, nuclear power and weaponry, abortion, euthanasia, freedom of information, the right to privacy

3307 Global Ethics – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Critical examination of issues in global ethics. Human rights and global justice; justice of war; self-determination of peoples; sovereignty of states; legitimacy of external intervention; humanitarian intervention; justice of sanctions; conditionality or imperativeness of economic aid; ethical issues in international development; global citizenship. Classical and contemporary readings.

3308 Race, Justice, and Equality - 3 hours; 3 credits

A philosophical examination of race and racism centered on the moral values of justice and equality. Topics addressed include race as a social category, racial identity, the nature of racism, race neutrality and race consciousness, multiculturalism, and the relationships among values such as fairness, equality, and well-being. Contrasting points of view on measures designed to counter racism, including civil disobedience, affirmative action, racial reparations, and race-based restrictions on speech.

3314 Moral Issues in Business – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Basic approaches to moral reasoning and their application to such issues as justice and economic systems; corporate responsibility to society, the environment, and developing nations; and the duties of businesses to their employees, their customers, and their competitors.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or one course in Economics or Business, or Core Curriculum 1210

3315 Communication Ethics – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Critical examination of ethical issues related to communication, information, and the media. Freedoms and responsibilities.

Considerations of such issues as: privacy, confidentiality, censorship, deception, propaganda, accuracy, fairness, intellectual property rights, conflicts of interest, obscenity and pornography, civility and offensive speech. Classical and contemporary philosophers.

(This course is the same as Communication 3200.)

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or Core Studies 10 or Core Curriculum 1210; or one course in communication, information, or the media, or permission of the Chairperson of the Philosophy department.

3318W Computers and Ethics - 3 hours lecture; 3 credits.

Analysis of ethical issues pertaining to computers and the workplace, and privacy, copyright and patent law (as applied to software), security, unauthorized use, codes of conduct for computer professionals, access and availability of computing technologies. Application of theoretical frameworks such as virtue ethics, deontological theories and utilitarianism to the ethical problems encountered in computing technologies. Writing intensive course.

This course is the same as Computer and Information Science 2820W.)

Prerequisite: Core Curriculum 1312 or Computer and Information 1.0 or Computer and Information Science *1110 and English *1012.

3320 Foundations of Ethics – 4 hours; 4 credits.

Systematic study of the nature and grounds of moral judgments. Methods of justifying moral standards. Analysis of moral concepts. Ethical theories of classical and contemporary writers critically examined.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or Core Curriculum 1210.

3410 Epistemology: Theory of Knowledge - 4 hours; 4 credits

Classical and contemporary theories of the nature of knowledge and belief. Discussion of skepticism, rationalism, empiricism, coherentism, foundationalism. Analysis of such concepts as probability, certainty, perception, evidence, truth.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or Core Curriculum 1210

3703 Political Philosophy – 4 hours; 4 credits.

History of theories of the underlying principles of law and social organization. Principles of just distribution; rule of men versus rule of law; natural law and social contract theories; social justice versus individual liberty. Such philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Mill, Thoreau, Rawls, and Nozick are discussed. Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or Core Curriculum 1210.

3704 Social Philosophy – 4 hours; 4 credits. Philosophical theories of society and human nature. Analysis of such social concepts as authority, law, rights, the state, justice, the common good, liberty, and sovereignty. Methods of justifying principal principles. Social ideals and general theory of value.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or Core Curriculum 1210.

3720 Philosophy and Feminism - 3 hours; 3 credits

Philosophical feminism. Critical examination of current issues in feminist scholarship. Issues of discrimination, equality, and difference; women in relation to science, epistemology, and political and moral philosophy. This course is the same as Women's Studies 3135.

Prerequisite: Core Curriculum 1210 or one philosophy course, or one women's studies course, or permission of the chairperson.

3740 Philosophy of Law – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Basic legal concepts and philosophical problems relating to law. General legal theory; human and legal rights; legal responsibility; punishment; justice; property; judicial reasoning; the legal enforcement of morals.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or Core Curriculum 1210

Political Science

3120 Law and the Political Process - 3 hours; 3 credits.

Role of legal concepts in the American political system. Judicial behavior and administration.

Prerequisite: Core curriculum 3

3121 Constitutional Law - 3 hours; 3 credits.

Relation of current trends and conflicts in the Supreme Court to the clash of fundamental ideas and values in American society. Cases involving economic issues and policies. Such general subjects as judicial review, jurisdiction and procedure of the court, and judicial recruitment and the nature of the judicial process.

Prerequisite Core Curriculum 1230 or Political Science *1001 or 1002.

3122 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Relation of current trends and conflicts in the Supreme Court to the clash of fundamental ideas and values in American society. Cases involving civil liberties including such issues as freedom of search, press, religion, and criminal justice and race relations.

Prerequisite: Core Curriculum 1230 or Political Science *1001 or 1002.

3123 The Politics of Criminal Justice – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Policies, procedures, and institutions in criminal law administration. Operations of the criminal justice system and the political role of the system. Problem of the existence and continued growth of criminal behavior in all segments of American society; relation between a political system and the conduct of its citizens. Prerequisite: Core curriculum 3/Core

3240 International Law - 3 hours; 3 credits.

Structure, problems, and perspectives of the existing international legal system. Attitudes of Western, communist, and developing countries. Such problems as legal and illegal uses of force, intervention in internal conflict, and nationalization of foreign property. Future of international legal order.

Prerequisite: Core Studies 3 or Core Curriculum 1230 [2.3] or Political Science *1001 or 1002.

3243 Human Rights and World Politics – 3 hours; 3 credits. Study of human rights problems and the international community's approaches to such problems. Examination of the history of human rights, the functioning of human rights organizations and agencies, the relationship between human rights and political systems, and the patterns of rights violations against different ethnic, racial, religious, gender, and other groups.

Prerequisite: Core Curriculum 1230 or Political Science *1001 or 1002.

Psychology

2100 Social Psychology – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Basic concepts and research findings in social psychology. Areas covered include social perception, attitude organization and change, interpersonal processes, group structure and processes, intergroup relations, socialization.

Prerequisite: Psychology *1000

3110 Psychology of Prejudice – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Prejudice and discrimination from a social psychological perspective. Topics include normality of prejudgment, phenomena of group differences, psychological and sociocultural theories of prejudice and discrimination, effects of discrimination, analyses of current manifestations of prejudice, selected strategies for change.

Prerequisite: Psychology *2100.

*Puerto Rican
and Latino Studies*

CC 3203 Latina Diasporas in the United States

3 hours; 3 credits.

Formation of Latin diasporas in the United States. Legacy of indigenous societies, colonization. African Diasporas in Latin America. Racial formation. Latin American societies. Demographic patterns, immigration,

settlement and community development. Issues of citizenship, racism, and discrimination. Transnationalism and transnational identities
(Not open to students who have completed Core Curriculum Upper Tier 2004)

Junior standing and satisfaction of the requirements of any three lower-tier core courses.

3320W Puerto Rican Communities in the United States Settlement and Evolution - 3 hours; 3 credits.

Puerto Rican migrants in the United States. Community development and representative institutions. Organizational structure, leadership, and Puerto Rican settlement patterns throughout the United States compared with New York. Historical similarities and differences of Puerto Ricans and other groups. Role in larger American society. Writing-intensive course.

Prerequisite: English Composition II

*Speech
Communication
Arts and Sciences*

1608 Interpersonal Communications- 3 hours; 3 credits

Development of rhetorical competence and awareness of communication strategies in one-to-one settings through readings, lectures, class exercises. Prerequisite: completion of course assigned at speech screening interview.

1619 Intercultural Communication: Speech Community Perspectives- 3 hours; 3 credits

Description and analysis of differences in speech patterns, codes, norms, and meanings as they affect intercultural communication between individuals of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Improvement of skills for effective communication in intercultural contacts.

Prerequisite: completion of course assigned at speech screening interview, or permission of the chairperson.

1707 Public Speaking – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Rhetorical principles. Practice in the technique of speech construction delivery. Manuscript and extemporaneous delivery of several types of speeches.

Prerequisite: completion of course assigned at speech screening interview.

2719 Argumentation – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Principles and practice of convincing by means of logical proof. Logical analysis, identification of issues, briefing, and types of evidence.

Prerequisite: Speech 7 or permission of the chairperson.

3235 Communication Law and Policy-- 3 hours; 3 credits

US Media Law. First Amendment. Intellectual Property. US Media Policy History. Digital and satellite challenges for policy and law. Theories of public interest and deregulation. Cultural and political implications of law and policy.

(This course is the same as Television and Radio 3535 and Communication 3300.)

Prerequisite: Television and Radio 1165 or permission of the chairperson.

Sociology

3503 Sociology of Law - 3 hours; 3 credits.

Function of law in society. Relationships between social values, conduct, law. Comparison of legal institutions in primitive and modern societies. Laws in the context of family and occupational structure of the United States. Consideration of extent to which legal change can affect established patterns of social behavior.

Prerequisite: Core Curriculum 1230 with a grade of B- or higher, or Core Studies 3 with a grade of B- or higher, or Sociology *1101 or permission of the chairperson.

3504 Criminology – 3 hours; 3 credits.

Nature and cause of crime; its relationship to social structure. The criminal in society. Approaches to the study of crime and its treatment and prevention.

Prerequisite: Core Curriculum 1230 with a grade of B- or higher, or Core Studies 3 with a grade of B- or higher, or Sociology *1101 or permission of the chairperson.

Television and Radio

1165 Introduction to Mass Media - 3 hours; 3 credits.

Survey of the history, industry practices, and controversies involved in the media of mass communication. Mainstream mass media of books, newspapers, magazines, film, radio, recordings, television, and the Internet. Analysis of news, entertainment, advertising, and public strategies, as well as media impact, legal issues, and ethics.

3535 Communication Law and Policy – 3 hours; 3 credits.

U.S. Media Law. First Amendment. Intellectual Property. U.S. Media Policy History. Digital and satellite challenges for policy and law. Theories of public interest and deregulation. Cultural and political implications of law and policy. (This course is the same as Communication 3300.) Prerequisite: Television and Radio 1165 or instructor's permission.

Career Options for Law School Graduates

There are several different fields of law that students can pursue once they graduate. Each of these fields can be categorized as either administrative, litigation or transactional, depending on the type of law. In administrative law, you will work for an agency that allows you to practice law on behalf of an organization, such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). As a litigator, you will spend much of your time arguing cases of a civil or criminal nature in front of the judge. Finally, transactional law refers to legal rules that influence or constrain planning, negotiating, and document drafting in connection with individuals or businesses. Some fields of law fall into two or three categories, as you will see below. The following chart assesses which type of law is being practiced for each field provided:

<u>Type of Law</u>	<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Litigation</u>	<u>Transactional</u>
Civil Rights law	√	√	
Corporate/Business law			√
Criminal law		√	
Educational law	√		
Employment and Labor law	√	√	
Environment and Natural Resource law	√		
Family and Juvenile law		√	
Health Law	√	√	
Marine Law	√	√	√
Immigration law	√		
International law	√	√	√
Intellectual Property law	√	√	√
Real Estate law	√	√	√
Sports and Entertainment law	√	√	√
Tax law	√	√	√
Technology Law	√	√	√

Here are some additional career links from lsac.org and abanet.org that will help you choose a field of law to study:

<http://lsac.org/AboutLawSchool/Fields-of-law.asp>

<http://lsac.org/AboutLawSchool/Types-of-practice.asp>

<http://www.abanet.org/careercounsel/archive.html#pracarea>

http://education-portal.com/article_directory/q_p/page/Legal/q_p/Articles_about_Careers.html

Online Resources

To register for the LSAT and the LSDAS, plus practice tests, see the Law School Admissions Council at <http://www.lsac.org/>.

For general questions about the LSAT, see the Law School Admission Council at <http://www.lsac.org/LSAC.asp?url=/lsac/faqs-and-support-lsat.asp>.

Magner Center for Career Development and Internships Pre-Law Professional Development Program: <http://career.brooklyn.cuny.edu/students/preLaw.htm>

American Association of Law Schools http://www.aals.org/about_memberschools.php

American Bar Association: <http://www.abanet.org/legaled.html>

FindLaw.com's Guide to Law Schools: <http://www.stu.findlaw.com/schools/>

Alumni Mentor Program- Brooklyn College:
http://career.brooklyn.cuny.edu/students/alumni_mentor.html

Cornell Law School: http://www.law.cornell.edu/lii/get_the_law

Equal Justice Works <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/>

Council on Legal Education Opportunity: <http://cleoscholars.com/index.cfm>

National Association for Law Placement (NALP): <http://www.nalp.org/>

Undergraduate Course Guide- Brooklyn College
<http://www.brooklyn.edu/pub/academics.htm>

CLEO Undergraduate Pre-law Program: <http://www.cleoscholars.com>

Noodle's Grad School Search - <http://www.noodle.org/graduate>

Noodle's MBA Search - <http://www.noodle.org/mba>

Noodle's Law School Search - <http://www.noodle.org/law>

LSAT preparation services see:

• Test Well at <http://www.testwell.com/>

• Princeton Review at <http://www.princetonreview.com/law/default.asp>

• Kaplan at <http://www.kaptest.com/repository/templates/Lev2InitDroplet.ihtml?lev2Parent=/www/KapTest/docs/repository/content/Law>

- Power Score at <http://www.powerscore.com/>
- Test Masters at <http://www.testmasters180.com/>

Books.

Reading studies about Law School and the legal profession, anecdotes written by practicing attorneys, and even some novels can provide you important insights as you contemplate Law School. Here are several books that might interest you:

Bellow, Gary and Martha Minow. **Law Stories: The Law As Seen from the Outside.** A compilation of stories and anecdotes written by public interest attorneys and their clients. Stories address problems from parental rights in a Head Start program, to the consequence of a large scale bankruptcy for the company's retirees, to defending juvenile delinquents.

Fischl, Richard and Jeremy Paul. **Getting to Maybe.** An overview of the best ways to approach taking Law School exams. Can be a little bit overwhelming to read in one sitting, but offers good tips.

Gottesman, Greg, et al. **Law School Survival: A Crash Course for Students by Students.** Anecdotes from law students about their experiences. Book provides some useful suggestions and ideas.

Gresham, John. **The Street Lawyer.** Although fiction, Gresham realistically depicts the working conditions of legal services attorneys. Gresham tells the story of an attorney who, after an incident with a homeless man, leaves his job at a corporate law firm to represent low-income clients in a housing eviction case.

Guiner, Lani. **Becoming Gentlemen.** Report on women's experiences at top Law Schools, with a particular focus on the University of Pennsylvania.

Hope, Judith Richards. **Pinstripes and Pearls: The Women of Harvard Law School Class of '64 Who Forged an Old Girl Network and Paved the Way for Future Generations.** History of the experience of the first women to attend Harvard Law School by one of the women who lived it.

Lewis, Anthony. **Gideon's Trumpet.** Arguably one of the most inspiring and influential books on American constitutional law: former New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis tells the true story of how a Florida inmate took his own case to the Supreme Court and earned the right to counsel for all Americans.

Lewis, Anthony. **Make No Law: The Sullivan Case and the First Amendment.** Lewis' account of the landmark First Amendment case *New York Times v. Sullivan* tracks the development of libel law and the right to a free press.

Miller, Robert. **Law School Confidential: A Complete Guide to the Law School Experience.** Tips and advice for Law School, from the application process through the final year of Law School.

Osborn, John J. Jr. **Paper Chase.** Classic legal novel and movie about a first year law student who attempts to balance adjusting to the difficult first year with a romance (with the daughter of one of his stern Law School professors).

Kahlenburg, Richard and Robert Coles. **Broken Contract .** A compelling account about the transformation of students who enter Harvard Law School committed to the ideals of social justice and public interest lawyering and leave the school assuming jobs in the corporate sector.

Stracher, Cameron. **Double Billing: A Young Lawyer's Tale of Greed, Sex, Lies, & the Pursuit of a Swivel Chair.** Cautionary tale of life as a first-year associate at a New York law firm.

Turrow, Scott. **One-L.** A true account by novelist Scott Turrow (*Presumed Innocent*) about his first year at Harvard Law School. Similar in tone to *The Paper Chase* but with a bit more cynicism.

Movies

A Few Good Men. Aaron Sorkin's screenplay about a young attorney (Tom Cruise) representing two soldiers in a court martial trial for murder is about more than just "You can't handle the truth." Beautifully written and well-acted, the movie holds up even after being played a million times on TBS.

The Firm. Movie version of John Grisham's novel, featuring Tom Cruise as a bright young lawyer drawn into the web of a corrupt firm that represents the mob.

Legally Blond. A surprisingly insightful and entertaining movie which raises some of the major tensions in the law and Law School.

My Cousin Vinny. Marisa Tomei won an Oscar for her New York accent and for keeping Joe Pesci in line, but this movie about a murder trial in the South also contains one of the most accurate depictions of criminal trial procedure in movies.

Paper Chase. The movie version of John Osborn's book is THE movie about Law School, but its emphasis on fear, intimidation and cutthroat competition is, happily, no longer as apposite as it once was.

12 Angry Men. One of the best movies about the law, this movie stars Henry Fonda as the lone man holding out for a not-guilty verdict in a jury room and trying to persuade his peers to deliberate instead of rushing to judgment. The remake of the film isn't bad either, but check out the original.

The Verdict. Paul Newman plays an alcoholic lawyer down on his luck in Boston. When he's hired to try a personal injury case against the Catholic Church, justice for his client isn't all that's at stake.