

PRE-LAW OVERVIEW

If you are considering law school, here are some facts that may be of interest.

There is **no required pre-law curriculum**, which is in line with recommendations made by the *ABA-LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools*:

“...the ABA does not recommend any particular group of undergraduate majors, or courses, that should be taken by those wishing to prepare for legal education; the law is too multifaceted, and the human mind too adaptable, to permit such a linear approach to preparing for law school or the practice of law.” (2006 edition, pages 4-6.)

In its statement on pre-legal education, the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) included the following skills crucial for all lawyers to possess:

- Comprehension and expression in words,
- Critical understanding of the human institutions and values with which the law deals, and
- Creative power in thinking.

Overview of Legal Education

List of courses commonly required in law school (full-year or half-year):

Bankruptcy
Business Organizations
Civil Procedure
Constitutional Law
Contracts
Criminal Law
Criminal Procedure
Employment
Evidence
Intellectual Property
Legal Analysis, Research, Writing, Oral Advocacy
Professional Responsibility – Ethics
Property
Securities Law
Torts

Law professors often highly recommend these courses:

Clinical Courses
Courses on the Uniform Commercial Code
Family Law
Federal Income Tax
Mediation and Negotiation (ADR)
Trial Advocacy

Many schools also mandate fulfillment of a specific number of public service hours.