



Stony Brook
University

PRE-LAW

CAREER CENTER GUIDE



EXPLORING PRE-LAW

Is Pre-Law the right path for you? Being in the legal field can be a challenging and rewarding profession, but also a long journey. When deciding whether or not to go to law school, there are many things to consider. The decision requires a lot of self-reflection, time, and research. We hope that through this guide, you can gain some clarity about the Pre-Law path and use the resources to help you in your legal career journey!

Questions to Consider

- Do I have a genuine passion for legal issues and justice?
- Am I comfortable with a demanding workload and rigorous study?
- Do I want to become a lawyer just for a high salary?
- Do I have analytical and critical thinking skills?
- Do I like to read, write, and study?
- Am I able to articulate a clear point (verbally and in written form)?
- Do I enjoy being competitive and striving for the best?
- Do I pay close attention to detail?
- Have I considered other career paths in the legal field?



Remember:
You don't have to figure it all out now! Take the proper time to self-reflect.

Self Exploration Resources

- [Is Law Right for You?](#) - A short, comprehensive quiz
- [CareerExplorer](#) - A comprehensive interest, personality, and preference assessment
- [VIA Character Strengths](#) - Take a survey that helps discover your strengths
- [CareerOneStop](#) - Assessments that offer career matching
- [16personalities](#) - Discover your personality type

CAREER RESOURCES AT STONY BROOK

Are you interested in a career in law? Here are some beneficial clubs, organizations, and opportunities at Stony Brook for students interested in Pre-Law!

On-Campus Clubs and Organizations

- [Pre-Law Society](#)
- [Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity](#)
- [International Law Society](#)
- [Undergraduate Law Review](#)

Career Community

If you haven't already, we recommend filling out the [**Career Interests**](#) form, and joining the [**Government, Law, & Public Service**](#) Career Community. By joining a Career Community, you will receive bi-weekly emails about different jobs, internships, events, and opportunities related to your interests.

Pre-Law Brightspace

A great step in navigating your educational research in Pre-Law is to join our [**Brightspace Community!**](#) This is a beneficial resource for learning more about events on and off campus, internships and other experiential opportunities, plus specific resources tailored to students pursuing a legal career.

PRE-LAW ADVISOR CONTACT

Kayla Hayman
Career Coach

kayla.hayman@stonybrook.edu

Make a 1-on-1 appointment on Handshake!



MAJOR EXPLORATION

ENGLISH

HISTORY

POLITICAL
SCIENCE

Want to Explore Career Paths for Your Major?

[What Can I Do With This Major](#) is a resource to help you explore major to career paths.

[CAS Pre-Law Tips](#) guide you to specific majors that have courses for students interested in legal careers.

English

- The study of literature is a foundation to the practice of law due to the analyzation of complex texts, and construction of persuasive, evidence-based arguments.
- Recommended English courses for Pre-Law can be found [HERE](#).

History

- Studies of complex texts in understanding how arguments are made and supported.
- Concentrations in Law, Politics, and Social Justice.
- Recommended History courses can be found [HERE](#).
- Join [History Club](#).

Political Science

- Practice critical reasoning skills and sharpening of argumenta logic with exposure to constitutional, legal, and political concepts.
- Recommended Political Science courses can be found [HERE](#).
- Join [Pi Sigma Alpha](#).

MAJOR EXPLORATION

PHILOSOPHY

PSYCHOLOGY

BUSINESS

Remember: Students in any major can apply to law school! It's not about what major you choose, but about the skills that you learn and develop within those majors. These are common majors that can help in your legal exploration journey.



Philosophy

- Interpretation of texts and arguments.
- Encouragement of critical thinking, learning, and writing within courses.
- Recommended Philosophy courses can be found [HERE](#).
- Join [Philosophy Club](#).

Psychology

- Understanding human behavior and decision making within legal contexts.
- Concentration on competency and mental health evaluations.
- Course examples: PSY 301 - Research and Writing in Psychology, PSY 364 - Judgement and Decision Making
- Join [Psychology Student Alliance](#).

Business

- Provides structure, strategy, and financial understanding in legal contexts.
- Business expertise is helpful in contract law, corporate law, real estate law, and many more.
- Course examples: BUS 325 - Legal Environment of Business, BUS 447 - Business Ethics
- Join [Delta Sigma Pi](#) or [Women in Business](#).

PRE-LAW TIMELINE



Here is a suggested timeline for your track towards law school:

Year 1

First Year

This year is all about exploring.

- Sign up for the Government, Law, and Public Service Career Community.
- Register for Pre-Law Brightspace.
- Explore student organizations such as Pre-Law Society or Undergraduate Law Review.
- Use Vault and other resources on the [Career Center website](#).
- Research internship/volunteer opportunities related to law, policy, or advocacy to jumpstart your resume.

Year 2

Second Year

This year you will dive deeper and build your foundation.

- Cultivate relationships with professors and TAs to serve as your recommenders in the future.
- Build your resume and gain experience.
- Begin to take law-related courses and explore the [LSAC website](#).

**Summer before third year: Start self-studying for the LSAT and beginning practice exams.*

Year 3

Third Year (The Busiest Year)

This year you will prepare for applications.

- Fall:
 - Engage in LSAT prep courses and study.
- Spring:
 - Reach out to professors about letters of recommendation.
 - Take the LSAT for the first time.
- Summer before your Fourth Year:
 - Take the LSAT again if necessary (try to take the LSAT before September!)
 - Have a meaningful law-related experience.

Year 4

Fourth Year

This year you will finalize and submit applications!

- Finalize a list of law schools you will be applying to.
- Register for the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) and LawHub.
- Visit the Writing Center to help with your personal statement.
- Aim to apply to schools by January 1st or before the Spring semester begins.

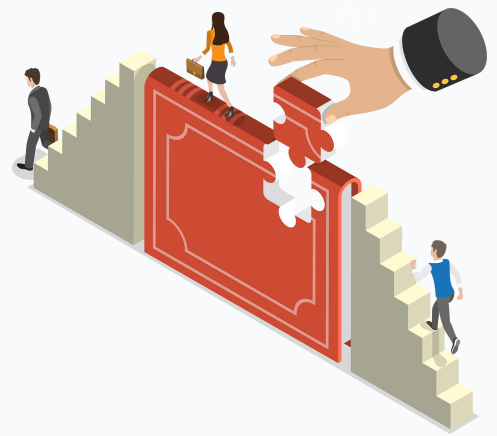
After

Post-Grad

- Consider taking a law school prep course to make the transition easier.
- Don't forget to relax!

TAKING A GAP YEAR

You may also consider taking a gap year before law school.



Benefits of Taking a Gap Year

- Gain professional experience
- Strengthen your law school application
- Take more time to prepare for the LSAT
- Explore if law is right for you
- Recharge and reflect post-grad to prevent burnout

What to Do During Your Gap Year

- **Legal internship or job** - Work at a law firm, courthouse, or other legal agencies
- **Public service** - Work for government agencies, join advocacy groups or non-profit organizations
- **Fellowship** - Participate in programs that focus on policy, research, or leadership
- **Travel or personal projects** - Pursue a passion or gain new perspectives to diversify your experiences

Making the Most of It

- Set clear goals for yourself - what do you want to achieve?
- Plan ahead - research opportunities and apply early
- Stay productive - don't lose momentum!



Taking a gap year can be an enriching experience that prepares you for law school and beyond. Use this time wisely to grow personally and professionally, and you'll enter law school with a clearer sense of purpose and direction!

TYPES OF LEGAL CAREERS

Pursuing an education in law can open up many exciting opportunities. There are a variety of careers within law other than being an attorney. Many of these do not require a J.D.!

<u>Court Reporter</u>	<u>Victim Advocate</u>	<u>Legal Secretary</u>
<u>Paralegal</u>	<u>Investigator</u>	<u>Intelligence Analyst</u>
<u>Legal Consultant</u>	<u>Title Examiner</u>	<u>Discovery Specialist</u>
<u>Compliance Officer</u>	<u>Contract Administrator</u>	<u>Lobbyist</u>

CAREER RESEARCH

[VAULT](#) - A free platform for students to explore career research resources when considering a legal career. [HERE](#) is where you will find resources specifically for the law profession.

[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) - Browse occupations and find out information regarding education requirements, median pay/salary, and more. Also, check out [Occupation Finder](#) for information about a specific career.

[LSAC Fields of Law](#) - Explore the type of law that aligns most with your interests.

LSAT PREPARATION

What is the LSAT? The LSAT is an examination used to test an individual's skills in reasoning, organization, and writing mechanics. This exam is required for entrance in most law schools, administered by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). This test is also beneficial by helping students determine if the study of law is the right path for them.

Preparation Resources

- Create a LawHub account
 - [LSAT Prep - Practice](#)
- [LSAT Prep Books by LSAC](#)
- [Strategy Booster](#)
- [Princeton Review - Free Resources](#)
- [7Sage](#)



Important Facts

- Test dates occur seven times per year
- Test length is 2 hours and 30 minutes
- Sections: Two Logical Reasoning, one Reading Comprehension, and one unscored Experimental section
- Score range: 120-180
- [Credential Assembly Service \(CAS\)](#)

Additional Resources

When preparing for the LSAT, the [SBU Writing Center](#) can be a great resource! They are located in the **Humanities Room 2009**. Students can visit the writing center for individual assistance through tutoring sessions when it comes to navigating the writing process.

[Click HERE for LSAT FAQs!](#)

GAINING VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

It is important to gain experience in law, policy, advocacy, governance, and more when you are planning to go to law school. The Career Center is here to help you navigate and find opportunities! Check out our [Gain Experience website](#).

Forage

Students can gain additional experiences through the online platform, [Forage](#). This is a free job-simulation program offering industry-specific virtual work designed by top companies. Forage is a great way to earn experience and gain a certificate that can be added to your resume or LinkedIn profile. No application is required!

Highlighted law simulations from top law firms can be found [HERE](#).

Parker Dewey

[Parker Dewey](#) is a platform that offers paid micro-internships with real companies to help you gain experience and boost your career. These are short-term and flexible projects that are a great way to explore different industries.

Community Service

Having volunteer experience can help boost your resume when applying to law school. Consider a volunteer position in advocacy, or a cause that speaks to you. Visit the Center for Service Learning and Community Service volunteer opportunities page [HERE](#).

Join a Club or Organization

Being part of an organization or club is another way to gain experience. You will have the opportunity to be part of a community, partake in events, and even learn how to network. These can be both on and off-campus! Check out [SBEngaged](#).

Join Handshake

[Register for Handshake](#) - A career platform used at Stony Brook where students can explore and apply to jobs and internships. Using Handshake is extremely beneficial in order to find the opportunity that's right for you!

