

PRE-LAW FACT SHEET

Becoming a Competitive Applicant to Law School

Applicants to law school must complete a Bachelor's degree, or be enrolled in an approved 3-3 Law Program. Competitive applicants for admission have a solid academic record, a well-rounded profile of co-curricular experiences, supportive letters of recommendation, and can clearly articulate their reasons for choosing the study of law.

SELECTING A MAJOR

There is no preferred or recommended major for law school. Students can major in any discipline. Applicants with a well-rounded education and a variety of interests and personal experiences are ideal candidates. Students are encouraged to choose a major where they can demonstrate strong academic performance. Law schools look for students who demonstrate the ability to handle a rigorous course load.

GPA

GPA's calculated on law school applications normally include coursework done at all colleges attended. If a course is repeated, both grades will be included in the GPA's calculated by the law schools. Aim for GPA's of 3.3 or higher.



PRE-LAW GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

EDGE PRE-LAW ADVISING:

Pre-Law Advisors are available to meet with students one-on-one about their law school goals and pathway. A pre-law advisor is available in the Creighton EDGE. In addition, there are several faculty pre-law advisors in departments across campus.

PRE-LAW SOCIETY:

All pre-law students should participate in the Pre-Law Society. This student-run organization provides leadership opportunities to further explore and gain experience in the legal profession - <https://creighton.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/pre-lawsociety>

EDGE PRE-LAW SEMINARS:

The EDGE seminars assist students in exploring the legal profession, gaining experiences that are beneficial for law school, and preparing for the application process. Students are encouraged to participate in the following pre-law seminars:
Freshman Year: Pre-Law Information Community
Sophomore Year: PLAW 200
Junior Year: PLAW 300
Senior Year: Pre-Law Information Community

CU SCHOOL OF LAW:

Make an appointment with law admissions office personnel in the spring of the junior year to personalize the application process.

HELPFUL LINKS:

Creighton EDGE: creighton.edu/edge
Creighton School of Law: law.creighton.edu
Law School Admission Council: www.lsac.org

PRE-REQUISITE AND RECOMMENDED COURSES

There are no prerequisite requirements for law school. Rather, law schools look for applicants who possess skills that will help them be successful in law school and a legal career. The American Bar Association identifies the following skills as critical for successful law school candidates:

- Analytic/problem solving skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Writing skills
- General research skills
- Oral communication and listening skills
- Values of serving others and promoting justice
- Background knowledge and experiential learning related to law
- Task organization and management skills
- Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others

The following is a small sample of Creighton courses that may help you in exploring your interest in law. Consider your interests and types of law you might wish to pursue, and visit with a pre-law advisor about additional options.

- Symbolic Logic (PHL 399)
- Legal Environment of Business (BUS 201)
- Business Law (BUS 301)
- Mock Trial (BUS 321/322)
- Judicial Process (PLS 320)
- Constitutional Law (PLS 337)
- Psychology and the Law (PSY 363)
- Sociology of the Criminal Justice System (SOC 321)
- Law and Society (SOC 423)
- Law of Mass Communication (JRM 529)

3-3 Law Program

Creighton University's 3-3 Law Program offers pre-law students the opportunity to complete their Bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor degree in six years, instead of the typical seven. The 3-3 Law option is available through both the Heider College of Business and the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences. Students in the 3-3 Law Program complete their Juris Doctor degree at Creighton School of Law.

Students spend their first three years at Creighton University in the Heider College of Business or the College of Arts and Sciences. There, they follow a specific 3-3 curriculum for their major. In the junior year, students apply to Creighton School of Law, following the same application process as regular law school applicants. If accepted, students forgo their senior year and start law school at Creighton School of Law. After successfully completing the first year of law school with grades of "C" or better, the student is awarded the bachelor's degree. Two years later, the student will complete the Juris Doctor degree.

In the Heider College of Business, 3-3 Law students pursue the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. In the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences, the 3-3 Law program is available with the following majors:

- Classical and Near Eastern Studies
- Communication Studies
- English
- History
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Theology

CO-CURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS

It is important that pre-law students are a well-rounded applicants who participate in meaningful activities on their college campus and in their community. Law is a service-focused profession and admissions officers look for students who demonstrate their promise to serve the community throughout their lifetimes.



LEADERSHIP

Leadership comes in many forms. Creighton has a number of resources to help you gain leadership experience through various organizations and student programming. Showing some leadership skills now demonstrates you can be a leader in your community later.

INTERNSHIPS/WORK EXPERIENCE

Students are encouraged to seek internship or work experiences that offer them opportunities to build skills in problem solving, teamwork, and critical thinking. Such experiences also strengthen a student's professionalism. These experiences do not need to be legal-related! All internship and work experiences can help students build these skills.

Law School Application Process

NATIONAL ADMISSION TESTS:

Law Schools require the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) a national, skills-based, standardized test. The LSAT is typically taken approximately 12-15 months before starting law school. To do well on this exam, students need to allow for significant study and preparation before the exam.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Law Schools often require that applicants submit two to three letters of recommendation with their application. Law school applicants who are currently in school should have at least one letter of recommendation from a professor. Advisors and work supervisors can also be good sources for letters of recommendation.

INTERVIEWS: A small number of law schools interview applicants. The Career Center offers interview preparation assistance, including mock interviews.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Some law schools might offer special consideration to applicants from socioeconomic groups underrepresented in the legal profession.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Attorneys are called on to connect with and help people different from themselves. Seek out experiences that help you build interpersonal relationships and interact with people from many walks of life.

VOLUNTEER AND SERVICE

Students should seek out service experiences to demonstrate commitment to their communities. It is beneficial to show sustained commitment over time. Check out the Schelgel Center for Service and Justice for opportunities - <http://blogs.creighton.edu/ccsj/>

RESEARCH

Research experience is not a requirement for admission to law school, but may add an extra layer to your application. See the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship for opportunities at <http://www.creighton.edu/curas/>.