

La Sierra University’s pre-professional program in Pre-Law prepares students for matriculation to law school. Pre-Law is not a major. Law schools do not require or encourage such a major. Instead, students planning a legal career may pursue the major of their choice. Those commonly chosen are History, Political Science, English, Speech, Journalism, Business, Philosophy, Sociology, and Psychology.

Law schools look for students with a broad liberal arts education emphasizing skills in oral and written communication, and the ability to think creatively and logically. In general, law school graduates must be well-rounded persons able to understand human nature as well as legal philosophy. They must also demonstrate the ability to develop, organize, and present legal concepts and arguments appropriate to their practice area as legal professionals.

Coursework in Pre-Law should be pursued in conjunction with studies in a bachelor’s degree program (major). In the course of fulfilling requirements in their major fields, Pre-Law students are encouraged to meet with a Pre-Law advisor to determine which of the listed courses below best fit their career goals. **It is not necessary to take most of these courses but rather to choose several strategically in planning one’s undergraduate program.**

GENERAL COURSES

FALL WINTER SPRING

COMM 328 Persuasion (4)	_____	_____	_____
ENGL 304 Advanced Expository Writing (4)	_____	_____	_____
HIST/PLSC 190 Historic Trials/Modern Applications	_____	_____	_____
HIST 430G U.S. Constitution (4)	_____	_____	_____
HIST 423S Law and Society (4)	_____	_____	_____
HIST 440F War Crimes and International Policy (4)	_____	_____	_____
HIST/PLSC 190 Historic Trials/Modern Applications (4)	_____	_____	_____
HPSC 274 American Government(4)	_____	_____	_____
PHIL 208 Logic (4)	_____	_____	_____
PLSC 225 Introduction to Law (2-4) <i>reccommended by program</i>	_____	_____	_____
PLSC 316 Comparative Government (4)	_____	_____	_____

MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

CPTG 104 Introduction to Information Systems (4)	_____	_____	_____
MATH 155 Introductory Statistics (4)	_____	_____	_____

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

PSYC/SOCI 251 Social Psychology (4)	_____	_____	_____
PSYC 488B Psychology & Law (4)	_____	_____	_____

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

ACCT 221 Financial Accounting (4)	_____	_____	_____
ECON 254 Principles of Macroeconomics (4)	_____	_____	_____
ECON 255 Principles of Microeconomics (4)	_____	_____	_____
MGMT 347 Legal Environemnt of Business (4)	_____	_____	_____
MGMT 447C Busines Law: Contracts (4)	_____	_____	_____

PRE-LAW CLUB

Plan to join the Pre-Law Club, a university-sponsored organization.
Contact Jeff Dupée in Department of History, Politics & Society OR Gary Chartier in the Zapara School of Business.

PRE-LAW

Pre-Professional Program

Law schools desire students with a broad liberal arts education emphasizing skills in oral communication, creative and logical thinking, and writing ability. La Sierra University's Department of History, Politics, and Society has specific courses designed to familiarize students with legal history and principles and emphasizes critical thinking and expository writing skills. Our Pre-Law Program highly recommends four courses to cultivate those skills--Introduction to Law and related courses concerning domestic and international law, Advanced Expository Writing, and Logic. Other strongly recommended courses include courses from the Psychology Department and the School of Business (see their Bulletin entrees).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS: Lawyers act as both advocates and advisors. As advocates, they represent one of the opposing parties in criminal and civil trials by presenting arguments that support the client in a court of law. As advisors, lawyers counsel clients as to their legal rights and obligations and suggest particular courses of action in the business and personal matters. Although most lawyers deal with many different areas of the law, a significant number concentrate on one branch of law. These include such areas as probate, international law, communication law, business law, sports law, criminal law and civil law. Lawyers in private practice may concentrate on areas such as litigation, wills, trusts, contracts, mortgages, titles, and leases.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Law schools do not require a specific major for entrance requirements. A Bachelor's degree will be sufficient for admittance, dependent on your academic performance, LSAT score, recommendations, and other factors.

To practice law in the courts of any state, a person must be licensed, or admitted to its bar, under rules established by the state's Supreme Court. Lawyers who have been admitted to the bar in one state occasionally may be admitted in another state without taking an examination if they meet that state's standards of good moral character and have a specified period of legal experience. Federal courts and agencies set their own qualifications for those practicing before them. To qualify for the bar examination in most states, an applicant must complete at least 3 years of college and graduate from a law school approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) or the proper State authorities.

JOB OUTLOOK: Employment of lawyers is expected to grow about as fast as average for all occupations through 2014, primarily as a result of growth in the population and in the general level of business activities. Job growth among lawyers also will result from increasing demand for legal services in areas such as health care, intellectual property, venture capital, energy, elder, antitrust, and environmental law.

SALARY: The median annual wage for lawyers was \$76,926 in 2014. Salaries of experienced lawyers vary widely according to the type, size, and location of their employer. Lawyers who own their own practices usually earn less than those who are partners in law firms.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Websites

La Sierra University

www.lasierra.edu

Department

www.lasierra.edu/history-politics-and-society/pre-law

Faculty Mentors

Department of History

Jeff Dupée, J.D., Ph.D.

(951) 785-2365

jdupee@lasierra.edu

Zapara School of Business

Gary Chartier, Ph.D.

(951) 785-2181

gchartie@lasierra.edu

Professional Organizations

American Bar Association
750 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
www.abanet.org

Association of American Law Schools
1 Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 370
Washington, DC 20036
www.aals.org

Law School Admission Council
P.O. Box 40
Newtown, PA 18940
(215) 968-1001
www.lsac.org



Academic Advising
Office of Advising and Career Success
Sierra Vista Hall, Room 109
(951) 785-2452
advising@lasierra.edu
www.lasierra.edu/advising