



The Passion

Laws are rules enforced by governing authorities to enable people to protect their rights and know their responsibilities. Thus, the rule of law is the foundation of modern society. Much of modern daily life as we know it—from education and marriage to careers and retirement—would be impossible without the rule of law. And constitutional democracy means “we the people” ultimately make the laws. The academic study of law teaches not only what the laws are, but how to understand the relations between citizens and their laws. This involves the historical roots from which the Constitution and our many laws sprouted—their evolution, their interpretation, and their impact on individuals and society. Such study explores lofty ethical ideals and their pragmatic applications.

The Program

To become a lawyer, one must first graduate from college and then go to law school. Law schools agree there is no single undergraduate major that best prepares students for law school. So Gonzaga Pre-Law students major in whatever academic programs interest them—from Art to Women’s Studies, and everything in between. Students who intend to go to law school can take Pre-Law courses that emphasize critical analysis of difficult reading material, logical thinking, and writing clear, effective prose. These skills are the tools needed to score well on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) and meet the intellectual challenges of law school.

The Pre-Law Advisor suggests a choice of courses appropriate for the interests and needs of each Pre-Law student. None of the following courses are required, but any of them may be recommended based on students’ career goals:

Business:

BUSN 283 Business Law
ECON 310 Antitrust Policy and Regulation
MGMT 415 Employment Law

Classical Civilizations:

LATN 101-102 Elementary Latin I & II
(Teaches the traditional language of the law)

Criminal Justice:

CRIM 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice
CRIM 390 American Court System
CRIM 465 Comparative Criminal Justice

Philosophy:

PHIL 408 Just War Theory
PHIL 451 Political Philosophy
PHIL 453 International Ethics

PHIL 470 Philosophy of Law

Political Science:

POLS 302 Legal Analysis
POLS 303 Civil Liberties
POLS 304 Criminal Justice Amendments and Courts
POLS 316 Church and State in U.S. Politics
POLS 318 Administrative Law
POLS 323 American Constitutional Law
POLS 342 Law as Vocation
POLS 371 International Law

Sociology:

SOCI 351 Criminology
SOCI 385 Law and Society

Beyond standard academic ability, law schools also seek students whose personal experiences and extra-curricular activities indicate dedication, ambition, and high ethical standards. Therefore, Gonzaga’s Pre-Law Program offers the following special services:

Prep Course for the L.S.A.T.

This course enables students to raise their test scores by an average of 20 percent by identifying typical types of test questions, instructing students in how to best answer these questions, and providing actual practice tests.

Internships

Available through the Political Science Department’s Public Affairs Internship Program, these unpaid, 15 hours/week openings provide contact and experience with legal operations in local law firms, the Washington State Attorney General’s Spokane Office, and various state legislators.

Introduction to Gonzaga Law School Faculty

Regardless of a student’s desire to attend Gonzaga’s Law School, it is helpful to speak with law school

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professors about the realities of the legal profession. The Pre-Law program can introduce students to the Gonzaga Law School's faculty and Dean, providing access to their wealth of experience as educators and practicing lawyers.

Information on Law Schools

Vital facts and figures about various law schools' particular strengths, weaknesses, and admission standards are available to students while performing their law school search.

Debate and Mock Trials Teams

In addition to the above services and courses, Gonzaga's nationally recognized Debate Program is designed and promoted as pre-law training in analytical and critical thinking, argumentation, and legal research. Participating on the award-winning Mock Trial Team offers students experience in trial advocacy, character study, and oratorical skill. Local attorneys often assist students in preparing for regional and national competitions.

A Sample of Law Schools Where Gonzaga Graduates Attend or Have Recently Attended:

American University	University of Arizona
University of Arkansas	Baylor University
Boston College	Brooklyn School of Law
University of California-Berkeley	California Western School of Law
Chapman University	University of Chicago
University of Colorado	Creighton University
University of Dayton	University of Denver
DePaul University	University of Florida
Florida State University	George Mason University
George Washington University	Golden Gate University
Gonzaga University	Harvard University
University of Houston	University of Idaho
Lewis & Clark College	Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University New Orleans	Loyola University Chicago
John Marshall Law School	Marquette University
McGeorge School of Law	University of Memphis
University of Michigan	Michigan State University
University of Minnesota	University of Montana

University of North Carolina	New York University
University of North Dakota	University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City University	University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania	Pepperdine University
University of Richmond	Roger Williams University
Rutgers University	St. Mary's University (Texas)
University of San Francisco	Santa Clara University
Seattle University	Seton Hall University
University of Southern California	Suffolk University
Syracuse University	University of Texas
University of Utah	Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University	University of Washington
Western New England College	Whittier College
College of William & Mary	University of Wisconsin
Yale University	

The People

As the above list shows, the quality of Gonzaga's curriculum and students has the respect of law schools across the country. Of course, admission to law school depends on each student's individual ability and effort.

Dr. Joe Gardner, a faculty member in the Political Science Department, serves as Gonzaga's Pre-Law Advisor. Professor Gardner helps students evaluate their passion for law school and provides advice on curriculum and activities to prepare them for the challenges awaiting them in the legal profession.

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