

PRE-LAW



The pre-law program at Mount Mary University offers guidance and curriculum planning for future lawyers. Mount Mary offers this advising service based upon recommendations from the American Bar Association and the Law School Admission Council.

Pre-law studies are not a specific major or a prescribed set of courses. Instead, students undertake a rigorous, broad-based academic major that is well grounded in the liberal arts as the optimum preparation for law school.

Rather than mastery of specific subject matter, law schools require that incoming students possess basic skill sets. These skills include analytical reasoning, critical thinking and the ability to write and speak clearly and precisely.

Students interested in law school are encouraged to choose a course of study that develops the academic skills measured on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) and enhances the professional skills needed to eventually practice law.

The Mount Mary pre-law advisor works with students and their major academic advisors to help prepare students for law school and taking the LSAT. Students take undergraduate courses that, when reviewed by the law schools, fulfill key criteria, including:

- Develop analytical reasoning skills
- Reinforce advanced reading and writing skills
- Create a context in which law may be better understood
- Demonstrate well-developed communication skills

There are many appropriate undergraduate majors to prepare for law school. The following academic areas may be particularly appropriate for prospective law students:

- Business
- History
- Psychology
- Communication
- Justice
- Sociology
- English
- Philosophy

When reviewing applications, law schools generally consider applicants' cumulative grade point average and their LSAT scores. Law schools do not necessarily select applicants having a specialized pre-law background. Instead, they recognize students who have broadly prepared themselves for legal studies and demonstrated leadership and professional initiative inside and outside of the classroom.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Formal requirements to become a lawyer usually include a four-year college degree, three years of law school and then passing a written bar examination. Some requirements may vary by state.
- Competition for admission to most law schools is intense.
- Competition for job openings is keen because of the large number of students graduating from law school each year.
- About 27 percent of lawyers are self-employed, either as partners in law firms or as solo practitioners.

PRE-LAW STUDIES

For more information about pre-law studies at Mount Mary University, please contact pre-law advisor **Julie Tatlock, Ph.D.** at tatlockj@mtmary.edu or 414-930-3478.



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LSAT Preparation

All law schools approved by the American Bar Association require applicants to take the LSAT. The American Bar Association recommends allowing several months of preparation before taking the LSAT.

The most widely accessible and least expensive form of preparation is the material comprising actual, disclosed test questions and test forms that has been published in the LSAT/LSDAS Registration and Information Book, available at www.lsac.org.

Employment Outlook for Lawyers

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employments of lawyers is expected to grow by 6% during the next decade. The growth in the population and in the level of business activity is expected to create more legal transactions, civil disputes and criminal cases.

Job growth among lawyers will also result from increasing demand for legal services in such areas as health care, intellectual property, immigration, venture capital, energy, elder, antitrust and environmental law. In addition, the wider availability and affordability of legal clinics should result in increased use of legal services by middle-income persons.

ABOUT MOUNT MARY

Discover what more than 1,300 current undergraduate and graduate students, and 10,000+ alumnae already know: Mount Mary offers an engaging and transformational education that will prepare you for success.

Choose from more than 30 undergraduate majors or nine graduate degree programs.

Courses are offered in day, evening and accelerated formats to fit your busy lifestyle.

Did you know? 100% of incoming, full-time undergraduate students receive an academic scholarship or reduced tuition.

LEARN MORE ONLINE

For additional information about Mount Mary's academic programs, visit: mtmary.edu/academics



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