Overview
As an advocate, negotiator, advisor, mediator and public citizen, an attorney has the responsibility to preserve the rights of individuals and to secure justice in a democratic republic.

Several hundred students are in pre-law at Kansas State University. Each year, K-State seniors and graduates from diverse geographic, economic, academic, racial and cultural backgrounds are admitted to more than 100 of the 202 accredited law schools in Kansas and throughout the nation.

The University of Kansas, Washburn University, Washington University in St. Louis, Harvard, Stanford, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, William and Mary, University of Virginia, Duke, Northwestern, Columbia, Colorado, George Washington, Georgetown, Notre Dame, Iowa, Vanderbilt and the University of Texas are among the schools that have recently accepted K-State pre-law students.

In recent years, K-State students served by the pre-law office have been accepted to law school at a rate substantially exceeding the national average. Historically underrepresented in law schools, women and minority students have discovered that there are exciting opportunities in law.

With its nine colleges, K-State is known for its friendly and helpful atmosphere, broad curriculum and outstanding faculty. Law schools choose their students from all majors, so pre-law students can pursue their interests in areas as diverse as architecture, planning and design; agricultural economics; engineering; philosophy; business administration; history; and political science, among others.

Pre-law students also have the advantage of our extensive interdisciplinary curriculum, including the natural resources and environmental sciences secondary major and the international business and primary texts certificates. Pre-law tracks of study are offered in five departments and four colleges within the university. We currently have pre-law tracks in agricultural economics, communication studies, philosophy, physics, political science, and regional and community planning, with new tracks being developed. In the College of Business Administration, students select a pre-law-based thematic sequence through their courses. These are part of an expanding curriculum of courses that allow pre-law students to prepare for legal careers.

Professional options
Law in the United States reflects the dynamics of power, and thus of conflict, within American society. In order to resolve conflict and promote orderly change, lawyers call upon many fields of learning in the humanities, arts, social sciences and natural sciences. They need skill in analysis, breadth of vision and a commitment to justice, for law is a humanistic pursuit based on the purposes and principles of the civilization it serves.

If you are interested in a career that requires precision in thinking, research and writing, and you want to be involved with people and their social, political, cultural and economic aspirations, you should consider becoming an attorney.

Careers
A law degree is the most versatile graduate degree you can earn. It opens up a world of opportunities in law, business, entertainment, nonprofits and politics, among others. Careers in law are remarkably varied and include private practice, corporate law, public interest practice, the judiciary and teaching. Pre-law sponsors events that acquaint students with the study of law and legal careers.

Lawyers frequently choose to specialize in one or more of these areas:
- Human rights
- Health
- Environment
- Antitrust
- Poverty
- Patent
- Criminal
- Elder

Lawyers who do not wish to practice as traditional attorneys have found a law background to be an advantage in such fields as:
- Corporate management
- Urban planning
- Publishing
- Banking
- Library science
- Manufacturing
- Health services
- Corrections administration
- Social services
- Foundation administration
- Labor relations
- Politics
- Education
- International diplomacy
- Insurance
- Broadcasting

Alumni
Distinguished K-State alumni who have attended law school include a chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court, a federal district judge, a dean of the University of Kansas School of Law, a dean of Washburn University School of Law, a governor of Kansas, three U.S. Supreme Court clerks, the judge advocate general of the Army and a number of Kansas legislators, among other notable leaders.

Academics
The pre-law program at K-State and the pre-law program recommended by the Association of American Law Schools are identical. Both call for an individualized course of study that emphasizes breadth, depth and rigor. In addition, both stress that in preparing for law school, you may select the major of your choice in any department in any college within the university.

Our pre-law program gives you opportunities to explore the field of law. You'll be able to observe attorneys arguing cases before the three-judge panel of the Kansas Court of Appeals during its
annual session on campus. You’ll meet lawyers and law students who visit K-State to talk to pre-law students about their practices and specialties and about the profession. You can gain experience by job shadowing or interning with attorneys in areas that interest you. Additionally, alumni and area attorneys serve as mentors to our students.

Regardless of your major, you will have the opportunity to work with the K-State pre-law advisor in selecting courses that will enable you to develop the capacities necessary for the study of law. Although law schools do not identify specific courses that must be taken before admission, they do stress completion of challenging courses that help you understand the wide range of human institutions and values with which the practice and the study of law are concerned. You also are expected to acquire the ability to think analytically and creatively and to write and speak with clarity and precision.

Among disciplines cited as valuable in pre-law study are English, philosophy, economics, history, communication studies, political science, languages, sociology, mathematics, science, accounting, psychology, statistics, computer science, engineering and music.

**LEAD: K-State to KU Law**
The Legal Education Accelerated Degree, or LEAD, Program was developed in conjunction with the University of Kansas School of Law to allow students to earn an undergraduate and law degree in less time without sacrificing educational quality. LEAD students will begin by earning a bachelor’s degree at Kansas State University in either the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Agriculture or the College of Business Administration. After three years at K-State, students will transfer to the University of Kansas School of Law, where their first year of law school will count as their final year of undergraduate studies. Students are required to have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and an ACT score of at least 26 or an SAT score of at least 1170. Prior to KU admission, students must meet the bar-required character and fitness requirements as well as the required LSAT score of 157 and GPA of 3.5 or higher.

**Rural Legal Practice Initiative**
Nearly a third of Kansas’ 3 million citizens live in rural communities. As the attorneys who service these areas begin to retire, citizens are left legally underserved. To help address this problem, K-State has joined with the University of Washburn School of Law to create the Rural Legal Practice Initiative. This program will provide K-State pre-law students with the skills, knowledge and expertise to serve in rural communities across Kansas.

Students experience a variety of benefits, including mentoring, individual and group immersion trips, interaction with guest speakers, internship opportunities, and specialized mini-seminars on diverse topics including water and environmental law, agriculture and rural policy, and more. Students who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate and make the transition to law school. Program participants are neither required nor guaranteed admission to Washburn Law School.

**Advising**

Students considering law school come to the pre-law office for advising beginning in their freshman year or as soon as they identify an interest in law. The advisor meets with pre-law students in individual conferences each semester, and together they plan a curriculum that takes into account the unique strengths and interests of each student and their future goals. Students work closely with the advisor in selecting courses that will enable them to develop the competencies necessary for the study of law.

Students also confer with the advisor individually to select the schools to which they wish to apply. The advisor assists the student with a personal statement and resume, as well as other documentation that is integral to the application to law school.

The pre-law advisor also holds practice Law School Admission Tests and other workshops to assist in the preparation for taking the LSAT and for the law school application process. The pre-law office is a resource center providing information about every accredited law program in the country, as well as a library available to pre-law students.

**Activities**

Each fall, the pre-law office hosts an on-campus law fair with more than 50 law schools so that students can become acquainted with the various programs and offerings available to them.

At pre-law events and in other meetings, students have an opportunity to talk with visiting representatives of law schools, judges and attorneys. Additionally, we have activities to help students prepare for law school. These include practice LSAT exams, a personal statement workshop with the director for nationally competitive scholarships, trips to area law schools, a mock law school class and speakers from the legal community.

**Pre-Law Ambassadors**

Pre-Law Ambassadors is open to students in any major. Its purpose is to bring together students with an interest in a legal career and provide them hands-on programs that increase their understanding of a legal education, law practice and legal issues. Pre-Law Ambassadors represent the program at recruiting events and extracurricular activities. Involved students have many opportunities to speak with visiting law school representatives, judges and attorneys.

**Mock Trial**

The Mock Trial Club enables students to develop their courtroom skills, as well as their ability to analyze dense legal material. Each team is made up of six to eight students who compete against teams from other universities. K-State’s Mock Trial Club is nationally ranked.

**For more information about pre-law, contact:**

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