“Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives — choice, not change, determines your destiny.”

- Aristotle
Pre-Law Studies

While law schools do not require applicants to take specific courses, they do stress completion of courses that will enable you to understand those human institutions and values with which the study and practice of law are concerned.

Political Science has a well-deserved reputation as the preeminent field of study for students considering legal education. An emphasis on the following make a degree in Political Science an excellent gateway to the study of law.

- Understand the nature and role of law in our public lives
- Critical thinking about political issues and institutions
- Learn to express our thoughts clearly

The Department of Political Science offers a broad array of courses on politics, political thought, international relations and the different forms and functions of government. We offer for-credit internships in professional legal environments, pre-law mentoring, and connections to a network of campus resources for the prospective student of law.

Careers

Career opportunities in law include:

- Private practice
- Corporate practice with either a law firm or a private business or organization
- Public service in all levels of government
- Teaching positions in colleges and universities
- Executive positions in industry and politics

In addition, some professionals in certain fields, for example journalism and community planning, have found a background in law to be advantageous.

Legal Internships

Internships are a great way to learn about the particular area of law that interests you. Numerous internship opportunities are available for pre-law students, including:

- Congressional and state legislative offices
- Interest groups
- Local law firms

For more information on internships, contact our internship coordinator, Dr. Brianne Heidbreder.

Pre-Law Curriculum

In addition to the course requirements for a degree in Political Science, students with a pre-law emphasis must take three law related courses, two required and one elective.

These courses may be part of the four electives necessary for the major, so it is possible to complete the concentration without going beyond the 36 hour minimum for the degree.

Required Courses

- POLSC 614 Constitutional Law I
- POLSC 615 Constitutional Law II

Elective Course

Students must also select one elective course from the following course options:

- POLSC 605 The American Presidency
- POLSC 607 Administrative Law
- POLSC 611 The Legislative Process
- POLSC 612 The Judicial Process
- POLSC 643 Global Human Rights
- POLSC 647 International Law
- POLSC 667 American Political Thought
- POLSC 670 Law, Politics, and Literature