

# Pre-Law

Our legal system depends on professionals who advise citizens of their rights and represent them under the law. If you're interested in entering the legal profession, law school is required. You'll need a bachelor's degree and a good score on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) before applying to law school. But first you need to study pre-law. PC helps you do that.

Many students assume that pre-law is a major. It isn't. It's more of an advisory program at PC: You choose a major, and a professor will help you choose courses to prepare you for the LSAT and apply to law school. At PC, you'll learn about law school and the practice of law. You'll develop the skills necessary to be successful as a law school applicant on your way to becoming a law student and graduate after you earn your undergraduate degree.

## What You'll Study in the Pre-Law Program

Law schools don't require that you have a particular major. Instead they want you to demonstrate skills in analysis, synthesis, critical thinking, and written and oral communication. Choose a major that motivates your best work and develops a range of relevant skills, especially writing and research.

PC offers you two options in pursuing pre-law along with your chosen major. You can choose the interdisciplinary pre-law studies minor or receive personalized guidance and counseling from the pre-law advisor.

In your freshman and sophomore years, PC's pre-law advisor will help you choose electives and maintain goals. At this stage you should look for summer jobs or internships that offer relevant experience.

As a junior, decide when you'll take the LSAT, register and begin preparing for it. Consider taking it in June before your senior year. Continue meeting with your pre-law advisor, and find a summer job or internship – ideally in a law-related field. Research and compile a list of potential law schools.

As a senior, prepare for and take the LSAT by October, if you haven't already. Request information from law schools and apply to the ones you choose. Register with the [Law](#)

[School Admissions Council \(LSAC\)](#) and its [Credential Assembly Service \(CAS\)](#) to have your transcripts forwarded. Complete a transcript request form (found in the LSAT Bulletin), submit it to the [Registrar's](#) office and request that your transcript be forwarded to CAS.

See [Pre-Law Timetable](#), [Law School Application Process](#), [Law School Resources and Links](#) and [FAQ](#) for helpful information about PC's pre-law program.

## Student Experiences

You can conduct research with your professors as part of your undergraduate education.

You can intern while at PC to build an impressive resume while still in college. Majors conduct internships during the school year at a company near campus or during the summer.

Studying abroad allows you the opportunity to see the world while you're in college.

You can make friends with classmates who have the same interests as you by joining clubs and organizations on campus.

## Career Outcomes

In law school you can expect three years of full-time coursework before earning your Juris Doctor (JD) degree. You'll also have to pass the bar exam and be admitted to the state bar. Once you've accomplished those, you have several career options. You can practice law at a corporate legal office, work for a nonprofit or for the government. You may even choose to teach law or start your own law practice. The job field is competitive, but compensation is high. According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), median pay for a lawyer in 2018 was \$120,910.

PC alumni serve as attorneys and partners at some of the region's top law practices. Firms include Moore Taylor, Lucas, Warr, White & Mitchell, Rogers Townsend, Eller Tonnsen Bach, Brown Rountree PC, Burnett Shutt McDaniel, Gate City Legal Services, Schiller & Hamilton, Collins & Lacy, Fortson, Bentley & Griffin, Kinard & Jones, Savage, Royall & Sheheen and Clark Law Firm.

Whatever major you choose, the pre-law program at PC equips you with the skills you'll need to succeed in law school – and beyond.

## Fast Facts

- Law schools accept bachelor's degrees from almost every discipline – from English and political science to mathematics and music.
- Joe Wideman '13, a Blue Hose linebacker who played against VMI just hours after taking the LSAT, now practices law in Columbia, SC.
- Kelley Perkins Brown '94 was named South Carolina Lawyer of the Year in 2005 and Juvenile Defender of the Year in 2016.
- Jake Moore '73 is a senior partner at Moore Taylor and also teaches at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

## Meta Page Description

In the pre-law program at Presbyterian College, you learn about law school and the practice of law. Learn more about how PC helps prepare you for law school.