

Law School—Major Steps

Every effort has been made to provide current, accurate publication content. Students should seek additional information from HCC and university advisors.

Thinking about Law School?

While in High School, enroll in

- Advanced Algebra
- Two or more years of foreign language
- Four years of English. Develop strong writing & critical thinking skills
- Computer classes particularly Word and Excel will be helpful
- Speech and Debate classes

If there is one profession that has been both helped and hurt by television, the law field is it. However, the media frequently projects a very narrow definition of what lawyers actually do. Most of the time, lawyers are not pleading a case in front of a judge and jury but rather preparing documents, researching legal data and examining the evidence and facts of a case.

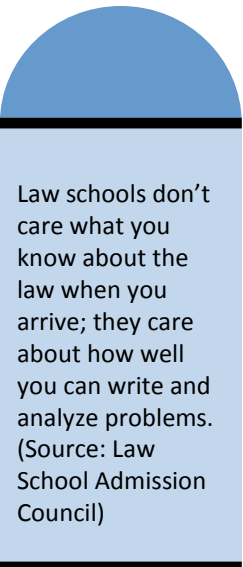
Essentially, attorneys work with clients to advise them about their legal rights and responsibilities. Typically attorneys work long hours researching legal issues and developing strategies on behalf of their client. It is critical that lawyers be strong communicators. Lawyers need to be able to organize and prioritize their work projects.

Lawyers are licensed professionals who often specialize in one particular area such as family, criminal, real estate, environmental or contract law. Not all lawyers are employed at big law firms, as approximately 27% work independently.

According to the WOIS resource, the median annual salary for a lawyer in Washington state is \$83,504*. This profession is often attractive to those who prize achievement and recognition, have enterprising interests and can work both independently or as part of a team.

*Source: Washington Occupational Information System - WOIS

To learn more about the field of law, go to www.wois.org



Work with your faculty advisor

Working with a Pre-Law faculty advisor can be an invaluable resource for you. Your faculty advisor can provide you with information about class selection and sequencing, internships and differences between various law schools. Having a letter of recommendation written by a faculty who really knows you can enhance your application to a law school as well as a future job.

To request a faculty advisor to: <http://www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning/request.advisor.htm> or stop by the Educational Planning and Advising Center in Building 6: Monday and Tuesday—8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Wednesday—8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thursday—8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 3 p.m.-5 p.m. and Friday—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Hours: fall, winter, spring quarters) . In the summer, EPAC is open the same hours Monday through Thursday and 9-1 on Friday.

How can you prepare for Law School?

Many pre-law students are not sure about major they should select. In reality, law students come from every discipline imaginable. It is important to choose an undergraduate major that is of interest to you--something you enjoy and excel in. Naturally a major that you do well in academically will make you more competitive for law school. Courses that are intellectually challenging will provide good preparation for the academic rigors of law school. Many successful law students have earned their undergraduate degrees in diverse fields such as computer science, mathematics, business, sociology, political science, economics, and others. Attorneys must represent the differing views of various individuals and interest groups and therefore, diversity in experience is essential to the professional attorney and the legal system.

Law school generally takes at least three years to complete. To enter law school, you usually need to have completed a baccalaureate degree and scored very well on the Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT). All prospective law students must take the half-day LSAT that provides a standard measure of acquired reading and verbal reasoning skills. The LSAT is specifically designed to predict law school success by testing skills such as analyzing problems. The LSAT requires the ability to read well and to think critically and analytically.

There are three law schools in the state of Washington: The University of Washington-Seattle, Seattle University and Gonzaga University. Upon completion of your law studies, you must pass a State Bar Examination before you are qualified to practice law in that state. In the state of Washington, the Washington State Bar Association administers the admissions, licensing and discipline functions for the attorneys in the state.

It is critical that you take courses that will enhance your skills in areas such as critical analysis, logical reasoning, research, and written and oral communication. The ability to effectively interpret and analyze information together with the ability to communicate effectively in both oral and written forms is essential.

Listing of Washington Law Schools & Admission Web Sites

University of Washington School of Law
(206) 543-4551
[www.http://washington.edu/](http://washington.edu/)

Seattle University School of Law
(206) 398-4000
[www.http://seattleu.edu/](http://seattleu.edu/)

Law School Admission Council
<http://www.lsac.org>

Gonzaga University School of Law
(509) 323-3700
<http://www.gonzaga.edu/>



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