

Curriculum Guidelines

In considering what classes to take as you prepare for law school, it is important to remember that law schools are scrutinizing your transcript to determine whether or not you have amassed certain skills that will be key to success in law school. Below is a listing of some key skills and examples of the types of courses that can be helpful in gaining those skills:

Skills:

- Analytical Reasoning/ Problem-Solving
- Logical Reasoning/ Deduction
- Writing
- Reading Comprehension
- General Research
- Creative Thinking
- Understanding of human nature, values, and institutions

Courses:

- Social Sciences, Business, Economics, Foreign Languages
- Philosophy, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Accounting, Computer Science
- English (Composition, Literature, Creative Writing), Social Sciences, Humanities
- Literature, Social Sciences, Languages
- Social Sciences, Natural Sciences
- Business, Fine Arts, Journalism
- Social Sciences (Psychology, Sociology, History, Political Science, Anthropology)

DO start off strong academically! It's easier to start high and stay high than to start lower and bring up your GPA.

DO keep your GPA as high as possible! Your GPA and LSAT will be the two most important factors in determining what law schools you will be competitive for when you apply.

DO challenge yourself! Law schools want to see that you have done well in your upper-division courses. They will expect to see an increasing trend of difficulty as you progress through college.

DO try to gain some basic knowledge of governmental systems, economics, and finance. With more and more legal work involving financial transactions and international markets, having understanding of these areas will be helpful. Although taking these courses is not necessary for admissions committees, having such basic information may help you greatly as a law student.

DO take classes that pique your interest! After all, if you're interested in the subject matter, you're more likely to do well in the class.

DO NOT take more courses than you can successfully handle! Law schools will not be impressed with large amounts of credit hours in a single semester if it drops your GPA.

DO NOT double-major simply to impress committees! Admissions committees are not concerned with how many majors an applicant has.

DO NOT hesitate to seek academic help! Waiting until the last minute can be costly if it causes your GPA to fall significantly. Attend faculty office hours or seek other academic assistance as needed.