

Pre-Law Information for  
First-Year WFU Students  
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# Thinking about Pre-Law at Wake Forest?

# WFU's Pre-Law adviser:

- Patricia Fitzgerald Poole
- Wake Forest University  
School of Law
- Office of Personal & Career  
Development ("OPCD")
- Reynolda Hall 230  
336.758.5902
- Available by appointment  
Wednesdays 1-5 ("handshake")  
and by request  
[poolepf@wfu.edu](mailto:poolepf@wfu.edu)
- <http://college.wfu.edu/prelaw>

- Patricia Poole  
(Patty)



# While you're listening . . .

- Sign up for the Pre-Law Google Group to keep up with events and opportunities. (Managed by Patty Poole).
- Sign up for the Pre-Law Society (a student-run organization that sponsors various law-related events during the year).
- Sign up for the Mock Trial Team (a student-run organization that sponsors various law-related events during the year).
- Sign-up sheets are circulating.

# No matter what you've heard, rest assured that . . .

- law school is a very rewarding, challenging, and exciting endeavor.
- there are many different and interesting ways to use a law degree.
- a career in the law can be very satisfying if you pursue goals of your own choosing!

# Did you know that . . .

- **You don't have to decide today** whether you want to pursue a career in law. (Or next semester . . . Or the next . . . Or the next . . .).
- In theory you could wait until fall of your senior year (or even later) to decide to apply.
- You shouldn't go to law school just because
  - your parents want you to
  - you majored in History or Politics and International Affairs
  - you don't know what else to do?
- **You should go to law school only when you've done your homework and are sure it's the route **you** want to take.**

# Did you know that . . . ?

- For Fall 2016, 82 Wake students /alumni applied to law school.
- But only 33 of them were seniors, so you can see that more applicants are waiting later to apply.
- Last year, WFU applicants were accepted at 109 law schools across the nation, and these applicants are now at many of the best law schools in the country. Of WFU Seniors applying to law school 96.9% were admitted.

# Advice for maximizing your undergrad pre-law career at WFU

# GOOD GRADES AND LSAT SCORE!

- Grades should be your absolute number one priority each semester!
- Law schools “count” grades in all courses taken, even if you later re-take and get a better grade!
- Undergraduate GPA and LSAT scores are the most important criterion for law school admissions.



# Did you know that . . . ?

- ◎ The average GPA of Wake applicants in the 2015-2016 cycle was above the national average).
- ◎ The average LSAT score for WFU applicants in the 2014-15 cycle was 158 (compared to the national average of 152).

# Did you know that . . . ?

- **There is no “pre-law major” at WFU. You never have to “declare” that you’re pre-law.**
- Any major will work; choose one you will enjoy and excel in!
- Some common majors chosen by pre-law students are Politics and International Affairs, English, History, Sociology, Communication, and Philosophy.
- Others include Physics, Biology, Business, Religion, Psychology, Classics, Spanish, Theatre, and Economics.
- A broad, liberal arts curriculum is often more valuable to potential law students than a narrower focus.

# What courses does WFU offer for pre-law students?

## General courses:

- Accounting
- Communication & Rhetoric
- Debate & Advocacy
- Public Speaking
- Critical Reading & Writing
- Basic Problems of Philosophy
- American Government & Politics
- Logic
- Psychology
- Sociology

# What courses does WFU offer for pre-law students? [others]

## Law-related courses:

- Freedom of Speech
- Law and Economics
- Philosophy of Law
- Race and the Courts
- American Constitutional History
- Business Law
- Religion and Law
- Concentration in Crime and Criminal Justice (through Sociology Department)

# TRENDS

- **Legal Delivery is Becoming Tech and Data Driven—That Requires New Skillsets**
- STEM Graduates offer these skillsets.
- Business and Marketing are key in a competition legal market. Entrepreneurs are needed to sell your practice and yourself.

# Specialized Legal Fields (HOT)

- Intellectual Property
- Healthcare Law
- Corporate Transactions
- Private Equity
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Immigration
- Corporate Compliance
- Environmental Law
- Cyber Security

# STAY OUT OF TROUBLE!!!

- This includes all honor code and social violations, as well as any legal trouble, including underage drinking citations.
- Such violations must be reported by you (and by WFU) when law schools and bar associations ask (and they will).
- Failure to disclose such violations is a career-ending move.

# On a happier note . . .

- Choose broadly among challenging liberal arts courses selected together with your academic adviser
- Be open to new things (pre-law students don't need to lock into a career now)!!!
- Don't sign up for too many credits!
- Seek out argumentative writing and presentation opportunities.
- Participate in experiences that will challenge you outside the classroom, such as study abroad, volunteering, leadership and internship roles that sound exciting to you.



# Typical big events for pre-law students

- Sophomore year declare major in February.
- Junior year prepare for and take the LSAT (usually in June after junior year or September of senior year).
- Senior year gather recommendation letters, write personal statements, and submit applications between July and December of senior year.
- ALL potential pre-law students should continually explore law schools and law careers.
- Legal and service internships and similar experiences are **helpful to prepare** you for law school and provide exposure to the law field but **not required to get you in** to law school.

# Pre-law Opportunities at WFU

- Pre-law Society
- Mock Trial
- OPCD assistance (interview skills, resume, etc.).
- Graduate and Professional School Fair – each November, sponsored by OPCD, and featuring representatives from many law schools.
- Summer School Program—taught jointly by Wake Law and undergrad Communication Department—designed to provide you with a realistic view of what law school life is like to help you make your decision about what to do after graduation. <http://pre-law.law.wfu.edu/>

# Some pre-law homework (beyond good grades and good behavior ...)

- Build good working relationships with faculty members. You'll need some strong letters of recommendation when you apply to law school. This is easy to do at WFU!
- Ask lawyers you know about their legal careers, so that you can be sure that the law is the right career path for you.
- Browse the pre-law website and read resources listed.
- Keep a journal of the experiences you have as a WFU student to help you think about your needs, talents, likes, and dislikes in a coherent fashion. This information will also be helpful when you write your personal statement.

# Getting more information

## People

- Law Adviser, Patricia Poole
- Shan Woolard, Office of Personal and Professional Development, Liaison to Pre-Law
- Office of Academic Advising Brandon Bost and Maggie Sheridan
- Lawyers & Alumni
- Current law students (Juniors and Seniors)
- Wake Law

## Websites

**WFU Prelaw:** <http://college.wfu.edu/prelaw/>.

**LSAC:** <https://lsac.org/jd>