

# Guide to Pre-Law Studies

Wake Forest offers and excellent preparation for law school, and for a career in any of the varied fields of law. The ability to read, analyze, critique, write, persuade, and speak well are all central to the work of a lawyer. The need to organize one's time and tasks and to work hard and long are critical for success in law school and beyond. A sizeable percentage of recent Wake Forest alums report doing some sort of law-related work

Law schools look for an excellent record of achievement in a rigorous course of study. There are no courses or majors that law schools prefer. Therefore, you should study what you like and show an aptitude for. As you might expect, a recent study of Wake Forest alums shows that many political science majors and history majors earned law degrees, but so did philosophy majors, foreign language majors and English majors. In addition, Wake Forest has sent graduates on to law school from STEM departments, Business, and art.

Law school admission is a very numbers-oriented process, with LSAT scores and GPAs playing a primary role. When you apply as seniors or as alums, you will be able to refer to a very precise listing of law schools and the range of LSAT and GPAs that they normally accept. In addition, law schools look for students who have had interesting leadership experiences, avocations, and made significant contributions to the community around them. They will read your application essays, which will be more compelling if you've taken the initiative to be involved in something you're passionate about. You will be asked to solicit letters of recommendation, so be sure to take advantage of Wake Forest's small size and emphasis on close student-faculty interaction to get to know your professors and to make a positive impression in your academic performance. Wake Forest may also be asked to state whether you've ever been involved in any disciplinary problems, so please be sure that your disciplinary and legal records are spotless.

While many television shows feature lawyers, it is important that you have a more realistic sense of what lawyers actually do. As you may expect, there is a wide variety of work in the law, ranging from tax law to sports law to admiralty law. So make it your business to get some first-hand experience, either through internships, externships, summer jobs or conversations with working lawyers. Don't go on to law school as a default choice, but after having made a realistic and informed appraisal of whether it's a good choice for you.

Patricia Poole, the Pre-Law Advisor, is always happy to meet with students individually. You may schedule an appointment through Handshake, or email her if you do not find a time that works. She is located in Reynolda Hall with the Office of Personal & Career Development (OPCD) near the Entrepreneurship area. Also, please let her know if you are even considering going on to law school, and she will add you to a google group to receive important and useful information about programs and opportunities. Brandon Bost and Maggie Sheridan in the Office of Academic Advising (OAA) are also available to speak with Freshman and Sophomores interested in Pre-Law studies, and Shan Woolard is the OPCD liaison to the Pre-Law Program.