



BECOMING A COMPETITIVE APPLICANT

Applicants to law school must complete a bachelor's degree or be enrolled in an approved 3-3 Law Program. Competitive applicants for admission have solid academic records, well-rounded profiles of co-curricular experiences, strong LSAT scores, supportive letters of recommendation, and can clearly articulate their reasons for choosing to pursue the study of law.

SELECTING A MAJOR

There is no preferred or recommended major for law school. Law schools look for students who have developed skills in areas such as reading, writing and critical thinking. Students can major in any discipline and develop these essential skills.

Applicants with a well-rounded education and a variety of interests and personal experiences are ideal candidates. Students should choose a major where they can demonstrate strong academic performance. Law schools look for students who demonstrate the ability to handle a rigorous course load.

GRADES & GPA

GPA's calculated on law school applications include coursework done at all colleges attended and all attempts at a course. If a course is repeated, both grades will be included in the GPA's calculated by the law schools.

Aim for GPA's of 3.3 or above.

PRE-LAW RESOURCES & ADVISING

Pre-Law advisors are available to meet with students 1:1 about their law school goals and pathways. Pre-law advisors are available in the Center for Advising Resources & Support. Additionally, there are a number of faculty pre-law advisors in departments across campus. A list of advisors can be found in the Pre-Law Information Community.

Pre-law students should join the Pre-Law Information Community on BlueLine. Through the Pre-Law Information Community, students can access resources that help them explore the legal profession, gain experiences that are beneficial for law school, and prepare for the application process. Students can contact a pre-law advisor to join the Pre-Law Information Community.

PRE-LAW FACT SHEET

PREREQUISITE & RECOMMENDED COURSES

There are no prerequisite course requirements for law school. Rather, law schools look for applicants who possess skills that will help them be successful in law school and a legal career. The American Bar Association identifies the following skills as critical for successful law school candidates:

- Analytic & problem-solving skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Writing skills
- General research skills
- Oral communication & listening skills
- Values of serving others & promoting justice
- Background knowledge & experiential learning related to law
- Task organization & management skills
- Ability to build relationships & collaborate with others

The following is a small sample of Creighton courses that may help students explore their interest in law. Students should consider their interests, types of law they might wish to pursue, and visit with a pre-law advisor about additional options.

- Symbolic Logic | PHL 399
- Philosophy of Law | PHL 390
- Legal Environment of Business | BUS 201
- Business Law | BUS 301
- Mock Trial | BUS 321/322
- Judicial Process | PLS 320
- Constitutional Law | PLS 337
- Psychology and the Law | PSY 363
- Sociology of the Criminal Justice System | SOC 321
- Law and Society | SOC 423
- Law of Mass Communication | JRM 529

CO-CURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS

Pre-law students should be well-rounded applicants who participate in meaningful activities on-campus and in the community. Law is a service-focused profession and admissions officers look for students who demonstrate their promise to serve the community throughout their lifetime.

INTERNSHIPS & WORK EXPERIENCE

Students are encouraged to seek internship or work experiences that offer them opportunities to build skills in problem solving, teamwork, and critical thinking. Such experiences also strengthen a student's professionalism. These experiences do not need to be legal-related, and in fact it can be challenging for undergraduate students to find legal-related internships. All internship and work experiences can help students build vital skills and can connect them with employers who may write letters of recommendation on their behalf.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Attorneys are called on to connect with and help people different from themselves. Students should seek out experiences that help them build interpersonal relationships and interact with people from many walks of life.

LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK

Students must demonstrate leadership and interpersonal skills. Consider initiating group projects, serving as an officer in a student organization, or working as a teaching assistant. Students must also demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively.

VOLUNTEER & SERVICE

It is important to demonstrate sustained commitment over time. Check out the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice for opportunities: blogs.creighton.edu/ccsj

RESEARCH

Research experience is not required for admission to law school, but may add an extra layer to an application. See the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship for opportunities at: www.creighton.edu/curas.

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY'S 3-3 LAW PROGRAM

Creighton University's 3-3 Law Program offers pre-law students the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor degree in six years, instead of the typical seven. The 3-3 Law option is available through both the Heider College of Business and the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences. Students in the 3-3 Law Program complete their JD at Creighton School of Law.

Students spend their first three years at Creighton University in the Heider College of Business or the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences. During this time, they follow a specific 3-3 curriculum for their major that requires them to complete all major requirements and all Magis Core requirements by the end of their junior year. During the junior year, students apply to Creighton School of Law, following the same process as regular law school applicants. If accepted, students forgo their senior year and start law school at Creighton School of Law. After successfully completing the first year of law school with grades of "C" or better, students are awarded the bachelor's degree. Two years later, the student will complete the JD degree.

In the Heider College of Business, 3-3 students pursue the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. In the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences, the 3-3 Law program is available with most majors with the exception of mathematics and the natural sciences. Students must meet with a major advisor to develop an individual plan for completing the 3-3 Program with their intended major.

Students interested in the 3-3 Law program should visit with an advisor from their intended major and a pre-law advisor to make a plan for their first three years at Creighton.

LAW SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS

ADMISSION TESTS

Law schools require the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), a national, skills-based, standardized test. The LSAT is typically taken 12-15 months before starting law school. To do well on this exam, students must allow for significant study and preparation for the exam.

The GRE may be accepted by a small number of law schools. Consult with law school admissions offices and pre-law advisors to discuss using the GRE during law school admissions processes.

LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION COUNCIL (LSAC)

LSAC will be your home site for applying to law school, and can be an excellent resource for learning about the legal profession and researching schools. LSAC is where you register for the LSAT and where you access the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) used for applying to law school.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Law schools often require that applicants submit two to three letters of recommendation with their applications. Law school applicants who are currently in school should have at least one letter of recommendation from a professor. Advisors and work supervisors can also be good sources for letters of recommendation.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews are not very common in law school admissions, however, a small number of law schools may interview applicants. The John P. Fahey Career Center offers interview preparation assistance, including mock interviews.

PRE-LAW GROUPS & RESOURCES

PRE-LAW SOCIETY

All pre-law students should participate in the Pre-Law Society. This student organization provides leadership opportunities to further explore and gain experience in the legal profession. Learn more on CU Involved: <https://cuinvolved.creighton.edu/organization/pre-lawsociety>

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Pre-law students may be interested in participating in Mock Trial. Learn more on CU Involved: <https://cuinvolved.creighton.edu/organization/pre-lawsociety>

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Make an appointment with law admissions office personnel in the spring of the junior year to personalize the application process. Students pursuing the 3-3 Law Program should make an appointment during the spring of their sophomore year.

HELPFUL LINKS

- CU School of Law | creighton.edu/law
- Law School Admission Council | lsac.org
- American Bar Association | americanbar.org