

Pre-Law

COORDINATOR: TODD LOCHNER

A law degree equips one for a wide variety of careers in law, business, government, and politics. The practice of law itself encompasses a multitude of variations from megafirms to solo practice, from in-house counsel to prosecutor, from policy advocate to public defender. Therefore, law schools do not require, and Lewis & Clark does not prescribe, a single course of study as pre-law preparation. Faculty advisors usually recommend courses that cultivate analytical and writing skills as excellent preparation for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and for subsequent work in law school.

Recent graduates of Lewis & Clark's College of Arts and Sciences have pursued legal education at Duke, the University of California at Berkeley, Boston College, Emory, Cornell, Columbia, Georgetown, Harvard, Tulane, Lewis & Clark Law School, and many other fine schools throughout the country. Some graduates elect to go directly into the study of law after graduation; others wait a year or two before applying to law school.

Students have gone to law school after majoring in almost every field at Lewis & Clark. The majority are from the social sciences and the humanities. Recently, more science majors have been entering the legal profession as well. Several Lewis & Clark undergraduate courses involve meetings with federal and state judges, visiting large and small law firms, guest appearances by practicing lawyers, and sharing events at the law school.

Informal pre-law advisors advise students and maintain information regarding law schools, the application process, and the legal profession. Information about law school and legal careers is also available from Lewis & Clark Law School. Undergraduate students are encouraged to participate in the many public events sponsored by the law school.

Positions held by graduates include law school professor, U.S. representative, lobbyist, director of city planning, manager of a billion-dollar light rail construction project, U.S. ambassador, trial and appellate court judges, and congressional committee staffers.

Pre-Medicine/Pre-Health

Graduates of Lewis & Clark have entered the fields of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, osteopathic medicine, medical technology, physical therapy, and nursing after postgraduate study at professional schools such as those at Oregon Health & Science University, the University of Washington, Vanderbilt University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, and Wake Forest University. Advisors at Lewis & Clark guide students in selection of appropriate courses through individual counseling, group information sessions, literature, and the Internet. Other resources available include internships and a network of Lewis & Clark alumni working in the health professions who are willing to assist students in making career decisions.

Many courses required for admission to health professional schools are sequential, so careful planning is essential. Students should consult as soon as possible with their academic advisor and Adonica De Vault in the Center for Career and Community Engagement. Students who plan to pursue postgraduate work in the health professions must take basic courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and psychology at Lewis & Clark. Many health professions schools require advanced coursework in some of these areas as well. They also strongly encourage students to develop a breadth of academic and cocurricular interests. Although many pre-med/pre-health students major in biology, biochemistry, or chemistry, students can enter graduate programs in the health