

PRE-LAW AT OBERLIN

Oberlin's academically rigorous liberal arts curriculum provides excellent preparation for students considering a career in law.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Law schools want to see engaged students who have challenged themselves with a rigorous, well-rounded course of study. Successful law students tend to be people who not only have a strong academic record, but have compelling non-academic pursuits and who have involved themselves in contributing to their community.

All majors at Oberlin are appropriate for a pre-law student. The right major is one that a pre-law student finds personally and academically compelling and that they can use to showcase their best work. In addition, pre-law students often use Winter Term to immerse themselves in law-related research, career exploration, or volunteer experiences. Successful lawyers and law students have strong analytical skills and can think creatively. Oberlin's outstanding liberal arts curriculum offers pre-law students the opportunity to develop an excellent foundation in both of these areas.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Experiential learning opportunities provide pre-law students with the chance to translate their passion into action. Pre-law students are encouraged to take advantage of experiential learning opportunities such as:

Study Away: Law schools are interested in students who challenge their assumptions and who seek out different points of view.

Community-Based Learning: Volunteer work with community partners like Community Peace Builders, El Centro, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, and Oberlin Drama at Grafton has inspired some students to consider a career in law.

Law and Public Policy Career Community: This credit-bearing course offered by the Career Development Center provides pre-law students the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed in their first two years at Oberlin to a real-world experience.

OBERLIN OUTCOMES

Oberlin applicants to law school are very successful. Over the past three admissions cycles, 90% of Oberlin graduates have been admitted to one or more law schools. Oberlin graduates are routinely admitted to many top law schools, including Columbia, Duke, Georgetown, Harvard, New York University, Northwestern, Stanford, University of California, Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Virginia.

PRE-LAW ADVISING

Pre-law advising is available to students and alumni in all phases of decision making. The pre-law advisor, with the support of a committee of faculty and staff, offers a range of experience and expertise to students and graduates who are considering a career in the law. The advisor can help prospective law students explore academic and experiential opportunities, consider when to begin studying for the LSAT, develop a timeline for completing the law school application, and weigh and interpret their admissions results.

QUICK FACTS: 2018-2019 APPLICATION CYCLE

- 40 Oberlin graduates matriculated to law school in 2019. At the time of their application:
 - » 8 were Oberlin seniors
 - » 20 were 1-3 years post-graduation
 - » 22 were more than 3 years post-graduation
- 162.3 was the average highest LSAT score of Oberlin applicants to law school, compared to a national average of 153.9 for all law school applicants.
- 3.57 was the average GPA of Oberlin applicants to law school, compared to a national average of 3.33 for all law school applicants.
- 22.5% of Oberlin graduates matriculated to one of the "top 14" law schools.

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ABBREVIATED TIMELINE

FIRST YEAR AND SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE

- Enroll in courses that will enhance your writing ability, communication skills, reading comprehension, logical reasoning, and analytical skills.
- Develop relationships with members of the faculty.
- Maintain a strong academic record. Take advantage of study groups and support resources.
- Participate in extracurricular activities that are substantive and meaningful to you.
- Complete your career interests on Handshake, and join Wisr.
- Join the Oberlin Law Interest Group and attend pre-law programs, panels, and events.

THIRD-YEAR OF COLLEGE

- Schedule an appointment with the pre-law advisor to discuss your current academic status, LSAT preparation, individual time frame, researching law schools, and LSAC.org.
- Attend an LSAC law school fair or forum near you.
- Prepare for the LSAT. If applying to law school your senior year, it is recommended you take the LSAT junior year winter, summer, or again fall senior year.
- Identify faculty members for recommendation letters, discuss your plans with them, and request permission to use them as references.
- Prepare a resume of your academic work, work experiences, and extracurricular activities.
- Prepare a list of law schools that are of interest to you. Include reach, safety, and stretch schools.

SUMMER BEFORE APPLYING

- Take the June LSAT or prepare for the October LSAT.
- Register for LSAC's Credential Assembly Service via LSAC.org's website.
- Have official transcript(s) sent to the LSAC Credential Assembly Service.
- Research law schools and develop a list that includes reach, target, and safety schools.

- Prepare application materials, focusing on your resume and personal statement.
- Check in with your letter of recommendation writers.
- Request a Dean's Certification from the Office of the Dean of Students.

FALL OF APPLICATION YEAR

- Schedule an appointment with the pre-law advisor to discuss your list of schools, your personal statement(s), or other important concerns.
- Take the October LSAT or December LSAT, if necessary.
- Read the application instructions for each school carefully and prepare supplemental essays.
- Complete and submit your applications as soon as possible—there is a benefit to applying early. The application opens in September.

WINTER AFTER APPLICATION SUBMITTED

- File your financial aid applications. Research and apply for grants, scholarships, and financial aid, both school-related and outside award programs.
- Send an updated transcript with fall semester grades to LSAC or directly to law schools.

SPRING AFTER APPLICATION SUBMITTED

- As soon as you begin to get decisions from schools, decide whether you need to apply to additional schools or investigate optional programs.
- Update law schools you have not yet heard from regarding new evidence to support your application, such as honors or awards.
- Schedule an appointment with the pre-law advisor to review multiple offers/scholarships or how to approach being wait-listed.
- When you have chosen your law school, mail in the appropriate deposit and confirmation forms by the law school deadline. Then notify all other schools that you are withdrawing your application from their application review process or declining their offer of acceptance.
- Communicate your plans with the pre-law advisor and send thank you correspondence to your recommenders.