

Pre-Law

ADVISOR: Courtney Chenette (political science, gender and women's studies)

Every major is a pre-law major. Law schools seek students with strong liberal arts backgrounds, reflecting quality academic performance and professional maturity. There is no set pattern of courses for a pre-law student, but courses that generally emphasize critical thinking, research, and writing are useful. Exploring courses that provide a foundational understanding of the law and legal systems – even if outside a major course of study – are recommended.

There are many fields of legal practice, ways to be an advocate, and uses for a law degree. Law schools do not expect you to know what kind of law you want to practice before you matriculate; however, some academic experience is highly valued in particular legal fields. Specifically, students interested in pursuing intellectual property or environmental law typically hold a degree in a scientific or mathematical discipline, and students interested in pursuing public interest or international legal advocacy are strongly encouraged to develop and maintain language skills beyond the intermediate level. Relevant leadership, research, internship, and professional experiences - during J-Term and beyond - are also critical components of a law school application. Please contact Professor Chenette for more information on advising.