

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW - INDIANAPOLIS

INFORMATION FOR THOSE ENTERING UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRE-LAW STUDENTS

RECOMMENDED COURSE WORK

NO FORMAL PRE-LAW COURSE OF STUDY IN COLLEGE IS REQUIRED FOR A STUDENT TO BE ADMITTED TO LAW SCHOOL.

Legal educators agree, however, that the development of skills and habits conducive to legal reasoning is more important than subject matter. The student's college courses should be geared, therefore, to the development of:

- X Habits of scholarship, thoroughness, and intellectual curiosity.
- X A broad educational experience which also involves a depth of study.
- X The ability to organize materials and communicate the results. Effective writing skills are particularly important.
- X Verbal skills.
- X A broad cultural background.

A well taught course in any department will serve the same objectives if it offers:

- X A variety of reading assignments selected from well-written sources; the more, the better.
- X A large volume of well-directed class discussion.
- X Ample opportunity to prepare and criticize written and oral reports.
- X Analysis of data and information toward reaching conclusions and defending positions taken.
- X Independent research projects, essay examinations, and argumentative/persuasive papers.

In the pamphlet, Law as a Career, the American Bar Association suggests these courses:

- X English Literature and Language
- X Government - Political Science
- X Economics
- X American and English History
- X Math
- X Latin
- X Philosophy - particularly logic and ethics
- X Accounting
- X Public Speaking (including listening skills development)

Students are free to choose any major as long as the course of study includes many of the courses. Any major can accommodate these courses as either General Education requirements or as electives. Students should choose the major which can afford them an alternative career should they not gain admission to law school or opportunities for employment (if necessary) while attending law school.

ADMISSION TO LAW SCHOOL

Students should contact individual law schools to learn how much importance is assigned to each of the following items:

- X Law School Admission Test Score (LSAT): The LSAT range is 120-180. A score of 156 will probably be average for admitted candidates.
- X Grade point average for undergraduate and graduate work: A GPA of 3.2 is considered average for admission.
- X National standing of undergraduate institution and major within that institution.
- X Extracurricular activities.
- X Letters of recommendation - Personal statements or essays.

The LSAT is an Aaptitude@ test. APrep@ courses may be helpful to maintain competitiveness and to reduce anxiety. Practice materials available from Law Services, if followed according to directions and time limits, are also useful. The test is designed to measure skills relevant to the profession such as reading speed and comprehension, analytical skills, and logical skills.

Generally, one attempt only is desirable because many law schools average multiple test scores. Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis now takes the higher score. Inquiries should be made directly to the law schools to determine how multiple test scores are handled.

For more information regarding the LSAT, call Law Services at (215)968-1001. Their address is Law Services, Box 2400, Newtown, PA 18940-0998.