

What can I do to explore the field of law as an undergraduate?

Internships can provide you with practical experience and a real-life understanding of the law field. One such opportunity is the UCLA Washington D.C. program, an intensive 10-week, 40-hour per week internship that provides students with an opportunity to work with elected officials, government agencies, public interest groups, international organizations, and a wide range of other public and private enterprises.

Another opportunity is Justice Corps, a collaborative program funded by AmeriCorps in which undergraduate students work at a self-help legal clinic or family law center. JusticeCorps members help people on matters such as family law, housing issues, traffic matters, and small claims. Other various internships have been arranged with the White House, U.S. House of Representatives, the Senate, California Legislature, CNN, Amnesty International, and a host of other organizations.

UCLA also offers several undergraduate courses that can help you learn about the field of law including Law and Politics, International Law, Public Law and Judicial Process, Principles of Critical Thinking, and Logic. Some of these courses will assist with your preparation for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test) while others will give you a sampling of the topics you will cover in law school.

What support systems are there in place at UCLA if I want to go to law school?

There are several student groups on campus that support pre-law students such as the Pre-Law Society. The Pre-Law Society hosts an annual Law Forum that 60+ law schools attend in order to answer your questions about the admissions process. Members can also write for the Undergraduate Law Journal or receive advice on which LSAT preparatory courses to take.

What should I major in as an undergraduate if I want to attend law school?

UCLA does not offer a pre-law major with good reason. Law schools, unlike medical schools and some graduate programs, do not require that a student take a certain set of courses. Instead, law schools accept a diverse pool of applicants who major in anything from engi-

neering to political science to film and television. Law schools do not focus on what your major is but rather look at your cumulative grade point average as an indicator of a person's likelihood of succeeding in law school. If you choose a major that does not entail much writing, we strongly suggest you take writing courses as electives. Otherwise, you will be at a disadvantage in law school, especially in your legal writing classes.

Do UCLA graduates get special preference in admission to UCLA's law school?

UCLA graduates do not receive any specific treatment in terms of gaining admission to the UCLA School of Law. However, UCLA is one of the top represented undergraduate schools among students admitted to the School of Law.

What do I need to do as an undergraduate in order to apply for law school?

Law schools focus on the applicant's LSAT score and GPA. On a typical undergraduate's application, these two factors are paramount. However, most law schools will tell you that the student's entire application is reviewed and considered, which includes letters of recommendation, personal statements, and/or resumes. As a result, it would be to your advantage to supplement your curriculum with activities that demonstrate leadership, initiative, creativity, responsibility, analytical skills, and research ability.

How can I get help with preparing for and applying to law school?

The UCLA Career Center offers personal assistance and programs on the graduate and professional school application process, including program selection, the personal statement, faculty recommendations, admissions tests, and financial assistance. Much of the information on this sheet was provided by the Career Center. Additionally, the UCLA Career Center also holds an intensive workshop called "Jump Start Your Career in Law." Please visit their website for more details at <http://career.ucla.edu>.