

LAW EARLY ENTRY PROGRAM

The Law Early Entry Program is designed to enable academically talented and focused students to complete their undergraduate degree while simultaneously completing their first semester of law school. The program is designed so that students in the program would complete approximately 109 credits toward their undergraduate degree. They would then enter Washburn's law school in the last semester of the senior year and simultaneously complete the remaining 15 credits of undergraduate study by successfully completing the first 15 credits of law school.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Students desiring admission to the program will apply directly to the prelaw coordinator. In order to be eligible for the Washburn Legal Scholars Program applicants must normally meet the following requirements:

- Minimum high school GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale
- A composite ACT score in the top quartile (28-36)
- Completed application for the program

Transfer and nontraditional students may be admitted if their experience, ability, and other characteristics clearly show an aptitude for the study of law. Students in this situation must apply to the prelaw coordinator, who will have the discretion to make such an admission. Students are encouraged to apply for admission to the Legal Scholars Program prior to the completion of 16 credit hours in order to successfully participate in this program.

Students contemplating admission to Washburn's Legal Scholars Program should be aware that admission to law school and ultimately the bar requires a demonstration of character and fitness to practice law. Such demonstration includes the following:

- a clean criminal record
- a clean financial record (it's not the amount of debt, it's how debt has been handled)
- a clean academic record (no violations of academic integrity)

Potential applicants for the Legal Scholars Program with a history involving any of the above should engage in a candid conversation with the prelaw coordinator prior to accepting an offer to enter the Legal Scholars Program.

STANDING (maintaining participation in the program)

To maintain participation in the Washburn Legal Scholars Program once admitted, students must meet the following requirements:

- Maintain a 3.00 overall GPA each semester (throughout their entire undergraduate curriculum, which includes the last semester taking courses at the undergraduate level).
 - Grades will be checked by the PreLaw Coordinator at the completion of each semester of undergraduate course work to make sure students maintain the minimum GPA.
- Make sufficient progress towards completion of undergraduate major requirements and general education requirements.
 - Progress will be carefully monitored by the students' advisors.
 - Sufficient progress includes
 - taking and passing the courses that the advisors recommend in the sequence the advisors recommend

- maintaining at least a 3.00 GPA.
 - Insufficient progress includes
 - not taking and passing the courses that the advisors recommend in the sequence the advisors recommend
 - EX: dropping courses, failing to enroll in the courses recommended by the students' advisors, failing courses
 - not maintaining at least a 3.00 GPA.
- Maintain the character and fitness to practice law.
 - Students are required to report any problems regarding any of the aspects of character and fitness to the prelaw coordinator immediately.
 - These problems will be addressed and may be grounds for removal from the program.
 - Students who fail to bring existing problems to the attention of the prelaw coordinator will be removed from the program.

MAJOR

Students may choose any major. Law schools do not require a particular major. Students will be required to choose a major early in the program as advising is crucial to success in this program. Some majors require a minor and those requirements must be completed as well. This will be accomplished with careful advising.

ADVISING

Students in the program will be advised in one of three ways.

1. Undeclared major: If a student has not declared a major, the student will meet with the prelaw coordinator to coordinate the student's enrollment and schedule until the student chooses a major.
2. Declared major with prelaw advisor: If the student has declared a major and that major has a prelaw advisor, then that student will be advised by that individual.
3. Declared major with no prelaw advisor: If the student has declared a major and that major does not have a prelaw advisor, then that student will be advised by a faculty member within that department and progress will be monitored by the prelaw coordinator.

All advisors will work closely with the prelaw coordinator to ensure the successful completion of the student's undergraduate requirements as well as the completion of courses that are likely to enhance LSAT performance.

COURSES

Students will be required to complete all of their general education university requirements, which include 6 credits of English (EN 101 or EN 102 and EN 300), and the math requirement (MA 116 or MA 112). Additional general education requirements are degree dependent and those requirements will need to be completed by each student before applying to Washburn University School of Law .

Students will be required to complete all of their major requirements prior to entering law school. If a student has to complete a minor as a requirement of his or her major then the student will need to coordinate the completion of that minor prior to entering law school. The process of completing the major requirements will be closely monitored by the student's advisor.

While this condensed program is obviously challenging and rigorous, it is possible. Students may access a sample schedule of courses planned over the span of three and a half years that accomplishes this task. The prelaw coordinator and prelaw advisors will be able to work with students to devise a program that will enable students to successfully complete these requirements. If a student is working with an advisor who is not a prelaw advisor, the advisor will work in collaboration with the prelaw coordinator to establish a reasonable schedule for the student to follow.

Advisors will urge students to take courses that requiring significant amounts of critical reading, writing, speaking, and research. In addition, students will be encouraged to take specific courses in mathematics and logic since those two types of courses will aid students in being successful on the LSAT.

LSAT

Students will be required to complete the Washburn diagnostic LSAT each fall and spring semester while attending Washburn as an undergraduate until the student takes the actual LSAT. Students will be encouraged to take a LSAT preparation course.

Students will take the LSAT during February of their junior year or during June after completing their junior year. This process will be monitored by student' advisors or by the prelaw coordinator.

LAW SCHOOL APPLICATION

The Legal Scholars Program is optimally designed for incoming freshmen entering Washburn in the fall and continuing through the completion of seven semesters, with admission to the law school sought for semester eight in the spring. Students will normally apply to law school during the summer prior to the completion of their senior year for admission to the spring law school class. It is possible, however, that a student could complete the seventh semester in the spring of the senior year and seek admission for the fall semester of law school. . Students will complete all components of the law school application required of regularly admitted students.

Students will be made aware that they should:

- score at or above the median LSAT for the 1L class admitted to Washburn University School of Law in the prior fall semester
- Maintain a GPA that is at or above the median for the 1L class admitted to Washburn University School of Law in the prior fall semester.

The prelaw coordinator will check to make sure students admitted to law school have successfully completed their last semester of undergraduate course work. Students who have not successfully finished their last semester of course work will be required to finish those courses before enrolling in their first semester of law school.

Once admitted to the law school, students will be required to successfully complete fifteen hours of law school courses, which will then count as upper division electives toward their undergraduate degree. After the completion of those courses, the undergraduate degree will be awarded.

Students admitted to the law school under this program will begin as first year law students, paying tuition to the law school at the law school rate. Students will be considered graduate students and thus can access financial aid at the higher rate required for law school. (Students can be considered graduate students for financial aid after the completion of three full years of undergraduate work.)

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION Standard 502. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) A law school shall require for admission to its J.D. degree program a bachelor's degree, or successful completion of three-fourths of the work acceptable for a bachelor's degree, from an institution that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Department of Education.

(b) In an extraordinary case, a law school may admit to its J.D. degree program an applicant who does not possess the educational requirements of subsection (a) if the applicant's experience, ability, and other characteristics clearly show an aptitude for the study of law. The admitting officer shall sign and place in the admittee's file a statement of the considerations that led to the decision to admit the applicant.

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/misc/legal_education/Standards/2012_standards_chapter_5.authcheckdam.pdf