

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES NEW PROGRAM REVIEW FORM

	Chair's Signature	Recommendation		Review Date
Department _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Division _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dept. of Educ. _____ (If course relates to teacher certification program.)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dean _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Curriculum Committee _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Accepted By CFC _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
CAS Faculty _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Approved By:	Faculty Senate _____	University Faculty _____	WU Board of Regents _____	_____

1. Title of program.

Washburn Legal Scholars 3.5 + 3 Program

2. Rationale for offering this program.

The Legal Scholars Program is offered in order to help attract well-qualified and highly motivated students to Washburn's undergraduate program and ultimately to Washburn's law school.

3. Exact proposed catalog description.

Washburn Legal Scholars 3.5 + 3 Program

Washburn's 3.5 + 3 program is designed to enable academically talented and focused students to complete their undergraduate degree while simultaneously completing their first semester of law school. This program is a modification of a baccalaureate degree. As there is no prelaw major, students are required to complete an existing major and to complete all other degree requirements. The program is designed so that students in the program would complete at least 109 credits toward their undergraduate degree. They would then be eligible to apply for entry to Washburn University School of Law for entry in the final semester of the senior year. In law school they would simultaneously complete the remaining 15 elective credits of undergraduate study and receive their bachelor's degree 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, who will have the discretion to make an admission decision. In order to be eligible for the Washburn Legal Scholars Program an applicant 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 to the program**

While the program is optimally designed for direct high school matriculants, any currently enrolled student in good academic standing may apply for admission to the program at any time. Primary consideration will be given to the applicant's academic performance and the probability of meeting the credit requirements in a timely fashion. Students are encouraged to apply for admission to the Legal Scholars Program early in their academic career.

Students contemplating admission to Washburn's Legal Scholars Program should be aware that admission to law school and ultimately the practice of law requires the individual to demonstrate character and fitness to practice law. This 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 college disciplinary violations and 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 students, once admitted, must meet the following requirements:

- **1) Maintain a 3.00 overall GPA each semester**
 - o **Grades will be checked by the PreLaw Coordinator at the completion of each semester.**
- **2) Make sufficient progress towards completion of undergraduate major requirements and general education requirements.**
 - o **Progress will be carefully monitored by each student's advisor.**
 - Sufficient progress includes taking and passing the courses that the advisor recommends in the sequence the advisor recommends.**
- **3) Maintain character and fitness to practice law.**
 - o **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.**
- o **4) take the diagnostic LSAT every semester it is offered until the real LSAT is taken for application to law school. Students will be encouraged to take a LSAT preparation course.**

LSAT

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 the prelaw coordinator.

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.

Advisors will urge students to take courses that require 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 may aid students in being successful on the LSAT.

LAW SCHOOL APPLICATION

Students will normally apply to the law school during the summer prior to completion of their senior year for admission to the spring law school class. It is possible, however, that a student could complete 109 credits 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 a regularly admitted student. Admission is not guaranteed.

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.

Students admitted to the law school will be required to successfully complete fifteen hours of law school courses, which will then count as elective credits toward their undergraduate degree. After the completion of those courses, the undergraduate degree will

be considered to be awarded. Should a student admitted to Washburn's law school under this unique program fail to successfully complete the first 15 credits of law school, a bachelor's degree cannot be awarded. The student will need to complete the remaining credit requirements of undergraduate study to receive a bachelor's degree. Readmission to law school will be an issue to be resolved between the student and the law school.

Students admitted to the law school will enter as first year law students, paying tuition at the law school rate, and that tuition will be paid to the law school. Students will also be considered graduate students for financial aid purposes so that they can access financial aid at the higher rate required for law school. (Regulations allow students to be considered graduate students for financial aid purposes after the completion of three full years of undergraduate work.)

4. List any financial implications.

The undergraduate side of the university will lose one semester of tuition from the predicted one or two students in the program each year.