

**Recommendations and Tips for Prelaw Students**  
**Center for Student Advising Office of Preprofessional Advising**

- Select a major or concentration that interests you. Students tend to do better academically if they like what they are studying. Double programs of study are not required.
- Do your very best academically. Grades matter!
- Take a normal to heavy course-load each semester and take only one or two classes pass/fail during your undergraduate career. Know your limits! Don't jeopardize taking too many credits in a semester but challenge yourself. In junior and senior years balance upper-level courses with 1000/2000 level courses.
- Consider courses that sharpen your analytic test-taking skills: economics, logic, and math.
- Demonstrate that you are motivated learner (i.e. enroll in more than the minimum 12 pts. each term, write a thesis if that interests you and is offered by your major department, and take upper-level courses and seminars in your junior and senior years.
- SEAS students and Columbia College science and Economics majors should consider asking for a letter of recommendation from a faculty member for whom they had to critique and analyze texts and write papers.
- Get to know faculty members and find a mentor. Law schools typically require two faculty recommendations.
- Subscribe to the [prelaw listserv](#).
- Read the prelaw section of this website.
- Get involved in co-curricular activities of interest to you. Schools look at depth of involvement and leadership roles versus number of activities. Co-curricular activities are an excellent avenue for you to distinguish yourself. Work is also considered a co-curricular activity. *Warning.* Activities will not compensate for poor grades.
- If you want to join law related campus organizations that's great too, but not required.
- Become involved in community service. There are plenty of opportunities in New York City through Community Impact and organizations outside of Columbia.
- If you are interested in public interest law, become fluent in another language(s).
- Read and bookmark [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).
- Subscribe to LSAC's [LawHub](#). Enroll in their free "Admissions Unmasked" series that
- Subscribe to [AccessLex's Ask Edna!](#) AccessLex provides information and resources for financing law school.
- Maintain a clean disciplinary and criminal record.
- Establish a credit history and use credit responsibly as many law students rely on federal and sometimes, private loans to finance their legal education. Live like a student and don't rack-up credit card debt!
- Begin researching law schools by looking at the [Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools](#) and law school websites.

- Become familiar with the LSAT and GRE. To learn more about the LSAT visit [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org). View the recorded session and handout about preparing for the LSAT and GRE. Email [cfc5@columbia.edu](mailto:cfc5@columbia.edu) if you need the link to the recording.

### **Assess Whether Law School and the Legal Profession is Right for You**

- Learn about the law school experience and the legal profession through conversations, reading on-line profiles of attorneys, law school websites, articles, podcasts, Instagram, TikTok, and books.
- Shadow and discuss legal careers with family members, friends, and acquaintances who are attorneys. Attend classes at Columbia Law and talk with current law students.
- Conduct informational interviews with attorneys. CCE has sample questions on their [website](#). Join [Columbia College's Mentoring Program](#) and meet with Columbia College alumni/ae who have law degrees.
- Attempt to secure an internship that gives you exposure to the legal profession (non-profit organization, government agency, or law firm).
- Make an appointment with a career counselor in the Center for Career Education to discuss internship possibilities and take a career assessment.
- Talk with staff members in the Office of Preprofessional Advising.
- Attend programs sponsored by the Office of Preprofessional Advising, Center for Career Education, and the [Columbia College Odyssey Mentoring Program](#).
- Listen to "Law School Podcast" #74 to help determine if going to law school is the right path for you.