

Pre-Law



“Doing my senior English seminar was very similar to meeting a client, learning the issue, researching the law, developing a strategy to advocate for the client and then presenting an argument for a decision.”

—Venita Smith '92, contract document review attorney, Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice, Kansas City, Mo.



Question

What abilities and interests does a career in law require?

Answer

Law is the foundation of a just and equitable society. Law is important for righting wrongs and ensuring fair treatment of everyone. Those who practice law must be able to problem-solve, to communicate well through writing and speaking and to function as counselors. If you have those skills and interests and want to help other people, you might be a good candidate to become a lawyer.

Question

How can Bethel College prepare me for a career in law?

Answer

Bethel College's pre-law studies will prepare you for success in law school and beyond. Law schools look for students who have excellent communication skills, understand human institutions and human nature and are able to think critically, creatively and analytically. Because many different majors can help you develop those skills, Bethel requires no specific major for students interested in going into law. Common majors for those who go on to study law include history, literary studies, social work, business and psychology. However, we do recommend a series of courses that can help you develop a well-rounded range of skills for law school

- Forensics
- Principles of Macroeconomics
- Two history classes
- General Philosophy
- General Psychology
- Principles of Sociology

Question

What practical experience will I get as a student?

Answer

Through your program of study, you will develop habits of thoroughness, logical thinking, a grasp of social institutions, and clarity of expression as recommended by the Association of American Law Schools. Some students also choose to do an internship with a local law office to gain practical experience. Others choose work or internships within the court system.

* Bethel



Seek.
Serve.
Grow.

Question

What might I expect after graduating from law school?

Answer

With a Bethel undergraduate education and a law degree, you will be ready to make your mark in the legal profession. Bethel alumni have worked in a variety of fields, including:

- private practice
- environmental law
- human rights law
- family law
- corporate law
- state and federal government
- mediation
- judiciary
- college presidency



“Bethel College’s emphasis on writing, critical analysis and class participation, as compared with lectures and multiple-choice exams, placed me at the top of my law school class long before I ever entered law school. As result of my preparatory education at Bethel, I had a distinct advantage over my classmates, some of whom came from prestigious schools such as Stanford, UCLA and West Point.”

—John Tribuiano III ‘00, labor attorney, Mastagni, Holstedt, Amick, Miller, Johnsen & Uhrhammer, Sacramento, Calif.

Question

How will I know which law school is right for me?

Answer

Bethel’s pre-law advisor counsels students in schedule planning and in choosing and getting into law school. In fact, during the past 25 years, Bethel’s pre-law graduates have a near 100 percent acceptance rate into law school.



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