

Pre-Law

The liberal arts environment provides a rich foundation for students preparing for law school since there is no single undergraduate major that is ideal for all students considering law school. You'll benefit from courses that require you to read challenging works and to write papers of varying styles and lengths. In addition, you'll pursue courses that will develop your speaking skills, for you need to become comfortable speaking to groups of people and articulating your point of view.

Why Pre-Law at Illinois Wesleyan?

- At Illinois Wesleyan, our small classes and individual attention will help you develop reading, writing and critical thinking skills that are absolutely essential in successfully pursuing law school.
- Courses that will directly assist you in developing your critical thinking skills are vital. Philosophy courses, especially logic, are obviously helpful. However, there are many other courses on campus that will also develop your analytical skills — mathematics and statistics, for instance.
- You'll be encouraged to take as many “paper courses” (courses that require the verbal organization of complicated materials) as possible. Furthermore, you'll have the flexibility to take courses that really interest you and that, as a result, you will do well in; a high GPA is more persuasive than a particular program of study.
- You will acquire specialized knowledge in law school. At the undergraduate level, you should continue to develop a broad base of knowledge and interests. This will not only help you to do well on the LSAT but, more importantly, to be a better lawyer and member of society.
- IWU's general education requirements are designed to help you explore a broad range of disciplines and develop enduring qualities of mind and character. Some law schools have emphasized the particular value of an undergraduate introduction to economics and accounting, especially for those considering corporate or tax law. All law schools, however, are united on the point that there is no one ideal pre-law major. You should consider your academic program as an opportunity to develop special interests that might integrate well with law in a specialization later on. A broad, challenging liberal arts education is indisputably the best pre-law academic preparation that you can pursue.

Applying to Law Schools

Begin thinking about where you want to practice law well before your senior year of college, for this will influence the choice of law schools to which you should apply. Your grades and your LSAT score will also have a significant bearing on this decision. The optimal time to take the LSAT is the end of the junior year or October of your senior year. Do not plan to retake the test, since the likelihood that you will materially improve your score is not very good.

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A Sampling of Courses Related to a Pre-Law Program:

- Business Law I and II
- Introduction to Symbolic Logic
- Philosophy of Law
- Congress and the Legislative Process
- Constitutional Law I
- Criminology
- International Law and Organizations
- American Environmental Politics and Policy
- Seminar in Management: Trial Practice

Recent Internships Include:

- Applied Systems, University Park – Legal Intern
- The Immigration Project, Bloomington
- State Farm Insurance – Corporate Law, Bloomington
- US Department of State, Chicago
- American Bar Association, Chicago
- Amnesty International, Chicago
- World Relief, Wheaton, IL
- US Public Interest Research Group, Washington, D.C.
- The Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis, MN
- US Department of Defense, Tampa, FL
- Northwestern Center for Wrongful Convictions, Evanston, IL
- Bundestag (German Parliament), Berlin, Germany
- Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, Scotland
- The Green Party of England & Wales, London, England
- Etudes Vihodes Law Firm, Arusha, Tanzania



“Students who graduate from Illinois Wesleyan are regularly admitted to top law schools across the country. We provide a wide variety of options to enable

students to pursue their goals. Through our strong liberal arts curriculum, you can develop the analytical thinking, writing and oral communication skills that will prepare you for law school and a legal career, regardless of your major.

Applying to most law schools will include registering with the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS). You provide yourself with the best possibility of both accurate and full consideration if your law school application is completed before the bulk of applications have been received and acted upon. Therefore, you should plan to send transcripts from every college or university you have attended to LSDAS early in the fall of your senior year.

Assistance with Your Planning

Information and applications for both the LSAT and LSDAS are available from the Hart Career Center. The staff at the Center will also be happy to counsel you further concerning your long-range career goals and your choice of law schools. In addition, any of the members of the Pre-Law Advisory Committee would be pleased to talk with you about your course selections, law school options, applications, personal statements and any other questions about law school you might have.

The IWU Law Society, a student-led club comprised of students from a variety of majors who are interested in careers in law, conducts a number of events each year. Additionally, the Committee publishes a pre-law handbook and a law school application guide for the benefit of interested students.

Your Educational Future

Illinois Wesleyan graduates have been accepted to law schools across the nation, including:

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| American University | University of Chicago |
| Boston University | University of Colorado |
| Case Western Reserve University | University of Florida |
| Chicago-Kent School of Law | University of Illinois |
| DePaul University | University of Iowa |
| Drake University | University of Kansas |
| Emory University | University of Miami |
| George Washington University | University of Minnesota |
| Georgetown University | University of Notre Dame |
| Harvard University | University of Pennsylvania |
| Indiana University | University of Southern California |
| John Marshall Law School | University of Tennessee |
| Loyola University | University of Texas |
| Marquette University | University of Tulsa |
| Michigan State University | University of Virginia |
| Northwestern University | University of Washington |
| Rutgers University | University of Wisconsin |
| Saint Louis University | Valparaiso University |
| Southern Illinois University | Vanderbilt University |
| Stanford University | Washington University |
| Tulane University | Yale University |
| University of Arizona | |

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From your first week on campus to when it comes time to apply to law school, the Pre-Law Advisory Committee counsels you on what law schools look for in applicants and how to take the greatest advantage of the application process. The Hart Career Center has current resources to help you choose a law school and advises on the many career paths possible after earning a law degree.”

Dr. David Marvin

Chair of Pre-Law Advisory Committee



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

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