Successful attorneys come from a wide range of undergraduate disciplines: the humanities, science, engineering—any field that requires thinking that is both logical and creative. I believe study of foreign languages, particularly to the point of proficiency, is a great background because it forces you to think carefully not only about the specific meaning of a word, but its use in the broader context of the message that’s being conveyed.”

“I’m in a position to use critical research skills in all of my work. I use a lot of research and I must have strong writing skills.”

“Develop your writing skills. Do not avoid classes that interest you, even if you don’t think you’ll need to take them. As an attorney, you will be doing this work every day.”

**FIRST STEP**
Meet with your Pre-Law advisor to discuss your Interest in law and possible majors and career paths.

**FIRST YEAR**
Expand and broaden your interests. Your liberal arts education will prepare you well regardless of which you choose to study. Consider choosing a major and/or minor (including our interdisciplinary minors) that interest you. If you are interested in certain types of law, you may want to start planning to take courses in those areas (e.g., criminal law—forensic studies courses; patent law—major in a natural science).

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**FRESHMAN SUMMER**
Seek an opportunity that strengthens the skills you’ll need for a career in law: 

- Pre-Law and summer programs
- Student leadership positions

Consider working at a not-for-profit agency. Interest in family law?

Pursue a job working at a summer camp.

**Sophomore Year**
Deepen your liberal arts education by taking core courses and more courses in your major or minor. Consider taking an elective and/or pursue a service-learning course or volunteer through the Center for Community Service, and Justice to deepen your understanding of social justice. This experience might help you build possible internships for the future.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Fall Semester—Apply to summer abroad.
- Spring Semester—Meet with the Pre-Law advisor and discuss your planned course of study, major and minor, and possible internships and additional, relevant coursework.

**Sophomore Summer Internship**
Prove you’re a hard worker with a strong work ethic. A summer job or internship doesn’t necessarily have to be in a legal setting. Find an opportunity to work with people and sharpen your client rapport building skills or writing, researching, or public speaking skills.

**Junior Year**
Your summer internship helped you to hone your skills and strengthen your interest in law and perhaps even the area of law you will pursue in college. Utilize the Career Center to refine your résumé.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Pre-Law Society—Join the Pre-Law Society to take on a leadership role in this club or any other campus organization.
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- Summer Intership—Consider one or both semesters as your major and interest allow.

**Junior Summer Internship**
Pursue a job or internship—ideally in a legal-related setting. Consider any job or internship that you think you’re interested in. Study for and take the LSAT.

**Sophomore Year**
Apply for positions between November and March.

- Spring—Take courses; major in a natural science.
- Summer—Summer Internship
- Fall—Pursue a job or internship—ideally in a legal-related setting. Consider any job or internship that you think you’re interested in. Study for and take the LSAT.

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**Senior Year**
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**Sophomore Winter Internship**
Apply for your first job. Stay flexible. A strong work ethic is critical. Consider choosing a major or minor that focuses on the area of law.

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- Interdisciplinary Minor in Forensic Studies
- Pre-Law Program

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Make Your Résumé a 30-Second Success

Employers spend only 30 seconds looking at your résumé. Make it count.

What is going to stand out? Experience, GPA, and interests. Let your strengths shine!

Highlight two or three leadership examples you want to communicate.

EDUCATION

- Name: They should recognize your name from networking events.
- Mailing Address: Use your Loyola address, and expect to travel.
- Email Address & Phone Number: Provide a professional email address.

HIGHLIGHT TWO OR THREE LEADERSHIP EXAMPLES YOU WANT TO COMMUNICATE.

- University: No high school references
- Major & Expected Graduation Date
- GPA & SAT: If your GPA isn’t >3.4, list your Major GPA. Don’t include your SATs unless above 1600/2100.
- Honors, Coursework & Projects

WORK & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- 2 to 4 Entries: Include clubs if you don’t have enough internships or jobs.
- Choose an Approach: Decide if you will be project- or task-centric.
- Results: Provide measurable results of your work. It’s all about results!

SKILLS, ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

- Be Memorable: Focus on your skills that help you stand out.
- Be In-Depth: Describe key items; don’t just provide a laundry list.
- Be Relevant: List relevant technical skills, certifications, and training.

Major Areas of Law Practice

PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE

Some attorneys work in large national or international firms, while others form smaller partnerships or even hang their shingle and work in a solo practice. Lawyers advise and advocate on their behalf regarding a wide range of issues, so choosing an area of law that aligns with your interests likely will not be a problem. Salaries will vary based on practice area and location.

EXAMPLES OF PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil Rights
- Family
- Immigration
- Injury Litigation
- Tax Law
- Wills and Trusts

BUSINESS AS IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

- Employment and Labor
- Intellectual Property
- Real Estate Transactions
- Sports and Entertainment

PUBLIC SERVICE LAWYERS

Some attorneys pursue a career working for the government or for a non-profit. While salaries are generally lower than private practice, the rewards in seeking justice drive many to these areas.

EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

- Government—All levels of public administration, from cities to the federal government, require and rely on legal advice.
- Prosecutor—Represents the state in bringing criminal charges against someone, including white collar crimes.
- Public Defender—Represents the criminally accused. Seeking trial work? This is an excellent career path.
- Public Interest Organization—Many public interest groups seek legal advice and advocacy, such as civil rights advocates and those focused on immigration.

Applying to Law School

Meet with the Loyola Pre-Law advisor

1. Meet with the Loyola Pre-Law advisor
2. Prepare for and take the LSAT
3. Research law schools
4. Visit law schools and speak with recruiters
5. Gather transcripts and letters of recommendation
6. Compose a personal statement and polish your résumé
7. Apply!

Career Services Support

Visit Loyola’s Career Center to discuss your career-related values. Take an interest assessment and reflect on your strengths early on to evaluate your match for a career in law.

Self-Discovery

Career Services Support

Visit Loyola’s Career Center to discuss your career-related values. Take an interest assessment and reflect on your strengths early on to evaluate your match for a career in law.

Meet alumni who practice law or work in a legal setting to learn about their experiences, attend info sessions and career fairs, and get connected to pro-laws, community service, or justice-oriented clubs.

Attend career fairs, treks, and on-campus info sessions, maintain and keep building your network of alumni, and apply to internships, jobs, and law schools.

loyola.edu/careercenter