

Pre-Law

Students interested in pursuing a post-graduate degree in law and/or government-related experience may select any of Vanderbilt's undergraduate majors. Most law schools have no specific requirements for a pre-law curriculum but place great emphasis on a student's ability to read and comprehend accurately, thoroughly, and rapidly; to speak and write clearly, comprehensively and persuasively; to think precisely; and to analyze complex situations. The development of analytical skills and mature study habits is vital. Since law touches every aspect of our public and private lives, every subject in the college curriculum is relevant to legal practice. Students interested in studying law are encouraged to plan their undergraduate curriculum with Vanderbilt's pre-law adviser.

Undergraduate Preparation

- Work with your academic adviser to choose courses that will build your communication, critical reasoning, and logical analysis skills.
- Consider seeking law and/or government-related internship or work experience.
- Begin to think about whom you might ask to write letters of recommendation for you.
- Be aware that your GPA is a very important factor in your application.
- Seek opportunities to engage in community service, develop your leadership skills and a well-rounded college experience.
- Read everything you can find on legal careers and the law. As with any career decision, carefully consider the pros and cons of your career choice.

Resources for Pre-Law Students

- Freshmen interested in Vanderbilt's pre-law program will have the opportunity to attend an information session during orientation in August.
- Career Coaches in Vanderbilt's Center for Student Professional Development

(vanderbilt.edu/career), located in the Student Life Center, are available to work with students interested in pursuing law careers. The Center for Student Professional Development maintains a pre-law listserv with announcements of programs and services of interest to pre-law students. LSAT/LSDAS registration and information books are available in the Center library, and a Graduate and Professional School Fair is sponsored each year where a significant number of law school admissions representatives are available to meet with students.

- The Commodore Career Connection is a database of over 11,000 Vanderbilt alumni who have agreed to offer advice on their particular career field, industry, location, etc. to other Vanderbilt alumni and students.

Top Feeder Schools at which Vanderbilt Graduates Matriculated, Fall 2018*

1. Georgetown
2. Vanderbilt
3. University of Virginia
4. Duke University
5. New York University/Columbia (tie)

*List provided by Law School Admission Council

Helpful Resources

Law School Admission Council: lsac.org

The American Bar Association: abanet.org

The Association for Legal Career Professionals: nalp.org

Contact

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<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/pre-law/>