Major Steps 2013-2014

Pre-Law

Note: Highline Community College does not offer this major. However, you can complete many of the pre-requisite courses at Highline. Every effort has been made to provide current, accurate publication content. Always verify the admission information with your intended university.

What does a lawyer do?

Most of the time, lawyers are not pleading a case in front of a judge and jury but rather preparing documents, researching legal data and examining the evidence and facts of a case. Essentially, attorneys work with clients to advise them about their legal rights and responsibilities. Typically attorneys work long hours researching legal issues and developing strategies on behalf of their client. It is critical that lawyers be strong communicators. In addition, lawyers need to be able to organize and prioritize their work projects.

Lawyers are licensed professionals who often specialize in one particular area such as family, criminal, real estate, environmental or contract law. Not all lawyers are employed at big law firms. Approximately 27% of all lawyers work independently.

This profession is often attractive to those who prize achievement and recognition, have enterprising interests and can work both independently or as part of a team.

How do I prepare for Law School?

Many pre-law students are not sure about major they should select. In reality, law students come from every discipline imaginable. It is important to choose an undergraduate major that is of interest to you--something you enjoy and excel in. Naturally a major that you do well in academically will make you more competitive for law school. Many successful law students have earned their undergraduate degrees in diverse fields such as computer science, mathematics, business, sociology, political science, economics, and others. Attorneys must represent the differing views of various
individuals and interest groups and therefore, diversity in experience is essential to the professional attorney and the legal system.

It is critical that you take courses that will enhance your skills in areas such as critical analysis, logical reasoning, research, and written and oral communication. The ability to effectively interpret and analyze information together with the ability to communicate effectively in both oral and written forms is essential.

Completing a law degree generally takes at least three years. To enter law school, you usually need to have completed a baccalaureate degree and scored very well on the Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT). All prospective law students must take the half-day LSAT that provides a standard measure of acquired reading and verbal reasoning skills. The LSAT is specifically designed to predict law school success by testing skills such as analyzing problems. The LSAT requires the ability to read well, think critically and analytically.

**What Washington Universities have a Law School?**

There are three law schools in the state of Washington: The University of Washington-Seattle, Seattle University and Gonzaga University. Upon completion of your law studies, you must pass a State Bar Examination before you are qualified to practice law in that state. In the state of Washington, the Washington State Bar Association administers the admissions, licensing and discipline functions for the attorneys in the state.

**Where can I get more information on this career?**


**How do I get a faculty advisor?**

To request a faculty advisor, go to: [http://edplanning.highline.edu/request.advisor.php](http://edplanning.highline.edu/request.advisor.php) or drop in at the Educational Planning and Advising Center (EPAC) in Building 6.

For our hours of operation, go to [http://edplanning.highline.edu/contact.php](http://edplanning.highline.edu/contact.php)