Admission to law school is highly competitive. Law school prepares students to understand and work with legal systems by developing their abilities to write and speak persuasively, anticipate consequences, and use creative and analytical problem solving skills. Most law school graduates practice law; but a legal education is very flexible, providing training for any number of professions.

The Juris Doctor, or JD, is the most common degree conferred by law schools. All American Bar Association approved law schools usually require 3 years of full-time study to earn a JD. Some law schools also offer part-time programs that generally take 4 to 5 years to complete. In addition, many schools offer joint degrees. A JD/MBA or JD/MA may take 4-5 years to complete, but generally takes less time to complete than completing the two degrees separately.

Choosing an Undergraduate Major
“Pre-law” is not a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. Law schools do not require or prefer any particular major; they look for an undergraduate educational background that sharpens analytical reasoning and writing skills. However, students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary.

Students with good skills before entering law school will be better prepared to manage the demands of their law school courses. Therefore, take challenging courses that require extensive writing, reading, research, and critical analysis, regardless of whether these courses are in your field of study. Participating in extracurricular activities or research projects can also develop your critical thinking abilities.

Law School Selection Criteria
- GPA in terms of overall college grades is a major factor in the selection process.
- All American Bar Association approved law schools require the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The LSAT is a standardized test that assesses your reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, logical reasoning, and your writing through a writing sample. This is a major factor in the selection process.
- Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS) report standardizes your grades and sends them as a part of a report to the law schools you want to attend. Almost all American Bar Association approved law schools require applicants to use the LSDAS. Your LDSAS subscription is good for 12 months.
- Letters of recommendation from professors, people who know you well, or employers who can attest to your analytical and logical reasoning skills.
- The personal statement is a sample of your ability to write clearly and consciously. It is also an opportunity for you to tell the admissions committee about yourself. Most schools do not conduct interviews; therefore, the statement represents an opportunity for you to present yourself as more than just a GPA and an LSAT score.

Salary Information
In 2012, the average annual wage in California was $153,480 with most people making between $73,950 and higher according to (www.cacareerzone.com).

Recommended Websites
- Law School Admissions Council http://www.lsac.org/
- Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools http://officialguide.lsac.org/
- UC Berkeley Career Center http://career.berkeley.edu/Law/Law.stm

Select Law School Websites
- Loyola Law School http://www.lls.edu/
- Pepperdine University http://law.pepperdine.edu/
- University of California, Berkeley http://www.law.berkeley.edu/
- University of California, Los Angeles http://www.law.ucla.edu/home/
- University of Southern California http://lawweb.usc.edu
Law Majors

The following majors are available at university campuses for the selected discipline. The campuses that offer the major are identified next to each major name. Click a campus abbreviation next to a major to see more information about that major.

- Anthropology/Law and Society B.A. (UCR)
- Business Administration B.S. (CSUN)
- Business Administration B.S. with Business Arts-Prelegal Option (CSULA)
- Business Administration B.S. with Business Law Option (CSUN)
- Business Administration B.S. with Finance, Real Estate and Law Option (CPP)
- Criminal Justice - Paralegal Studies Option B.A. (CSUSB)
- Criminology, Law and Society B.A. (UCI)
- Economics/Law and Society B.A. (UCR)
- History/Law and Society B.A. (UCR)
- Human Communication B.A. (CSUMB)
- Human Communication B.A. Concentration in Pre-Law (CSUMB)
- International Studies B.A. (CSUEB)
- Legal Studies B.A. (UCB, UCSC)
- Philosophy B.A. (CSUFULL, CSULA, CSUSB, UCLA)
- Philosophy B.A. Concentration in Applied Ethics and Law (CSUS)
- Philosophy B.A. with Law & Society Option (CPP)
- Philosophy B.A. with Option in General Philosophy (CSULA)
- Philosophy B.A. with Option in Pre-Law (CSULA)
- Philosophy B.A. with PreLaw Option (CSUFRES)
- Philosophy/Law and Society B.A. (UCR)
- Political Science - Public Law B.A. (UCSD)
- Political Science B.A. (CSUC, CSUCI, CSULB)
- Political Science B.A. - Pre-Law Option (CSUEB)
- Political Science B.A. Concentration in Pre-Law (CPSLO)
- Political Science B.A. with Law and Society Option (CSUN)
- Political Science B.A. with Politics and Government Option (CSUN)
- Political Science B.A. with Prelegal Option (CSULA)
- Political Science/Law and Society B.A. (UCR)
- Pre-Professional Programs (CSUEB)
- Psychology/Law and Society B.A. (UCR)
- Science, Technology, and Society B.A. (CPP)
- Sociology B.A. with Law and Society Option (CSULA)
- Sociology/Law and Society B.A./B.S. (UCR)

Associations

- American Arbitration Association
  - www.adr.org
  - Websitemail@adr.org
  - (212) 716-5800
- American Bar Association
  - www.abanet.org
  - Service@abanet.org
  - (202) 662-1000
- American Board of Certification
  - www.abcwold.org
  - Certification@abcworldNOSPAM.org
  - (703) 739-1023
- Nat’l Assoc. of Elder Law
  - www.naela.org
  - (520) 881-4005

Note: Information subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up-to-date information.

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