

k-state

study guide

kansas state university

Pre-Law

A lawyer is involved with people, with their cultural, social, political, and economic institutions, and above all with their hopes and dreams. As an advocate, negotiator, advisor, mediator, and public citizen, a lawyer has the responsibility to preserve the rights of individuals and to secure justice in a democratic republic.

The legal profession

Law in the United States reflects the dynamics of power, and thus of conflict, within American society. In order to resolve conflict and to promote orderly change, lawyers call upon many fields of learning in the humanities, arts, social sciences, and natural sciences. They need skill in analysis, breadth of vision, and a commitment to justice, for law is a humanistic pursuit based on the purposes and principles of the civilization it serves.

If you are interested in a career that requires precision in thinking, research, and writing, and you want to be involved with people and their social, political, cultural, and economic aspirations, you should consider becoming an attorney.

Career opportunities

The K-State Pre-Law Club sponsors meetings that acquaint students with the study of law and with careers in law. These careers are remarkably varied. They include, among others, private practice, corporate law, public interest practice, judiciary service, and teaching.

Lawyers frequently choose to specialize in one or more of these areas:

- Securities
- Tax
- Environment
- Antitrust
- Poverty
- Patent
- Criminal
- Computer
- Trial
- Admiralty
- Family
- Labor
- Agriculture
- Real estate
- Human rights
- Trust and estate
- Immigration
- Communications
- Personal injury
- International
- Intellectual property
- Entertainment

Lawyers who do not wish to practice as attorneys have found a law background to be an advantage in such fields as:

- Corporate management
- Urban planning
- Publishing
- Banking
- Library science
- Manufacturing
- Health services
- Corrections administration
- Social services
- Foundation administration
- Labor relations
- Politics
- Education
- International diplomacy
- Insurance
- Broadcasting

K-State pre-law students

There are several hundred pre-law students at K-State. Each year, K-State sends seniors from diverse geographic, economic, academic, racial, and cultural backgrounds to law schools in Kansas and throughout the nation.

The University of Kansas, Washburn, Washington University of St. Louis, Harvard, Stanford, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, William and Mary, University of Virginia, Duke, Northwestern, Columbia, George Washington, Georgetown, Notre Dame, Iowa, Miami, and the University of Texas are among the schools that have recently accepted K-State pre-law students.

In recent years, K-State students served by the pre-law office have been accepted to law school at a rate substantially exceeding the national average.

Distinguished K-State alumni who have attended law school have included a chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court, a federal district judge, a dean of the University of Kansas Law School, a dean of Washburn Law School, a U.S. Supreme Court clerk, and a number of Kansas legislators.

Historically underrepresented in law schools, women and minority students have discovered there are exciting opportunities in law.

The program

The pre-law program at K-State and the pre-law program recommended by the Association of American Law Schools are identical. Both call for an individualized course of study that emphasizes breadth, depth, and rigor. In addition, both stress that in preparing for law school, you may select the major of your choice in any department in any college within the university.

Regardless of your major, you will have the opportunity to work with the K-State pre-law advisor in selecting courses that will enable you to develop the capacities necessary for law study.

While law schools do not identify specific courses that must be taken before admission, they do stress completion of challenging courses that help you to understand the wide range of human institutions and values with which the practice and the study of law are concerned. You are also expected to acquire the ability to think analytically and creatively and to write and speak with clarity.

Among disciplines cited as valuable in pre-law study are English, speech, languages, history, philosophy, mathematics, science, accounting, political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, statistics, computer science, and engineering.

The goal of law study “is to bring the whole of human insight to bear on the study of law and its institutions.”*

**University of Michigan Law School Bulletin, the University of Michigan.*

Advising

Students considering law school come to the pre-law office for advising beginning in the freshman year or as soon as they identify an interest in law study.

The advisor meets with pre-law students in individual conferences each semester, and together they plan a curriculum that takes into account the unique strengths and interests of each individual. Students work closely with the advisor in selecting courses that will enable them to develop the competencies necessary for law study.

They also confer with the advisor individually to select the schools to which they wish to apply or to identify alternatives to a law career. The advisor assists the student individually with the personal statement that is an integral part of the application to law school. The pre-law advisor also holds practice LSATs, Logic Workshops, and other group meetings to assist in the preparation for taking the Law School Admission Test and for the law school application process.

The pre-law office is a resource center providing information about every accredited law program in the country. At Pre-Law Club events and in other meetings, students have an opportunity to talk with visiting representatives of law schools.

Prospective students are welcome to visit the pre-law office throughout the year.

For more information about pre-law, contact:

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119 Anderson Hall
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1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or
785-532-6250
E-mail: k-state@k-state.edu
consider.k-state.edu



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