Welcome to Baylor New Student Orientation

LIGHTS
Benjamin J. Cooper
Pre-Law Program Manager

- Law degree from University of Queensland, Australia (2005).
- Admitted to Queensland Supreme Court and Australian High Court (2007).
- Admitted to the Supreme Court of England & Wales (2010).
- Civil litigator in Australia and London’s ‘Square Mile’ financial district.
- Most importantly, your point-person for everything Pre-Law at Baylor.

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Your Pre-Law Contact Point
The road to a legal career is a long and demanding one...

- 4 years at Baylor (choosing your own major)
- LSAT/Admission tests and rigorous admissions process
- 3 year J.D. program
- Bar exam
- Legal practice
What does it mean to be Pre-Law?

• Pre-professional academic designation (2 Tiers)
• Compatible with any major
• Track vs. Designation

Overarching roles
• Academic advising and career discernment
• Fostering community in the Pre-Law community
• Strategic career planning
Pre-Law (Tier 1)

- Can be added by ANY student prior to the completion of 24 Baylor credit hours (BCH)

- To retain or add the designation beyond 24 BCH, students must have at cumulative GPA of at least 3.2

- Students who hold the designation, but do not meet the academic requirements, will automatically drop to Pre-Law Interest.

- The designation cannot be regained, once lost.
Pre-Law Interest (Tier 2)

- Still retain access to Pre-Law advising and application assistance
- Still able to apply to law school
- Will still receive weekly emails, updates, application assistance etc.
- Serves as a tangible warning that if law school is the goal of a student, academic success needs to be the priority.
OUR MISSION IS...

• To help you ‘know before you go’
• To prepare you

AND TO BE ADMITTED TO THE RIGHT SCHOOL,
AT THE RIGHT PRICE.
What is being a lawyer really like?
The reality of a legal career....

Two questions YOU must answer:

1) Do you have an understanding of what it’s like to be a lawyer?

   AND

2) Do you want to be one?
QUESTION 1:

Do you understand what it is like to be a lawyer?

- Do you have a desire to develop the ABA skill set?

- Are you interested in different legal disciplines?

- Have you spoken to people doing what you hope to?

- Do you enjoy reading and writing significant amounts of material?
ABA Core Skill Set

• Problem Solving
• Critical Reading
• Writing and Editing
• Oral Communication and Listening
• Research
• Organization and Management
• Public Service and Promotion of Justice
• Relationship-building and Collaboration
• Background Knowledge
• Exposure to the Law
What does this have to do with being Pre-Law at Baylor?

• Choose you major based on your interests and aptitude

• Pre-Law/Pre-Law Interest is an ACADEMIC DESIGNATION/S, not a major.

• Advised according to your major, but your Pre-Law designation/s gives you the tools and resources to:

  (A) Discern whether a legal career is for you; and if so...

  (B) To pursue law school.

MORE ON THIS LATER...
QUESTION 2:

Do you want to be a lawyer?

- Don’t go to medical school if you are only interested in anatomy.

- This is an ongoing (and active) investigation, being Pre-Law doesn’t mean you:
  - CANNOT CHANGE YOUR MIND
  - MUST GO TO LAW SCHOOL
  - CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY PURSUE OTHER CAREERS

EFFORT = OPTIONS
Do I want to be a lawyer?

You cannot answer this unless you know what a lawyer actually does.

- **Interview attorneys**, dozens over the course of 4 years
- **Take part** in Pre-Law events
- Regularly **listen** to the Pre-Law podcast
- **Join** the Pre-Law Society
- **Mock Trial, Moot Court or Model UN**
- **Take STL1102** – Pre-Law prep course
- **Seek and obtain opportunities to gain practical experience**
New Student Experience Course (STL 1102) Understanding the Legal Profession

- Develop the skills needed to succeed academically
- Undertake an academic study of the legal profession.
- Develop a concrete and individualized plan to prepare for law school.
- Connect with lawyers
- Understand what it is like to be a lawyer.
Legal Reasoning and Analysis - Minor

• Tailored approach to preparing for the LSAT and law school
• Does not need to detract from your major/s
• Is optional and not a conditional part of being a Pre-Law student

Minor Requirements:
• One Logic course (3 hours).
• One Analytical Reasoning course (3 hours).
• 12 hours of courses from any of the following: Critical Reading and Problem Solving; Writing and Editing; Oral Communication; Research; Background knowledge and Exposure to the Law; Commitment to Justice.
• 9 hours must be “3000” or “4000” level.
• “C” grade minimum for all courses.
• At least 12 hours must be taken at Baylor, on campus (not online).
Academic Programs for Baylor Pre-Law Students

• Baylor in Washington DC
• Pre-Law tracks within majors e.g. Philosophy, Poli-Sci, Economics
• Baylor Interdisciplinary Core (BIC)
• Honors College
• University Scholars Program
• Baylor Business Fellows
• Undergraduate research opportunities
• National and international scholarships
Academics matter, but are not enough on their own...

• Early shadowing opportunities/Informational interviews

• Upper-level internship for credit

• Washington DC Internship Program

• Devoted internship coordinators (Career Services Office)

• Mentors
Get involved in the programs outside of the classroom

• Pre-Law Society
• Mock Trial
• Moot Court
• Model UN
• Model Organization of American States
• Student Court
• 100’s of student orgs.
Baylor Pre-Law – Make the most of Baylor

The journey to law school, starts now.

- **Work hard** in the classroom and be active outside of it
- **Attend** events (make the most of being back in-person!)
- Pre-Law podcast – **listen regularly**
- **Take advantage** of regular admissions workshops
- **Maximize opportunities** to network with alumni
- **Benefit** from mock law school classes
The Goal: A Legal Career
The LSAT

- Mandatory entrance exam, 4 x 35 minute sections, 4 scored + writing sample (currently administered online)

- Test of logical reasoning and analytical skills, as well as reading comprehension.

- Does not test of aptitude or content, but predicts your likely success as a 1L.

- Requires extensive preparation, but is learnable. 3-6 months of preparation of 10-15 hours per week at a min.

- It is the most important part of your application (but isn’t the only factor).

- OTHER THAN DIVERSITY, IT IS THE ONLY CONSIDERATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

How Baylor Pre-Law helps:

- Regular LSAT workshops.

- Intro to Logic and Intermediate Logic courses.

- STL 1101 & STL 1102 Pre-Law Courses.

- Baylor Law School – Admission Boot Camp.

- On campus admission workshops and guest speakers.

- Podcast

- Individualized admission preparation and advising
## Grades & Experience Matter

### 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Law School</th>
<th>Median GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U of Michigan</td>
<td>78% 1+ years</td>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>3.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>78% (1) 61% (2) 23% (4+)</td>
<td>University of Texas</td>
<td>3.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>Avg 2 years (8% 30+ yrs of age)</td>
<td>Baylor</td>
<td>3.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Berkeley</td>
<td>Avg 3 years (7% 30+ yrs of age)</td>
<td>Cornell</td>
<td>3.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>41% (1-3 years) 18% (3+ years) (59% with 1 yr+)</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>3.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Virginia</td>
<td>Avg 2 years, 65% have postgraduate experience</td>
<td>Penn</td>
<td>3.89</td>
</tr>
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The 6 P’s of Success

PRIOR PREPARATION AND PLANNING PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE

• Law school preparation starts NOW.
• Get involved but, manage your time/priorities.
• Don’t be afraid to make mistakes, learn from them.
• Prepare an involvement/achievement log.
• Take Intro and Intermediate Logic prior to before Jr. year.
• Consider adding the Legal Reasoning and Analysis minor.
• Build relationships with professors, attend office hrs.
• Freshman Year – Get acclimated and focus on academics, find your groove.
• SOPHOMORE YEAR – Grades, faculty relationships, resume building.
• JUNIOR YEAR - begin to step up and increase your LSAT preparation (10-15hrs/wk min). Make sure spring of junior year is a light load to account for increased LSAT prep.
- EXPLORE & DISCERN
- PREPARE, ACADEMICALLY & PROFESSIONALLY
- FLOURISH AS A LEGAL PROFESSIONAL
Are you up for the challenge?