

1. Explore Majors

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, there is neither a pre-law major nor a pre-law track. Why not? Because your classes in law school will teach you what you need to know about the law in order to practice. You should devote your undergraduate years to developing a broader base of knowledge. Take advantage of this freedom, and major in something that you would truly enjoy studying. Pre-law students can declare any major, but you should make every effort to do well academically in whatever major you choose.

2. Consider skill-based coursework

There is no prerequisite coursework that you should take in order to prepare for law school. Instead, the American Bar Association suggests that you focus on developing certain skills and exposing yourself to broad areas of knowledge while you are in college. Consult the Center for Pre-Law Advising's Pre-Law Coursework handout for further guidance on the types of courses that can help you lay a strong foundation for law school.

5. Connect with the Center for Pre-Law Advising

The Center for Pre-Law Advising offers numerous pre-law informational sessions, panels, workshops, and shadowing opportunities in addition to academic advising. Further, it hosts an annual law school fair attended by more than 100 law school representatives. To stay informed on upcoming activities, you can "like" the UW-Madison Center for Pre-Law Advising page on Facebook, follow the Center on Twitter (@UWPrelawCenter), and/or check the Upcoming Events calendar at www.prelaw.wisc.edu. To schedule an appointment online with the Director of the Center, visit www.prelaw.wisc.edu.



CENTER FOR
Pre-Law Advising
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

What Should I Do As A Freshman?

3. Get Involved

One of the benefits of attending such a large university is the opportunity to involve yourself in any one of more than 800 student organizations and/or hundreds of local volunteering opportunities. Student organizations and volunteering allow you to meet other students with similar interests and also to engage with the UW and Madison communities. Law schools prefer students to demonstrate involvement in their communities and to take on leadership roles in those communities to the extent possible. Such involvement tends to indicate that you will be an active participant in your law school community and in the community where you will practice law. Academic involvement, including research with professors through the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program, is another valuable form of involvement.

4. Confirm an Interest in Law

You do not need to be 100% sure about your interest in the law for quite some time, but you should use your early years in college to investigate the profession of law further and to confirm your continued interest. Consider joining a pre-law student organization, take a law-related class, attend pre-law events on campus, and talk to or shadow as many attorneys as you can (family members, family friends, parents of friends, speakers at panels, etc.).