

University of Indianapolis – Shaheen College of Arts & Sciences
2023-2024 Curriculum Guide for Pre-Law Program (PLAW)
Professional Studies Concentration

“Taking difficult courses from demanding instructors is the best generic preparation for legal education.” This is the advice of the American Bar Association (ABA) Pre-Law Committee. In accordance with this ABA guideline the University of Indianapolis offers a rigorous undergraduate liberal arts education.

Students often ask what undergraduate major is the best preparation for law school. The ABA “does not recommend any particular group of undergraduate majors, or courses that should be taken by those wishing to prepare for legal education.” For this reason, students graduating from the University of Indianapolis who are admitted to law school have a wide variety of undergraduate majors, including Political Science, History, Philosophy, English, Sociology, and Business.

Admission to law school depends on the following criteria:

1. Undergraduate grade point average (GPA);
2. LSAT (Law School Admission Test) score;
3. Strong letters of recommendation; and
4. A personal statement from the applicant.

The first two criteria, GPA and LSAT score, are by far the most important. Different law schools give different weight to these two factors. In some cases, a low LSAT score can be offset by a high GPA and vice versa.

University of Indianapolis Pre-Law students may choose from a wide variety of law courses offered at the undergraduate level in our Legal Studies minor. In addition, students enrolled in the Political Science law courses participate in several mock trials where they debate real-world cases currently being heard in the U.S. Federal Courts. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Pre-Law Student Association, which provides members the opportunity to meet and talk with representatives of law schools from across the country at law fairs in the state and the LSAC’s annual Law School Forum in Chicago.

University of Indianapolis graduates have been admitted to and have graduated from law school at Harvard University, Yale University, IU- Bloomington, IU- Indianapolis, the University of Akron, the University of Dayton, Stetson University, the University of Toledo, Valparaiso, Washington University, The University of Notre Dame, Ohio Northern University, Drake University, Ohio State University, and University of Kentucky.

Moreover, University of Indianapolis graduates have served on the law review and have achieved the premier distinction of being editor-in-chief of the law review journal at nationally recognized law schools, including IU- Indianapolis and Washington University. After graduation from law school, University of Indianapolis alumni have served as judicial clerks, as law school faculty, and have been employed by a number of prestigious law firms in Indianapolis and across the country.

REMEMBER: If you have any questions about the Pre-Law Program, contact the Department of History and Political Science (788-3334, Good Hall Room 203).