

# Pre-Law Checklist

*Interested in Law school? Use these steps to prepare.*

1. **Meet with a prelaw advisor regularly.**
  - a. First & Second Year Students (Academic Advising & Transfer Services)
    - i. Josh Belfiore [jbelfiore@southalabama.edu](mailto:jbelfiore@southalabama.edu)
    - ii. Dallas Schmidt [dallasschmidt@southalabama.edu](mailto:dallasschmidt@southalabama.edu)
  - b. Third & Fourth Year Students
    - i. Dr. Ryan Williams [ryanjwilliams@southalabama.edu](mailto:ryanjwilliams@southalabama.edu)
2. **Get involved on campus.**
  - a. Join the [Pre Law Society](#)
  - b. Be a part of an organization that interests you and works to better the community.
3. **Explore different academic areas. Take courses in a variety of disciplines.**
  - a. This will give you a broader perspective on many topics.
  - b. Check out these [courses](#) to build your critical thinking!
4. **Develop strong reading and writing skills.**
  - a. Most lawyers need strong reading and writing skills for daily tasks.
  - b. This will also be important for the LSAT and law school assignments.
5. **Choose a major based on your interests and skills. Do not choose a major just because you think it may help your JD admissions application.**
  - a. Law school does not require any particular major. Pick a major you would excel in that still helps you build your critical thinking.
  - b. Lawyers often specialize in certain areas of law and use their undergraduate work to supplement their understanding. For example, a computer science major who attends law school may specialize in cyber law or a chemistry major may specialize in intellectual property law.

- 6. Meet with Career Services to talk about internships, law school resumes and interview tips.**
  - a. Gain experience through internships and co-ops.
  - b. Refine your resume to emphasize your coursework, GPA/LSAT score and overall work experience.
  
- 7. Conduct informational interviews with lawyers in your area.**
  - a. Lawyers already in the field can give you their honest perspective on the profession.
  - b. Possible shadowing opportunities can give you the inside scoop on the job requirements.
  
- 8. Work on building relationships with your professors.**
  - a. JD applicants often use letters of recommendation from their professors. The best letters of recommendation usually are written when the professor and student have a positive working relationship.
  
- 9. Look into the legal job market and the cost of attending law school.**
  - a. Pay attention to the job market and how lawyers are being hired and where.
  - b. Research the cost of attending law schools, possible scholarships and student loans.
  
- 10. Keep those grades high and study for the Law School Admissions Exam (LSAT).**
  - a. A strong GPA can elevate a JD application for scholarships and faster admission.
  - b. The LSAT score is often the defining factor for JD admissions.
  - c. Here's some free study tools and tips you can use to prepare for the LSAT.
    - i. [LSAC June 2007 Practice Exam](#) & [Info on this Exam](#)
    - ii. [Khan Academy](#) - Free LSAT Prep Course
    - iii. [Manhattan Prep](#) - Free LSAT Resources
    - iv. [Powerscore Virtual Proctors](#) - Free Video Proctoring