

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
 - ii. Dallas Schmidt dallasschmidt@southalabama.edu
 - b. Third & Fourth Year Students
 - i. Dr. Ryan Williams 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