

Pre-Law Program

Saint Vincent College's Pre-Law program is designed to mentor and assist student of all majors considering a legal career; from first-year orientation through application to law school. It's a support program, not a major.

Law schools are very concerned with the quality of preparation students receive during their undergraduate experience. Regardless of the major chosen, a student planning to enter law school must develop an ability to read and comprehend complex texts with accuracy and insight and discern critical issues. The ability to analyze reasoning used by authors and courts to arrive at conclusions is crucial.

Organization and management of information and acquiring communication skills, both verbal and written, are essential. A student must analyze and communicate. It is suggested that in addition to their major, students should consider courses in the following areas; Logic, Intermediate Writing, Constitutional Law, Statistics and Survey of Accounting. Faculty advisors may have further recommendations.

An interdepartmental Pre-Law Committee consisting of faculty members and students exists to aid students in achieving their goals. The Committee has established an annual Legal Profession dinner, supported by alumni, proceeds from which are used to benefit pre-law student activities and field trips. Junior and Senior Pre-Law students are invited to attend the dinner.

The Committee supports College Career Nights where lawyers in a variety of legal areas discuss their profession with students. There is a thriving Mock Trial program, which promotes skills in trial advocacy and legal analysis. An active Pre-Law Club invites guest speakers from the ranks of judges and lawyers, providing essential information and advice on planning for a legal career and becoming aware of the demands, realities and opportunities in the legal profession.

The Committee also works in cooperation with the Career Center to advise students. A Pre-Law Resource Center is located in the Career Center. Students can get assistance with preparation for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) from their faculty advisors. The Career Center, in cooperation with faculty, facilitates placements of interested students in law-related internships.

Information and applications for the Law School Admissions Test (given four times a year) are available at the Career Center.

Law School 3-3 Program

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The Bachelor of Arts/Juris Doctorate degree program is offered through the affiliation of Saint Vincent College and Duquesne University. Admission to the law program at the first-year level will require students to submit test results from the SAT I or ACT exam. Fifteen secondary school academic units are required, including four units of English, two or more units of college preparatory mathematics, one unit of science and three units of social science; two units of a foreign language are preferred among five elective units. Students applying for the law program must register at Saint Vincent College as an English, History, Political Science, Public Policy Analysis or Sociology major. Duquesne University will guarantee a number of places in the entering class of its Law School for students who have successfully completed the Saint Vincent College preprofessional program.

Academic Program Requirements for entry into the Duquesne Law School:

1. Successful completion of a three-year, minimum 100 credits program at Saint Vincent College with a minimum overall GPA of 3.3.
2. Minimum score of 60% on the LSAT.
3. Department approval.

Requirements – English Major

(36 credits as listed in the Saint Vincent College **Bulletin**)

The major in English emphasizes genre and period studies, criticism and writing courses.

Requirements – History Major

(36 credits as listed in the Saint Vincent College **Bulletin**)

Emphasis for the major in History includes studies of specific areas (Contemporary Europe, U.S. History, Global History, etc.) and research techniques.

Requirements – Political Science Major

(B.A., 39 credits as listed in the Saint Vincent College **Bulletin**).

The major in Political Science includes courses in government and foreign policy.

Requirements – Public Policy Analysis Major

(B.A., 39 credits as listed in the Saint Vincent College **Bulletin**).

Areas of study to fulfill the requirements for the major in Public Policy Analysis include economics, public and foreign policy and government.

Requirements – Sociology Major

(36 credits as listed in the Saint Vincent College **Bulletin**)

The major in Sociology requires students to study various subjects, including social problems, anthropology, theory and statistics.

Requirements – Theology Major

(30 credits as listed in the Saint Vincent College **Bulletin**)

The major in Theology prepares students for the academic study of religion and numerous career opportunities.

Years One, Two & Three – at Saint Vincent College

The sum of the Core Curriculum and Departmental requirements may exceed the total needed (100) because some courses satisfy both requirements.

Years Four, Five & Six – at Duquesne University