

Shining a light on...

Pre-Law

A profile of Pre-Law at Wittenberg University

Develop valuable skills for law school

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Letter from Birmingham Jail, 1963

A liberal arts education is simply the best preparation for law school.

For a liberal arts education teaches you *how* to think, not *what* to think. Though you might, of course, seek a pre-professional program in law at a large university, Wittenberg, with its core general education curriculum and demanding writing requirement, ensures that you will cultivate the very skills you’ll need as a lawyer (not to mention as a law-school applicant): **critical analysis, logical thinking and the ability to write and speak with precision.** Lawyers spend most of their time engaged in problem-solving. They have to be able to interpret dense and difficult legal materials, figure out which materials are relevant to their work, and then make a case for their relevance.

Wittenberg students who are interested in law do not follow a formal pre-law curriculum, but instead may major in any discipline which inspires their passion. Thus, our graduates not only develop essential lawyerly skills, but at the same time acquire profound knowledge of another field. After all, if you’re thinking of studying environmental law, wouldn’t a science

major be useful to you? Or perhaps you’re interested in public interest law—you might study sociology, focusing on human rights. If you find international law compelling, majoring in political science or East Asian studies might be just the thing for you. Perhaps you’re interested in corporate litigation—wouldn’t it be useful to have a background in management?

Courses

Although you may select a major in any subject, we recommend that all pre-law students take elective courses in English, philosophy, political science, economics, history and mathematics. We encourage you to take one of the law-related courses in our curriculum as early as possible to test your genuine interest in the field. The Logic and Critical Reasoning course offered in the philosophy department provides a solid foundation for beginning LSAT preparation. The following is a sampling of law-related courses in our curriculum:

WittSem

100: Censorship & Free Speech

Communication

280: Reasoning and Communication

351: Media Law

Economics

315: Economics of Labor

320: History of Economic Thought

340: Public Finance

350: Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

360: Industrial Organization

365: Law and Economics

History

202: Writing History: Law in America

225: Church and State

331: American Constitutional History

332: American Constitutional History II

390: Impeachments and Contested Elections

Management

340: Marketing Management

370: Legal Environment of Business

426: Federal Taxation

470: Business Associations

Philosophy

110: Logic and Critical Reasoning

Political Science

227: Criminal Law and Politics

320: Public Administration

321: Public Policy

322: American Constitutional Law

Psychology

160: Proseminar: Social Psychology

Religion

177: Religious Perspectives on Contemporary Moral Issues

378: Bioethics

Sociology

370: Criminology

School of Community Education

300: Issues: Employment Law for Managers

320: Legal Environment of Healthcare

One-on-one advising

Wittenberg professors serve as academic advisors and will help you choose the best major and courses to meet your academic and career goals. We recommend that you meet with Wittenberg's **pre-law advisor** to learn more about the academic courses and co-curricular experiences that will best prepare you for law school and your career as a lawyer.

Internships

We encourage students to complete an internship as a way to explore various areas of law, be exposed to typical legal tasks, and gain valuable experience for law school applications and resumes. You may complete an internship at a local site during the academic year or arrange for a summer internship in your hometown.

Past internship sites have included:

- Clark County Prosecutor's Office
- Columbus Prosecutor's Office
- Common Pleas Court
- Springfield Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Springfield Police Department
- Clark County Juvenile Court
- Montgomery County Juvenile Court
- Various local law firms

Student research

Every academic department at Wittenberg offers opportunities for students to complete research through coursework, independent study or an honors thesis. For pre-law students, these projects help you hone the research, reading comprehension, writing, reasoning and organizational skills that are crucial to a successful law school application and legal career.

A research project is also an excellent opportunity to explore your interests in a particular area of law.

Off-campus opportunities

Many Wittenberg students incorporate an **international experience**—for a semester, year or summer—into their academic program. Pre-law students can benefit from exploring other cultures, learning about international affairs and foreign policy, and studying international business.

Students interested in law also may apply to the **Washington Semester Program**, which involves classes, field trips and internships in Washington, D.C. Past internship sites include the White House, Capitol Hill, Fox News, CNN, the FBI, the D.C. Attorney General's Office, and various political parties and interest groups.

Placement

In recent years, our graduates have attended the following **law schools**, among others:

- American University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Harvard University
- Indiana University—Bloomington
- Lewis & Clark
- Ohio Northern University
- Ohio State University
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Miami, Florida
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Virginia

Get involved

Mock Trial Association: This award-winning, student-run group is an excellent venue for exploring the law and legal careers, becoming familiar with legal jargon and the courtroom, and cultivating analytical skills.

Program Highlight

Since it began in 2003, Wittenberg's Mock Trial Association has

- earned Honorable Mention twice at the National Tournament,
- earned Outstanding Witness and two Outstanding Attorney awards at the Regional Tournament, and
- placed in the top 10 at the Regional Tournament—the only Ohio liberal arts university to do so.

For more information, including course lists and faculty profiles:

(800) 677-7558

www.wittenberg.edu/prelaw

Pre-law Association: This organization provides information about the law school application process and workshops on writing your personal statement. Other activities include visits to the Law School Forum in Chicago, luncheons and lectures with law school representatives, film and speaker series, and community service projects.