La Sierra University’s pre-professional program in Pre-Law prepares students for matriculation to law school. Pre-Law is not a major. Law schools do not require or encourage such a major. Instead, students planning a legal career may pursue the major of their choice. Those commonly chosen are History, Political Science, English, Speech, Journalism, Business, Philosophy, Sociology, and Psychology.

Law schools look for students with a broad liberal arts education emphasizing skills in oral and written communication, and the ability to think creatively and logically. In general, law school graduates must be well-rounded persons able to understand human nature as well as legal philosophy. They must also demonstrate the ability to develop, organize, and present legal concepts and arguments appropriate to their practice area as legal professionals.

Coursework in Pre-Law should be pursued in conjunction with studies in a bachelor’s degree program (major). In the course of fulfilling requirements in their major fields, Pre-Law students are encouraged to meet with a Pre-Law advisor to determine which of the listed courses below best fit their career goals. It is not necessary to take most of these courses but rather to choose several strategically in planning one’s undergraduate program.

**GENERAL COURSES**
- COMM 328 Persuasion (4)
- ENGL 304 Advanced Expository Writing (4)
- HIST/PLSC 190 Historic Trials/Modern Applications
- HIST 430G U.S. Constitution (4)
- HIST 423S Law and Society (4)
- HIST 440F War Crimes and International Policy (4)
- HIST/PLSC 190 Historic Trials/Modern Applications (4)
- HPSC 274 American Government (4)
- PHIL 208 Logic (4)
- PLSC 225 Introduction to Law (2-4) recommended by program
- PLSC 316 Comparative Government (4)

**MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE**
- CPTG 104 Introduction to Information Systems (4)
- MATH 155 Introductory Statistics (4)

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**
- PSYC/SOCI 251 Social Psychology (4)
- PSYC 488B Psychology & Law (4)

**BUSINESS & ECONOMICS**
- ACCT 221 Financial Accounting (4)
- ECON 254 Principles of Macroeconomics (4)
- ECON 255 Principles of Microeconomics (4)
- MGMT 347 Legal Environment of Business (4)
- MGMT 447C Busines Law: Contracts (4)

**PRE-LAW CLUB**
Plan to join the Pre-Law Club, a university-sponsored organization. Contact Jeff Dupée in Department of History, Politics & Society OR Gary Chartier in the Zapara School of Business.
PRE-LAW
Pre-Professional Program

Law schools desire students with a broad liberal arts education emphasizing skills in oral communication, creative and logical thinking, and writing ability. La Sierra University’s Department of History, Politics, and Society has specific courses designed to familiarize students with legal history and principles and emphasizes critical thinking and expository writing skills. Our Pre-Law Program highly recommends four courses to cultivate those skills—Introduction to Law and related courses concerning domestic and international law, Advanced Expository Writing, and Logic. Other strongly recommended courses include courses from the Psychology Department and the School of Business (see their Bulletin entries).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS: Lawyers act as both advocates and advisors. As advocates, they represent one of the opposing parties in criminal and civil trials by presenting arguments that support the client in a court of law. As advisors, lawyers counsel clients as to their legal rights and obligations and suggest particular courses of action in the business and personal matters. Although most lawyers deal with many different areas of the law, a significant number concentrate on one branch of law. These include such areas as probate, international law, communication law, business law, sports law, criminal law and civil law. Lawyers in private practice may concentrate on areas such as litigation, wills, trusts, contracts, mortgages, titles, and leases.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Law schools do not require a specific major for entrance requirements. A Bachelor’s degree will be sufficient for admittance, dependent on your academic performance, LSAT score, recommendations, and other factors.

To practice law in the courts of any state, a person must be licensed, or admitted to its bar, under rules established by the state’s Supreme Court. Lawyers who have been admitted to the bar in one state occasionally may be admitted in another state without taking an examination if they meet that state’s standards of good moral character and have a specified period of legal experience. Federal courts and agencies set their own qualifications for those practicing before them. To qualify for the bar examination in most states, an applicant must complete at least 3 years of college and graduate from a law school approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) or the proper State authorities.

JOB OUTLOOK: Employment of lawyers is expected to grow about as fast as average for all occupations through 2014, primarily as a result of growth in the population and in the general level of business activities. Job growth among lawyers also will result from increasing demand for legal services in areas such as health care, intellectual property, venture capital, energy, elder, antitrust, and environmental law.

SALARY: The median annual wage for lawyers was $76,926 in 2014. Salaries of experienced lawyers vary widely according to the type, size, and location of their employer. Lawyers who own their own practices usually earn less than those who are partners in law firms.