

Lawyers, also called *attorneys*, represent one of the parties in criminal and civil trials by presenting evidence and arguing in court to support their client. They counsel clients concerning their legal rights and obligations, and advise particular courses of action in business and personal matters. Attorneys research the intent of laws and judicial decisions and apply the law to the specific circumstances faced by their client.

Degree: Formal educational requirements for lawyers include a 4-year bachelor degree, 3 years in law school, and the passing of a written bar examination. Law school graduates receive the degree of *juris doctor* (J.D.) as the first professional degree.

Admission to Law School: After or near completion of a Bachelor's Degree, students will apply for Law School. There is no prescribed set of courses or major required. Access to Law School has been obtained via a wide variety of bachelor degree programs including Criminal Justice, Business Administration, Communication and Engineering to name a few. However, the undergraduate major you choose could be meaningful to the type of law profession you may wish to follow. Liberal Arts majors such as English, History, Philosophy and Political Science are traditional pathways to Law School.

Courses promoting strong writing, critical thinking and research skills are essential for success in law school. Selecting challenging or advanced courses is recommended for potential law school applicants (e.g. writing intensive and honors courses). Courses in psychology, sociology and anthropology, which help build interpersonal skills, are important to take. Courses in economics, history, and political science are also strongly recommended. Additionally, courses in logic, ethics and science help develop the rigorous analysis of thought processes necessary for success in law school.

Contact the Pre-Law Advisor at your four-year school for further information and assistance. Additional information can be found at the American Bar Association website at:
<http://www.abanet.org/legaled/prelaw/prep.html>

Criteria of Importance for Acceptance Include:

- Undergraduate grade-point average
- Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score
- College curricular and extracurricular activities
- Individual character and personality
- Work experience
- Past accomplishments and leadership roles

Partial Listing of Colleges in NYS Offering a Degree in Law:

SUNY University at Buffalo	Cornell University	St. John's University
Albany Law School	Fordham University	Syracuse University
Columbia University	New York University	

Specialized Areas of Law and Related Occupations Include:

Adjudicator	District Attorney	Patent Lawyer
Corporate Lawyer	Environmental Attorney	Probate Lawyer
Criminal Lawyer	Insurance Attorney	Tax Attorney

Please note: while every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with a counselor in the MCC Career Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.