Law

Lawyers advise and represent individuals, businesses, and government agencies on legal issues and disputes. They typically: advise and represent clients in courts, before government agencies, and in private legal matters; communicate with their clients and others; conduct research and analysis of legal problems; interpret laws, rulings, and regulations for individuals and businesses; present facts in writing and verbally to their clients or others and argue on their behalf; and prepare and file legal documents, such as lawsuits, appeals, wills, contracts, and deeds.

Degree: Lawyers need a 4-year bachelor degree, 3 years in law school, and to pass a written bar examination. Law school graduates receive the degree of juris doctor (J.D.) as their first professional degree.

Admission: There is no prescribed set of courses or major required. Four-year college majors such as English, History, Philosophy, Economics and Political Science are traditional pathways to law school. However, access to law school has been obtained via a wide variety of bachelor degree programs. If possible, the undergraduate major you choose should be meaningful to the type of law profession you wish to follow.

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is an integral part of the law school admission process. It provides a standard measure of acquired reading and verbal reasoning skills. Selecting challenging courses is recommended for potential law school applicants (for example, writing intensive and honors courses). Courses in psychology, sociology and anthropology which help build understanding of human behavior are important. Courses in economics, history, and political science are strongly recommended. 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 college for further information and assistance.

Criteria of Importance for Acceptance Include:

- Undergraduate grade-point average
- Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score
- College curriculum & extracurricular activities
- Individual character & personality

Colleges in NYS Offering a J.D. Degree: (Students can complete a bachelor’s degree at a different college and then apply to law schools)

- Albany Law School
- Brooklyn Law School City
- University of New York
- Columbia University Cornell Law School
- Fordham University
- Hofstra University
- New York Law School
- New York University
- Pace University
- SUNY University at Buffalo
- Syracuse University
- Touro College
- Yeshiva University

Additional Information:

- American Bar Association: Preparing for Law School
- Law School Admission Council

Related Field: MCC has a Paralegal Studies certificate program.

Note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.

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