



Pre-Law

Gonzaga University's mission of preparing servant leaders committed to social justice means that Gonzaga pre-law students have many opportunities through coursework, co-curricular engagement, and professional development to think deeply about how they can pursue social justice and contribute to their community through the legal profession. Gonzaga pre-law, coordinated through Career & Professional Development, provides students with support, including presentations and one-on-one appointments, to help students learn more about law, whether a legal career is the right path for them, and how to prepare to apply to law school.

ACADEMICS

Law schools agree there is no single undergraduate major that best prepares students for law school. Thus, Gonzaga pre-law students are encouraged to major in any academic area of interest. Students preparing for law school should take courses that emphasize critical analysis of difficult reading material, logical thinking, and writing clear and effective prose. These skills are the tools needed to score well on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and meet the academic challenges of law school. Gonzaga's emphasis on teaching excellence means students can hone these skills in courses across a wide range of majors. Gonzaga also offers three experiential learning programs – Debate Team, Mock Trial, and Model United Nations – that allow students to put these skills into practice while learning about the law.

GONZAGA PRE-LAW ADVISING

Resources available through Career & Professional Development (CPD) and pre-law advising include:

- Individualized support through 1-on-1 appointments
- Workshops and other events to help students gain knowledge about the legal profession and how to apply to law school
- Support with developing law school application materials including resumes and personal statements
- Opportunities to connect with alumni mentors in law school and the legal field

Typical events include:

- Pre-Law Overview
- How to Apply to Law School
- Financing Your Legal Education
- Planning Your Future in Law School

DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Internships

Some students choose to pursue formal internships within the law profession. These opportunities include contact and experience with legal operations in the Washington State Attorney General's Spokane Office, the Washington State Legislature, the Spokane County Bar Association, and in the private sector at local law firms.

Collaborations with Gonzaga School of Law

The close proximity of the Gonzaga School of Law and ties to its faculty, staff, and students means pre-law students have access to a wealth of knowledge and experience about legal education and practice. Students have frequent opportunities to attend events, including the law school's annual Preview Day, and to sit in on law school classes.

Workshops, Panels, and Presentations

Each year, Gonzaga pre-law coordinates various events intended to help pre-law students understand more about the legal profession and the process of applying to law school. These presentations, often co-hosted with law school representatives, include law career exploration, an overview of the law school admission process, and information about financing a legal education.

LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION

The quality of Gonzaga's curriculum and Gonzaga graduates have the respect of law schools across the country. Below is a list of some of the law schools to which Gonzaga graduates have been recently admitted:

- American University
- Arizona State University
- Boston College
- Cornell University
- Duke University
- Fordham University
- George Washington University
- Gonzaga University
- Lewis & Clark College
- New York University
- Pepperdine University
- Santa Clara University
- Seattle University
- Stanford University
- Tulane University
- University of California - Berkeley
- University of California - Los Angeles
- University of Colorado
- University of Idaho
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Washington
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University – St. Louis



DEBATE, MOCK TRIAL, AND MODEL UNITED NATIONS

In addition to other services and courses, Gonzaga offers three award-winning programs/teams that allow students to gain actual experience in research, analysis, critical thinking, writing, public speaking, and negotiation.

Gonzaga's nationally recognized **Debate Program** helps students develop, practice, and hone their skills in analytical and critical thinking, argumentation, and legal research.

Participation in **Mock Trial** gives students practical experience in the courtroom. Students learn how to give opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, closing arguments, and Rules of Evidence. Competing at tournaments helps students develop abilities to think and adjust quickly on the spot.

The award-winning Gonzaga University **Model United Nations** program offers students an unparalleled opportunity to learn about international law and to work with student delegates from around the world at regional and national conferences to solve global issues by writing UN resolutions and treaties.

KEY CONTACTS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
gonzaga.edu/pre-law

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