

Law School Timeline: Undergraduate Years

Freshman and Sophomore Years

- Sign up for the Pre-law Listserv.
- Take courses that will enhance your writing, reading comprehension and analytical skills.
- Develop your logical reasoning ability and increase your awareness of human institutions, social values, and the world at large.
- Develop a realistic view of legal careers. Look for opportunities to obtain law-related experience. Talk with lawyers about their work.
- Choose a major that represents your own academic interests..
- Be serious about your studies. Your grades are a very important part of your law school application.
- Find the right balance between academic coursework and extracurricular activities. Pursue your interests outside of class, but not at the expense of your grades.
- Begin to consider how you will finance a legal education.
- Browse in the Pre-Law Library in Harpur Academic Advising.
- Attend Binghamton's annual Law Day in early Fall.

Junior Year

- Open a **credentials file** at the Career Development Center and request letters of recommendation for law school. Complete your file by the end of junior year, if possible. Thinking about applying to law school after graduation? Be sure to complete your file before you leave Binghamton!!
- Attend Pre-Law Meetings for Juniors, Law Day, and any other law-related events on campus.
- Apply to be mentored by a Harpur Law Council Mentor. Information is available in Harpur Advising, SW 110.
- Register for and take the **LSAT** (Law School Admissions Test) by **February or June** of your junior year, if you will apply as a senior. Registration materials are in Harpur Academic Advising and in the Career Development Center, or online at www.lsac.org. Fee waivers are available. Thinking about applying after graduation? Consider the June LSAT, just after graduation.
- Think about your decision to go to law school and research other options if you are not sure. Most law students take time off between college and law school.
- Think about how you will pay for law school. Talk with your family. Obtain a free credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com
- Research law schools. Begin your target list of schools.
- Talk with the Pre-Law Advisor if you plan to study abroad during junior or senior year.
- Pursue internships and other opportunities to gain experience in the law.

Senior year

- Follow the **Law School Application Year Checklist** (LINK) if you are applying during your senior year.
- **If you plan to apply after college**, schedule an appointment with the Pre-law Advisor before you graduate to discuss your law school plans.
- Consider taking the June LSAT just after graduation. Most law schools will consider LSAT scores taken within three years; some will accept scores within four or five years.
- Be sure that letters of recommendation from faculty have been sent to a confidential file at the Career Development Center or at the LSAC **before you leave Binghamton!** It can be difficult to obtain these letters after graduation.
- Take advantage of career planning and counseling resources at the Binghamton University Career Development Center.



State University of New York

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