
Freshman Year

Fall Semester

- Meet with your IS advisor and learn about the IS-STS degree requirements and our recommended courses for pre-law study. Plan out a tentative two-year schedule of classes.
- Work on developing and maintaining good study habits. Seek help immediately from your profs and/or the Tech Learning Center if you find yourself struggling in classes.
- Begin participating in a few on-campus extracurricular activities, particularly those that will provide service and volunteer experiences.
- Attend pre-law programs sponsored on campus by the IS program and other departments. Freshman year is not too soon to get involved!
- Explore different aspects of the legal profession to make sure it's the best field for your interests and skills.
 - Read law-related books--novels, biographies, books on law school.
 - Visit a courtroom and observe court proceedings.
 - Volunteer at your local courthouse, a law firm, or a city/state/federal agency.
 - Interview legal professionals or law students about what they like most and least about law school and their jobs.
- Browse the Law School Admissions Council website at www.lsac.org. This site provides information on every aspect of the law school admission process--thinking about law school, choosing a school, registering and preparing for the LSAT, preparing your application, and even financing your law studies. Bookmark this site; you will use it often.
- Remember to make good choices. Many law schools now require disclosure of criminal charges, academic disciplinary action/probation, and violations of honor codes. Practice "professionalism" in all you do during your time as an undergraduate.
- Start working on debt management. For example, pay down credit card debt. Improve your credit score now to make acquiring loans for law school easier three years from now.

Spring Semester

- Meet with your IS advisor to fine-tune your sophomore year schedule if necessary.
- Explore study abroad opportunities, especially programs that provide experiences in the comparative study of politics, culture, business, and human/civil rights.
- Explore summer volunteer and/or work activities, particularly those that provide opportunities to work with groups with diverse backgrounds. Admissions committees look for and expect a commitment to volunteerism and service. These experiences can also be the basis for the personal statement portion of your law school application.

Summer

- Volunteer, read widely, attend summer school if necessary.

Sophomore Year

- Meet with your IS advisor to review the freshman year. Fine tune your schedule if needed. Plan out and schedule your junior year classes.
- Maintain a solid GPA, preferably 3.3 - 3.5 or above. Seek help if you fall behind or start to struggle.
- Attend pre-law programs sponsored on campus and in the community.
- Review the Law School Admission Council website (www.lsac.org) for information on choosing a law school.
- Create a list of law schools that interest you, review their websites, and send for viewbooks and additional materials.
- Attend a pre-law day for schools that interest you. These 1-2 day events may be held either fall or spring and provide prospective students with a glimpse of what life as a law student will be like.
- Get to know your professors; these are the people who will be writing letters of recommendation for you. Try to take more than one course from at least one of your professors.
- Continue to participate in volunteer activities and extracurricular activities. Seek opportunities to develop skills in leadership, writing, reading, oral presentation, problem-solving, service, and advocacy. Practice relationship-building and networking skills.
- To get an idea of what the LSAT will be like, review the test preparation pages on the LSAC website. Then check out the two free

tests available from the Learning Express Library, linked from Devereaux Library

at http://learnatest.com/LEL/index.cfm/learningCenter/collegeStudents/Grad_School_Entrance_LEL/LSAT.

Summer between Sophomore and Junior Years

- Continue volunteer and service activities.
- Explore opportunities for paid/unpaid internships with local law firms, government agencies, and local or state congressional offices.

Junior Year

Fall Semester

- Meet with your IS advisor to review the sophomore year. Fine tune your schedule if needed. Plan out and schedule your senior year classes.
- Continue volunteer/service and other activities.
- Attend pre-law programs sponsored on campus and in the community.
- Continue studying for the LSAT by taking practice tests. Form study groups with other pre-law students on campus. You can purchase practice tests from the LSAC.
- Attend law school open houses or pre-law day activities for the schools that most interest you. Make and keep appointments with law school admissions counselors. Arrange to sit in on a class or attend a lecture. Attend any special events provided for prospective law students, ask questions, and try to make personal connections!

Spring Semester

- Meet with your IS advisor to discuss law school applications.
- Attend pre-law workshops and other activities on campus designed to help you create a strong resume and effective personal statement.
- Set up an account through LSAC with LSDAS, the centralized application service. Most law schools now require that all application materials be sent to LSDAS, including letters of recommendation.
- Register for the LSAT online at www.LSAC.org. Fee waivers are available for applicants who qualify, but you must apply for the waiver at least four weeks prior to the registration deadline for the LSAT. Aim for the June exam.

- Start working on your application. Arrange to have all transcripts (one for each college you have attended) sent to LSDAS; you'll have a final transcript sent from SDSM&T following graduation.
- Work on your personal statement to accompany the applications. Ask for feedback on your statement from professors and advisors.
- Request letters of recommendation from professors and other professionals who know you well. In some cases, these letters will be submitted directly by the recommender to LSDAS; some law schools will require direct submission to the law school admissions office. Give your recommenders at least 4-6 weeks advance notice. Provide gentle reminders if necessary. Your application will not be reviewed until it is complete, including all LORs.
- Complete your IS Letter of Intent and pre-law worksheet. Submit these documents to the IS office no later than April 30.

Summer between Junior and Senior Years

- Take the LSAT in June if possible, but no later than October.

Senior Year

Fall Semester

- Meet with your IS advisor to review the junior year and to discuss your law school applications. Fine tune your senior year schedule if needed.
- Complete your application no later than Nov. 1. Many schools have a "rolling" admissions policy and begin accepting applicants during the fall. You also have a better chance at a scholarship if your application is submitted early.
- Continue to participate in volunteer and/or paid health and medical activities; continue to participate in on-campus extracurricular activities.
- Maintain your grades during your senior year! If your applications are not successful and you reapply for admission following graduation, these grades will be important. You may also want to retake the LSAT if you have sufficient time to study and believe you can improve your scores.

Spring Semester

- Once accepted to law school, fill out financial aid (FAFSA) forms immediately to secure funding for the start of school in the late

summer/fall.

- If you receive multiple offers of acceptance, consider visiting (or revisiting) the campuses of your top few choices. Sit in on classes, talk with current law students, get a feel for the environment you will call home for the next three years. Check out the "town" and potential living accommodations. Be sure the fit feels right.**
- If wait-listed, confirm your interest and continue to check back with admissions offices.**
- Accept an offer by April; notify any other schools that you will not attend. Send in your tuition deposit to reserve your seat. Arrange for your final transcript to be sent following graduation.**
- Notify the people who wrote letters of recommendation for you; send them formal thank you letters, not text messages or e-mails.**
- Notify your advisor, the career placement office, and the alumni office of your success; provide a forwarding address as soon as possible.**
- Graduate and celebrate your accomplishments! Stay in touch! Let us know how you're doing.**