Pre-Law With a History Major

Law school is a challenge for all who attempt it, but a Juris Doctor (JD) can lead to a wide array of future career options, including those in government, non-profits, business, higher education, and of course private law firms. A bachelor's degree in history can provide a strong foundation for such a career path, offering insight into human behavior, social processes, and institutions. Below are outlined some of the recommended steps for an undergraduate interested in applying to law school upon completion of their bachelor's degree and the requirements for a major in history, and on the back is a sample schedule for a history major focusing on pre-law.

1.   Talk to your prelaw advisor

A legal career is not right for everyone. With an increasing number of applicants and graduating law students, the road to a successful career can be challenging. Case Western provides ample opportunity to explore whether law school is right for you, and the first step is to email your prelaw advisor, Terri Mester (terri.mester@case.edu). You can learn from her about job opportunities, LSAT practice tests, and sessions conducted by legal professionals.

2. Align your academic career with your future goals

There is no one path into law school. Law schools are interested in students who are well-rounded and have the skills necessary to work in the law profession. A history major can help you develop your talents for research, argumentation, and writing, and provide an understanding of diverse cultures. The customizability of the history major will allow you to focus on aspects of history that will be most conducive to your intended law specialization. Make sure you talk to your pre-law and history advisors about which courses will be most helpful to you, and plan ahead!

3. Prepare for applications

Find a summer internship at a law firm or non-profit, shadow lawyers over break, take on leadership roles in your extra-curricular activities, join the undergraduate Mock Trial team, begin to study for the LSAT, and don't forget to keep in touch with your advisor.

There are many more steps to the application process and there is always more preparation you can do. To learn more about the Pre-Law process at Case, visit

https://case.edu/ugstudies/pre-professional-advising/pre-law.

There you will find all the information above plus much more, including general information and a checklist for your goal of acceptance into Law School.*

History Major Requirements

1. Successfully complete three required courses:
    HSTY 113: Introduction to Modern World History
    HSTY 250: Issues and Methods in History
    HSTY 398: Senior Research Seminar
II. Successfully complete seven electives. These must include one course in U.S. history, one course in pre-modern history, and one course in at least two other, different geographic areas. Each course can only fulfill one requirement.

Example Pre-Law History Major Schedule

FALL SEMESTER

- SAGES First Seminar
- Other Classes of your choice

SPRING SEMESTER

- HSTY 113: Intro. To World History
- SAGES University Seminar

FALL SEMESTER

- Required U.S. History Course
- SAGES University Seminar

SPRING SEMESTER

- History Elective
- Other classes of your choice

FALL SEMESTER

- HSTY 250: Issues and Methods in History
- History Elective
- Other classes of your choice

SPRING SEMESTER

- History Elective
  History Elective
- Other classes of your choice

FALL SEMESTER

- HSTY398: Senior Capstone/Research Sem.
- History Elective
- Other classes of your choice

SPRING SEMESTER

- History Elective
- Other classes of your choice

Key

- History Major Requirement
- Elective – Make sure to consult with your pre-law advisor about which classes will be most helpful to you!
- History Major Elective (1 of 7, see front for restrictions)
- University Requirement