

Considering a Career as a Lawyer?

You are not alone

Many students imagine trying cases before a judge and jury, but there are many ways to practice law.

What to major in for preparing for law school?

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/pre-law-majors-schools-programs>

Look at the table (attached). What is the major most likely to be admitted to law school? LSAT and GPA are the primary determinants of admission.

To help put the LSAT information into context, the LSAT is scored on a scale from 120-180. The average score is about 150. The median score for top 25 law schools is over 160, and for top 10 law schools, it's over 170.

Major	Number of Applicants	Average LSAT Score	% of Applicants Admitted
Political Science	11,947	153.6	80%
OTHER	4,537	148.4	64%
Psychology	3,736	152.5	77%
Criminal Justice	3,629	145.9	62%
English	3,151	154.8	81%
History	3,138	156.3	85%
Economics	2,757	159.0	86%
Philosophy	2,238	157.2	83%
Arts and Humanities	1,947	154.0	77%
Sociology	1,870	150.6	71%

Econ is the major that results in the highest LSAT scores and % admitted. To prepare for Econ, you should be strong in Math..

Many students want to major in Criminal Justice, but that is not the best plan. What is their admit rate to law school? Check this website for most common careers for Criminal Justice majors.

<https://www.jobsearchintelligence.com/etc/collegebuddy.php>

However, there is additional information you need. Like many professions, the legal profession is changing due to technology.

"The legal profession, like many others, has been downsizing. It's boosting productivity of current staffers, rather than hiring new employees, analysts say,

and anyone newly hired is likely to be doing so at half the salary than that of a new hire just four years ago. Working for the government, such as a public defender, could pay anywhere from just \$40,000 to \$85,000 a year, according to the Labor Department, even after years of service.

A changing law job market is already here. "Technology is upsetting the legal profession and law firms are not what they used to be," said Ganesh Natarajan, founder of Mindcrest, a legal outsourcing firm that employs some 450 lawyers in India and about 100 in Salt Lake City.

"Instead of an army of lawyers from a firm going over documents, they have us," Natarajan said, "You don't need people on a law firm staff to do what we do."

And most law school grads come out with a student debt usually between \$125,000 and \$250,000, depending on where they went to school, according to Department of Education statistics. That's on top of their underclass debt which could average the same amount.

"A decade ago, a large majority of graduates from the top 10 to 15 law schools who wanted full-time work at a big law firm could get it, said Paul F. Campos, a law professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, who has [written extensively](#) about the economic prospects of law school graduates.

With big-firm jobs drying up, however, many of these graduates began competing for lower-paying spots at midsize firms, which also downsized, and certain government jobs they wouldn't have sought in an earlier era." Article here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/19/business/dealbook/an-expensive-law-degree-and-no-place-to-use-it.html>

Unemployment for lawyers would be the new normal. Ten months after graduation, only about 63% of graduates find legal positions where bar passage is required, according to the [American Bar Association](#). <https://theoutline.com/post/2943/this-is-where-all-the-unemployed-lawyers-go-to-cry?zd=1&zi=5vk3z3qh>

The Jobs Crisis at Our Best Law Schools Is Much, Much Worse Than You Think

More than a fifth of students from some top-tier programs are underemployed.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/04/the-jobs-crisis-at-our-best-law-schools-is-much-much-worse-than-you-think/274795/>

Employment report for each law school here:

<https://www.lstreports.com/national/>

Look how many are above 1 in 5! (That's 17% and higher).

This is not to discourage you, but to encourage you to ask around, job shadow and explore!