

LAW

What can I do with this graduate degree?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
<u>CORPORATE PRACTICE</u>	Any corporation (largest number of attorneys are at corporate headquarters)	Corporate office summer clerkships and entry level positions are rare. Usually only experienced lawyers are hired by corporations. Develop tolerance for bureaucratic procedure. An undergraduate major in business, particularly accounting or finance, is helpful.
<u>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</u>	Most government branches have legal counsel Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for all branches of the military	Summer internships are somewhat limited and highly competitive, but part-time employment or volunteer work in government is possible. New lawyers frequently go to court and litigate sooner; experience gained here can be valuable to private firms later. Government work offers a variety of practice opportunities from criminal to contracts.
<u>JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS</u> Federal Court State Court	Federal Courts of Appeal and District Court (trial) Judges and Magistrates, Bankruptcy and Administrative Law Judges State Courts of Appeal and Trial Level Judges Federal and State Court Clerkships for Collective Judges in a Court	High academic achievement is emphasized by State and Federal judges; Federal judges usually require top 10 or 15% class rank. Clerkships can be a stepping-stone to other legal areas and provide many benefits for future legal areas. For U.S. Supreme Court, applicants must be top law graduates with one to two years clerking at lower Federal Court. Moot Court participation in regional and national competitions is helpful. Law review membership, as an indication of writing ability, is highly valued and emphasized at all court levels.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	GENERAL INFORMATION
<u>POLITICS</u> Lobbying/Government Relations Legislative Positions	Corporations Trade and professional associations Political Action Committees Law firms Public Interest Advocacy Groups Congressional representatives at national, state and local government	Develop the ability to maintain energy and enthusiasm. A service-oriented attitude is helpful. Learn to enlist the help of others. Clerkship or summer associate positions with law firms providing lobbying services are helpful. Demonstrate an interest in politics through your undergraduate major, active campaigning, or research papers/articles. Obtain law firm experience. Acquire superior writing skills. Develop a pleasing personality, enthusiasm and high energy level. Show ability to work with people and good communication/organizational skills. Consider earning a Master's of Public Administration.
<u>PRIVATE PRACTICE</u>	Large multi-office firms Medium-size firms Small firms Legal clinics Other private legal services	Acquire excellent research and writing skills. Obtain clerkships or internships. Large and medium-size firms frequently emphasize grades and class rank and value law review and moot court experience.
<u>PUBLIC INTEREST LAW</u> Legal Aid Services Public Defender Offices Public Interest Groups	Legal Services Corporation Legal Aid Society Federal, state & local government Private groups contract Sponsoring organization Law firms practicing public interest law	Gain supervised work experience in an area through summer internships. Demonstrate a desire to help the economically disadvantaged and show an interest in law as a means of change. Volunteer for non-profit organizations that serve a wide range of people.
<u>TEACHING</u>	Law schools Business schools Undergraduate Departments of History and Political Science Paralegal schools	Obtain several years of experience in private practice or governmental service. The LLM degree and an outstanding academic record are required for law school teaching. Teaching allows for more flexibility of time. Some lawyers teach on an adjunct basis.

AREAS

STATE & LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
Criminal Prosecution

Civil Law

PATENT & COPYRIGHT LAW

ENERGY LAW
NATURAL RESOURCES &
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

FINANCIAL PLANNING
INVESTMENT BANKING
ESTATE PLANNING

EMPLOYERS

District Attorney's Office
Attorney General's Office

Attorney General's Office
State agencies, commissions, boards,
executive and legislative office staff
Corporations
Local agencies and commissions
City and county law offices

Law firms (specialized)
Corporations
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

Law firms
Corporations
Federal agencies (especially Department
of Energy)
Environmental compliance services
companies
State agencies
Regulatory Commission

Bank trust departments
Brokerage firms
Insurance companies
Development offices for preparatory
schools, hospitals and universities

GENERAL INFORMATION

Take essential courses related to criminal law, criminal procedure, constitutional law, and evidence.
Participate in a criminal clinical program.
Obtain summer positions in a prosecutor's office or a criminal litigation office or private firms practicing criminal law.

Civil law deals with a broad range of subjects other than criminal matters and provides for a wide variety of functions including the opportunity to work with private lawyers and a variety of public officials. A demonstrated interest in public issues and related internships are helpful.

This highly specialized area usually requires a technical, science or engineering degree. These lawyers help protect clients' claims to copyrights, inventions, software, etc.

This area involves rights to resources including those in the earth and dangers in production of energy as well as transportation, taxation, patents, and government regulation.
An undergraduate major in environmental science, agriculture, engineering or science may be good preparation.

Brokerage firm positions may be on the decline. Insurance "Estate Planning" positions require interest and ability in sales. Bank trust department positions are good for those who do not want to litigate or be confrontational.
An undergraduate major in accounting or finance may be helpful.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	GENERAL INFORMATION
<u>LEGAL PUBLISHING/ JOURNALISM</u>	Legal publishers Print and electronic media	Exhibit interest in writing, research and editing for publishers. For national media, gain experience covering the law and politics.
<u>LAW FIRM ADMINISTRATION</u>	Private law firms	Handle office management (work flow, etc.), business development, clerk and attorney recruitment, clerkship programs, finances, personnel, etc. in a law firm.
<u>HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION</u>	Law schools Universities and colleges	Serve as a Dean or Director of Academics, Admissions, Career Services, Records, Alumni Affairs, Development, etc. in law schools. Work in judicial affairs, pre-law advising or other undergraduate student support services.
<u>LAW LIBRARIANSHIP</u>	Law firms Law schools	Masters in Library or Information Science, in addition to a law degree, may be required for some positions.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- Students interested in attending law school may choose any major of interest. Some undergraduate majors can help prepare students for a particular area of law, e.g., a B.S. in environmental science for a career in environmental law.
- Develop strong research and writing skills. Enhance communication skills through public speaking courses, debate team, or Toast Masters (a public speaking organization).
- Maintain a high G.P.A. to increase chances of gaining admission to law school.
- Join Phi Alpha Delta professional association.
- Find part-time jobs or internships in law firms or government agencies to reality test your interest in law and to gain relevant experience.
- Prepare for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test) which is required by all law schools.
- Secure strong personal recommendations from professors.
- Participate in mock trial, student government, student judiciary boards and other related organizations.