ST. NORBERT COLLEGE PRE-LAW TIMELINE

The following timeline offers tips to students who hope to attend law school upon graduation from St. Norbert College. While you do not need to follow exactly the process outlined below, you should be aware of the timing of important events necessary to complete your undergraduate program of study and application to law schools. *

Be sure to contact the Pre-Law Advisor, Dr. Charley Jacobs, if you have any questions about the process or the Pre-Law Certificate program. (charles.jacobs@snc.edu)

FRESHMAN YEAR
Explore majors that interest you by enrolling in Core Curriculum courses that sound intriguing. There is no “best” major for students interested in attending law school. Students with fine arts, humanities, and science backgrounds are as qualified to go to law school as political science majors. Be sure to find a passion that will serve your vocational and avocational interests if you choose not to attend law school.

Take advantage of everything St. Norbert College has to offer. Attend lectures, symposia, and events that broaden your worldview—and consider the possibility of studying abroad.

Think about why you want to become a lawyer. Lawyers work long hours, often in high-stress situations, and very few lawyers make exceptional salaries. You may also end law school with large student loans that may leave you with many years of debt. Be sure that you understand what the career involves.

Build rapport with your professors and supervisors for future recommendation letters.

SOPHOMORE YEAR
If you have not done so during freshman year, select a major that interests you.

Consider completing the Pre-Law Certificate program. While this is not required to gain admission to law school, the curriculum will expose you to law-related courses that may aid you in your decision to attend law school. The Certificate will also help you develop skills that will prepare you for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). A copy of the Certificate curriculum is available from the Pre-Law Advisor or at http://www.snc.edu/prelaw/prelawcertificateprogram.html.

Continue to take advantage of lectures, symposia, and events that broaden your worldview.

Consider conducting research on a law-related topic with a member of the faculty as a semester or summer collaboration. St. Norbert College offers grants for your work and the cost associated with presenting the results and regional or national conferences.

Continue to build rapport with professors and supervisors for future recommendation letters.

* Information provided here was, in part, gleaned from resources provided by the University of Connecticut Pre-Law program and the Law School Admission Council.
**JUNIOR YEAR**

Begin preparing for the LSAT. Do not assume that you can prepare for the exam in a few days or a few weeks. The LSAT tests for skills in areas that are often unfamiliar to students who are accustomed to standardized tests such as the ACT or SAT. The LSAT requires you to understand and apply analytical and logic tools to solve complex problems. To do well on the LSAT, you need to study and practice the skills necessary for the test. Although not required, consider enrolling in a commercial preparation course to develop the skills necessary to do well on the exam.

Consider a for-credit internship in the legal field. St. Norbert has opportunities with the Brown County Courthouse, the Office of the District Attorney in Brown County, the Wisconsin Office of the Public Defender, as well as local law firms.

**SUMMER PRIOR TO SENIOR YEAR**

Consider enrolling for the LSAT in June. Although you will be eligible to apply to most law schools even if you wait as late as December to complete the exam, the earlier you record a score, the more flexibility you have to retake the exam (if necessary) or apply early for admission or financial aid at your preferred schools. You may enroll for the exam (which currently costs $180) at lsac.org.

Research and, if possible, visit law schools. Information regarding accredited schools is available at lsac.org and the website for each school.

If you are certain that you will apply to law school, enroll in the Law School Credential Assembly Service (CAS). The CAS simplifies the admission process for law school applicants by allowing you to submit all of the necessary documentation one time, regardless of the number of schools to which you apply. The service requires payment of a one-time fee of $175. This cost is in addition to any required application fees for individual schools.

Speak to at least two academics that know you well about writing a letter of recommendation for you to law school. You may also approach a former or current employer if that person can speak directly to your abilities that are important to law schools. You should plan on giving each recommender roughly two months to prepare, write, and send the letter to CAS.

Begin writing your personal statement and have it reviewed by the Pre-Law Advisor and/or someone who can offer constructive advice about the form and content. The essay should be completed by the end of the summer. Also discuss with the Pre-Law Advisor whether additional essays submitted as addenda to your application will be necessary.

**SENIOR YEAR**

If you did not complete the LSAT in June, it is strongly recommended that you complete the October test. While you may wait until December, that strategy is unwise. You will not have the opportunity to take the exam a second time and still make the deadlines for fall admission.

Begin the process of selecting the schools to which you would like to apply.

Compile the necessary materials required by the law schools for application and send them to the CAS. Be sure to contact those who are writing letters for you and inform them about the process of submitting the recommendation to the CAS.

Apply to schools during the fall semester. Most schools utilize a rolling admissions process, but you should confirm deadlines with each school. Often, students have more success for admission and financial aid if they submit their applications early in the process.