

Why Check out Pre-Law?

During their undergraduate career, students may want to explore whether law school can provide the entry to a professional legal career in their future. In order to make that decision, the best idea is to gather as much information as possible about law school, talk to a variety of people who have been to law school, and then carefully decide how such a degree will help the student reach their goals in life. This can be a tough decision, as law school is expensive, and entails three tough years of post-baccalaureate study. The Pre-Law Program can assist students in gathering this necessary and important information, as well as answer questions about the law school experience, the Law School Admission Test, the law school application process, and what to expect of a legal career. The Pre-Law Program promotes an annual Legal Speakers Series that invites practicing attorneys to campus to share their experience as lawyers, and as law students.

Pre-Law Program at SIUE

While SIUE does not have a Pre-Law major or minor, we are committed to providing information and assistance to students considering whether a legal career may be a good fit for them, or who have already decided to pursue a Juris Doctorate degree after graduation. Please be aware that there IS NO ONE MAJOR that is best suited for the study of law. Instead, students should consider identifying classes that speak to a certain skill set, such as critical thinking, logic, analytical skills, writing, and communication. This could include classes in Philosophy, Political Science, Math, Speech, Physics, Biology, Sociology and Criminal Justice Studies, History, Economics, Mass Communications, and English to name only a few possible departments. These will be critical skills for students to develop for a potential legal career.

To accomplish that goal, SIUE has established two areas of contact for students, the College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Office of Advising, and the Pre-Law Mentor. The Office of Advising can discuss course selection, and the Pre-Law Mentor can discuss everything related to the law school process with interested students. The Pre-Law Program has also established a website that provides a rich level of information for students interested in Pre-Law. That website is siue.edu/artsandsciences/prelaw.

In addition, the Pre-Law Program has established a facebook page which provides information concerning upcoming events and a question and answer forum. Check out the Pre-Law Program facebook site at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=109688065753262&ref=ts>.



Career Outlook

There are any number of legal career possibilities once a student has successfully completed law school. Potential careers include practicing law with a large or small law firm, or in solo practice; pursuing government positions, available at the federal, state, county or city level; representing nonprofit agencies or advocacy groups; or teaching. Law is often considered a path to political office, or the judicial system. Major corporations, as well as institutions such as universities, etc., often have in-house counsel.

Pre-Law Mentor

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