



Pre-Law

prelaw.richmond.edu

Pre-Law at Richmond

Unlike medical schools which expect incoming students to have a solid understanding of chemistry and biology, law schools require no particular course load or major. Accordingly, there is no such thing as a “pre-law” curriculum. Undergraduates at Richmond who aspire to a career in law are advised to develop relevant skills, including: research, writing, analytical reasoning, critical thinking, and public speaking. The pre-law advisor works with students in pursuing courses and opportunities that will help students to improve their skills and learn more about their own interests and aspirations.

Advising

The pre-law advisor, Dr. Jan French, Associate Professor of Anthropology, focuses on the relationship between law and identity in Brazil and the United States. Before earning her doctorate in Cultural Anthropology, she was a practicing attorney for fifteen years in New York, Connecticut, and Florida and is admitted to practice in both the state and federal courts in those states. Dr. French has written briefs for federal district and appellate courts, as well as the Supreme Court of the United States. Her primary practice focused on public and private corporate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions. Dr. French advises students on how to put an education at the University of Richmond to the best advantage in:

- learning more about your own academic and professional interests.
- deciding if law school is right for you.
- making yourself the strongest possible candidate for law school.

Students may also have questions about the profession of law and the various subfields and specialties available to trained professionals. Other students may just enjoy a discussion of the role of law in society today. The pre-law advisor has an

open door to all Richmond undergraduates to discuss these or any other concerns. One of the most valuable things a student can get out of an undergraduate education is learning more about his or her interests, strengths, and professional objectives.

The pre-law law advisor works with students in gaining exposure to potential areas of interest by taking advantage of the tremendous array of opportunities at the University of Richmond both inside and outside the classroom. Pre-law advising is part of a broader emphasis at the University on integrating one’s academic study with career exploration.

Mock Trial

Mock Trial is a competitive team sport in which teams of 6-10 students compete against other schools in trial competitions around the United States. Teams of attorneys and witnesses try civil and criminal cases in which they direct and cross examine witnesses, make closing arguments, and argue the rules of evidence. Our program fields three teams of varying experience, skill, and commitment. Mock Trial enhances students’ public speaking, critical thinking, and team building skills. The Mock Trial team has won numerous honors and competitions.

Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)

The University of Richmond chapter of the Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity is a student run organization that is committed to the student, school, the profession and community. Students interested in pre-law are encouraged to join.

Programming

Pre-law advising conducts workshops on applying to law school, and works with the Office of Alumni and Career Services and the University of Richmond School of Law to make a variety of law-related events

available to undergraduates throughout the academic year. Programs have included talks by law school admissions deans and directors, discussion panels consisting of current law students, and discussions by current attorneys, to name a few.

Law Schools Attended by Richmond Graduates

University of Richmond students have been admitted in recent years to a range of the nation’s most competitive and finest law schools including:

- Boston College
- College of William and Mary
- Columbia University
- Duke University
- Emory University
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- New York University
- Stanford University
- University of California, Berkley
- University of Chicago
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Richmond
- University of Texas
- University of Virginia
- Vanderbilt University
- Wake Forest University
- Washington and Lee
- Yale University



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