

# Major Planning Guide:

## Pre-law

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### What path should I follow if I want to study law?

Students who are interested in law have a variety of academic options. Many universities offer bachelor's degrees in law, policy, and criminal justice where students learn about law and policy and their real world applications. Students might decide to apply these skills to a wide variety of fields after graduation, such as public policy, non-profit work, civil rights, or business. Students who want to be lawyers need to earn a bachelor's degree (in any field) and then apply to law school, which is a three-year professional graduate program.

### Related Majors/Programs

Law, Society & Justice  
Psychology  
Philosophy  
Sociology  
Political Science  
Economics  
International Relations

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### How do I get into law school?

Students planning to apply to law school can choose any major as undergraduates, as long as they complete the requirements for law school. University of Washington, Seattle University and Saint Martin's University offers bachelor's degrees in law, policy, or criminal justice. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at [http://nces.ed.gov/college\\_navigator](http://nces.ed.gov/college_navigator) to find all programs in Washington state or around the country.

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### How do I prepare for a career in law?

Here are a few steps that we recommend you take to make sure that a career in law is the right choice for you. There are many different types of careers in law, and it is important to do some research ahead of time to find the one that best fits your goals. An advisor can help you choose the transfer degree, and what courses you should take while you are here at Seattle Central.

#### Step One: Research

- Those who are undecided about a major/career can make an appointment with our Career Exploration Center in BE1102E to take a career assessment test. This assessment can reveal your interests, values, and skills which then match you up with potential careers and programs that prepare you for specific career paths.
- If you are considering law school, take classes to hone your writing and critical thinking skills. Philosophy classes, including logic, can be helpful preparation for the skills you will need in law school.
- Our Transfer Center in BE 1102F can help find universities you are interested in attending and guide you through the application process.

## Step Two: Pick a Degree

Students planning a career in law should choose a transfer degree based on the major they plan to study for their bachelor's degree. Advisors can help students look at prerequisite requirements for both the major and the professional program and choose the degree that will work best for them.

## Step Three: Make a Long Range Academic Plan

Students preparing for a career in law at a university usually take courses in the social sciences, such as history, sociology, economics, political science, philosophy, or psychology, as well as general education requirements, to prepare to transfer. Law schools do not have a specific math prerequisite requirement, although some undergraduate law or policy programs may require statistics. Regardless of the math required for your major or graduate school plans, you should take at least one college-level math course at Seattle Central.

If you plan to go to law school, find out what programs your potential transfer universities offer to help you prepare. It isn't necessary to major in "pre-law," but pre-law student clubs or specialized advising can help you to be a competitive law school applicant. Students with interest in specific areas of law, like environmental law or patent law, often choose to major in subjects that give them a solid understanding of that area.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as [Global Studies](#) or [Equity and Social Justice](#). This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into your personal statement.

## What are my next steps?

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- Once you have had the chance to explore the career opportunities in law you might want to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to plan out your course of study. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Advising office in BE 1102D or calling us at 206-934-4068. *(If you are an international student, please stop by International Education Programs in BE 1113).*
- Attend Transfer Fairs and Career & Networking Fairs hosted by our office throughout the year.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.

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### Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Seattle Central College is committed to providing qualified students with a disability an equal opportunity to access the benefits, rights, and privileges of services, programs and activities in an accessible setting appropriate to the student's needs. No student shall, on the basis of her or her disability, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination under any Seattle Central College program or activity.