

# Considering Law

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## **MAJOR**

There is no “prelaw” major, so choose a major that interests you and in which you will excel; however, remember that reading, writing, and analytical thinking are important skills for succeeding in legal education and practice. Take courses that help you develop these skills.

## **GPA**

Though major does not matter, GPA does. Your GPA will be an important part of your application, make sure to do as well as possible. Law schools don’t award bonus points for one major over another—majoring in something you deem difficult is not an excuse for lower grades.

## **RETAKEING CLASSES**

When you apply to law school all of your grades must be processed by the Credential Assembly Service (CAS), a centralized grade processing service. CAS takes into account every grade you have earned, including courses you have retaken. We strongly discourage retaking classes unless required by your major; taking a different class for the same number of credits and getting an A will do you just as much good, and probably be more enjoyable.

## **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Start getting to know your professors today! Whether you end up applying for law school or not, creating positive relationships with your professors improves your education and helps you in the future. Visit them during office hours, participate in class, take multiple classes from the same professor, and, if possible, work as a teaching or research assistant. Law schools prefer letters of recommendation from professors, so get started building the relationships as early as possible.

## **WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU BE DOING?**

There is no magic formula to get into law school; however, admissions committees are looking to create a diverse and stimulating learning environment in their first-year class. Any experience you gain that makes you qualified to offer unique opinions is valuable.

Look for extracurricular activities that offer opportunity for leadership and responsibility, and try to stay with each activity for at least a year. Take advantage of opportunities that interest you.

### **Service:**

Check out Y-Serve for events and organizations.

### **Internships:**

While legal internships are available through our office, internships don’t need to be related to law. Check with your major’s advisement center for internships they may offer that you may find interesting.

### **Study Abroad:**

BYU offers many different Study Abroad programs. Go to the Kennedy Center for more information.

### **Work Experience:**

Real-life work experience in any setting is valuable. Usually the longer you work for a company and the more advanced your position, the more emphasis the admissions committee will give to your work experience.

### **Research:**

Many professors take on research assistants. Take the initiative to ask your professors if they are hiring research assistants or if they know of any professors that are.

### **Publishing:**

Hundreds of journals on campus publish student work, including the *BYU Prewlaw Review*, published by our office. Find out from your major advisement center what journals are published relating to your major.

### **Honors Program:**

The honors program offers a variety of educational experiences that can help you prepare for law school.