

Things to do to Prepare for Law School



STUDENT LIFE
Academic Advising
& Discoveries Orientation

First Year (Explore)

- Keep appropriate focus on your academic performance. Focus on getting the grades you'll need to compete for law school
- Be aware of character and fitness qualifications relating to admissions to law school and licensure. Understand that disciplinary actions and /or illegal activities can affect your ability to gain acceptance to a state bar and therefore, enter law school (using a fake ID, underage drinking, public intoxication ticket, academic dishonesty, etc)
- Add yourself to the DU pre-law listserve <https://listserv.du.edu/mailman/listinfo/pre-law>
- Join organizations – plan to seek a variety of leadership opportunities over your four years (DU Debate)
- Take a law-related course sometime this year or next to help confirm interests

Sophomore Year (Research)

- Keep your grade point average as high as possible
- Explore /research legal careers and different types of law
- Network - Seek out attorneys and law school graduates and interview them for information about law school and options after law school.
- Develop relationships with faculty who could write recommendations for you
- Learn about services provided by the Career Center Learn how to write a business resume and cover letter; have them reviewed in the Career Center; take skills/interests test offered by Career Services
- Seek leadership opportunities on or off campus
- Research and apply for internships or summer jobs, especially ones that will expose you to the field of law or provide challenging experiences

Junior Year – fall (Focus)

- If you are going right to law school, begin the application process through the LSAC Credential Assembly Service during the summer before your senior year
- Attend law school fairs or LSAC Law Forum
- Externship or volunteer experience with legal employers
- Visit law schools (and sit in on law school class) – especially DU Law since it is right here
- Network- Connect with attorneys who are graduates of your university or with whom you share some common bond
- Determine if you will attend law school right after DU or work for a while
- Watch for law schools visiting campus; talk to law school representatives
- Determine when you want to take the LSAT and how you need to prepare for it
- Continue to develop relationships with faculty

Junior Year – spring (Focus)

- Thoroughly prepare for LSAT. Sign up and take a LSAT prep course (optional)
- Plan to take the LSAT in June if entering law school right after graduation; authorize the release of your data to University of Denver
- Begin to develop financial plan on how to pay for law school
- Do a credit check of yourself to make sure everything is in order

Senior Year (Apply)

- Formulate a list of 6-10 law schools you want to apply to
- Have others review your personal statement
- Apply to law schools well before Thanksgiving if you are going in the fall after graduation
- Finalize financial plan with appropriate attention to issue of educational debt
- Apply for jobs and year-long internships and fellowships if appropriate