



**SANTIAGO
CANYON
COLLEGE**

Articulation Office

PRE-LAW

Transfer Major Advisement

This guide sheet is based upon university course articulation and catalog information at the time of publication. **Note that students are responsible for the current major requirements upon transfer to the university** or admission to a graduate program. It is advisable to consult with a counselor once a semester for any changes that may occur. Please call (714) 628-4800 to schedule an appointment.

To Prepare for Law School

The best academic preparation for law school is to do well in a major that you enjoy. There is no "Pre-Law" major. Law schools want to produce attorneys who can serve the entire legal spectrum (in such diverse areas as tax, criminal, entertainment, or immigration law), and this requires a wide range of academic backgrounds. In fact, law schools look more for evidence of excellence in any academic program than specific areas of study.

Law schools look closely at five areas:

1. The higher your grades are, the better, because entrance to law schools is a very competitive process. An excessive number of courses taken on a Pass/Not Pass basis could be detrimental because they are not precise indications of your accomplishments.
2. Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) results. Again, the higher your score, the better. The test assesses your reading, comprehension, verbal and quantitative reasoning, and writing ability. A copy of your response to the writing portion of the test will be sent to each law school to which you apply.
3. A statement that you write about yourself as part of the law school application, usually covering why you want to study law and pursue a career in it, as well as what attributes you have that you believe will help you succeed in the field.
4. In-depth letters of recommendation from people who know you and your abilities usually are required. Professors who are familiar with your undergraduate work can be a good source of strong letters of recommendation.
5. Your extracurricular activities and work experience. You will be at an advantage if, in addition to strength in the four areas above, you have law-related work experience or have shown leadership abilities by participating in campus and community activities and organizations.

A few law schools do not require a bachelor's degree only the completion of a minimum of ninety college semester units. Local law schools include: Chapman University School of Law www.chapman.edu/law; Loyola Law School www.lls.edu, Pepperdine University School of Law <http://law.pepperdine.edu>; UCLA Law School www.law.ucla.edu/index1.html [UCS Law School lawweb.usc.edu](http://www.law.usc.edu); Whittier Law School www.law.whittier.edu.

UC Irvine offers a Criminology, Law and Society major in the school of Social Ecology. A minor in Humanities and Law is also offered in the School of Humanities. UC Riverside offers a B.A. or B.S. in Sociology/Law and Society, Psychology/ Law and Society or Philosophy/ Law and Society. Cal State University, Long Beach offers a Pre-Law Emphasis within the department of Philosophy. Cal Poly SLO offers a B.A. in Political Science with an concentration in Pre-Law. These programs are geared toward students interested in a law career and focus on critical thinking, logic, argumentation and communication skills.

The student's major is not a factor however, provided that a good foundation in communication skills, critical thinking, writing, reading and research and the social sciences is evident from the transcript. The critical thinking and writing skills are also essential for achieving a good score on the LSAT. Since many lawyers are employed in corporate business, courses in accounting and economics are also recommended.

Recommended courses at Santiago Canyon College:

ACCT 101, 102
ECON 120, 121
ENG 101, 103
PHIL 111
POLT 101
MATH 219
COMM 110, 111