

pre-LAW MAJORS (Suggested Associate in Arts Degree Curriculum)

This worksheet is designed to help students select courses which are likely to apply to a major in **pre-LAW**. These suggested courses satisfy requirements in the Associate in Arts degree program at Prairie State College and provide the basis for transferring to a four-year institution. This program meets the guidelines of the **IAI (Illinois Articulation Initiative) General Education Core**. Students should obtain a copy of the Prairie State College **Associate in Arts Degree Worksheet** and should visit the IAI website at www.iTransfer.org for more information. Most law schools have no specific requirements with regard to the major or courses chosen in pre-legal study. Common majors among pre-law students include, but are not limited to, business, criminal justice, English, history, political science, psychology and sociology. However, students enter law school with degrees in many other majors. These subject areas help to develop skills of close reading, critical thinking and logical argument. Proficiency in these skills is considered essential for a career in law. Students should also pick up a Pre-Major Planning Guide for the academic degree major they intend to pursue.

ADMISSION TO LAW SCHOOL:

A baccalaureate degree in any field from an accredited college or university, and a satisfactory score on the **LSAT** (Law School Admissions Test), are required for admission to most colleges of law. There are **no specific course requirements** for a program in pre-legal studies. Students may pursue any baccalaureate major of their choice!

THE LAW DEGREE:

It usually takes a minimum of seven years of college to earn the Juris Doctorate (law) degree. This includes four years of full-time study to get a bachelor's degree (longer if attending on a part-time basis) and three more years of law school.

RECOMMENDED UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATION FOR PRE-LAW:

There are **no specific undergraduate programs for pre-law**. It is recommended that students major in a subject area they enjoy and in which they can earn a high grade point average. Also, students need to have an alternate educational/career plan in the event they are not admitted to law school. Some students may already know they want to practice in a particular field of law. Students interested in corporate law may wish to develop some background in business and might therefore choose a business major. Individuals interested in criminal law might choose a criminal justice program. Sociology, social work, and psychology degrees might provide a good background for the practice of family law. However, health professions, music, sciences and engineering majors, etc., all provide an equally good background for the study of any area of law. The bottom line is to **MAJOR IN A FIELD YOU ENJOY!** Students who have selected a specific undergraduate major should obtain a **PROGRAM WORKSHEET** for the specific degree program they have selected and should follow the requirements listed for their major, rather than this Pre-Law Worksheet).

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM

Each senior institution has its own transfer policies. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information in regard to every individual school. Consult the school of your choice and/or the Prairie State College Advising Center to discuss the transferability of courses.

TRANSFERABLE GENERAL EDUCATION CORE (37-38 credits)

Area A: Communications (9 credits)

ENG 101 (3)	[C1 900]*	Composition I (Prereq. ENG 099 with C or better or qualifying score on English Placement Test)
ENG102 (3)	[C1 901R]*	Composition II (Prereq. ENG 101 with C or better)
COMM 101 (3)	[C2 900]	Principles of Communication (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

**Must have a C or better in ENG 101 & 102 to receive credit for the degree.*

Area B: Humanities and Fine Arts (9 credits)

Select three courses with at least one course selected from the humanities area and one course from the fine arts area. Refer to the Associate in Arts Degree Worksheet, Area B, for a listing of approved course choices.

Humanities Course (3)	PHILO 201 [H4 900] Introduction to Philosophy (recommended) (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
Fine Arts Course (3)	Select any Area B Fine Arts course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
Humanities/Fine Arts Course (3)	PHILO 202 [H4 904] Ethics (recommended) (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

Area C: Mathematics (3 credits)

MATH 112 (3) [M1 904] General Education Mathematics (Prereq. MATH 095 & 096 with C or better **OR** MATH 095 and high school geometry, both with C or better **OR** qualifying score on Math Placement Test)

OR

MATH 115 (3) [M1 902] General Education Statistics (Prereq. MATH 095 & 096 with C or better **OR** MATH 095 and high school geometry, both with C or better **OR** qualifying score on Math Placement Test)

Area D: Physical and Life Sciences (7-8 credits) Select one life science course and one physical science course. One course must have a lab component. Refer to the Associate in Arts Degree Worksheet, Area D, for a listing of approved course choices.

Life Science Course (3-4) Select any Area D Life Science Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

Physical Science Course (3-4) Select any Area D Physical Science Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

Area E: Social and Behavioral Sciences (9 credits)

Select three courses in at least two different disciplines. Refer to the Associate in Arts Degree Worksheet, Area E, for a listing of approved course choices.

Social/Behavioral Sci Course (3) POLSC 140 [S5 900] Intro to US Government & Politics (recommended)(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

Social/Behavioral Sci Course (3) HIST 201 [S2 900] US History: 1492 - 1877 (recommended)(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

Social/Behavioral Sci Course (3) HIST 202 [S2 901] US History: 1877 to Present (recommended)(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

PRE-LAW MAJOR COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS (24-25 credits)

(Check with the school to which you plan to transfer to verify the transferability of these courses for this major)

Select 24-25 credits from the “suggested” courses recommendations listed below:

Select four courses from the baccalaureate major you plan to pursue:

Major Field Elective (3)

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Other suggested pre-law electives include:

COMM 102 (3) Persuasive Public Speaking

COMM 103 (3) Group Discussion

COMM 108 (3) Interpersonal Communication

COMM 196-199 Applied Forensics I-IV

HUMAN 201 (3) Humanities Themes: Myth, Reason and God (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

ITAPP 101 (3) Introduction to Computers (Prereq. Keyboarding recommended)

POLSC 152 (3) American, State, and Local Government (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

Other suggested courses that satisfy the PSC AA degree requirements may include electives such as:

Any additional general education courses selected from Areas B, C, D, or E

Any entry level majors course in a transferable major area

Any foreign language courses*

Up to four credits of physical education courses

Additional courses recommended as transferable by the school to which you plan to transfer.

***Foreign Language Requirement:** Some universities have a foreign language requirement. Generally, four years of a single foreign language in high school, or four semesters in college, will fulfill this requirement. It is recommended that students complete the entire sequence at one institution.

62 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR AN ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Counseling & Advising Center Room 1190 (708) 709-3506

FOR TRANSFER INFORMATION:

u.select, formerly known as Course Applicability System (CAS): www.transfer.org

Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI): www.iTransfer.org

Links to Articulation Tables for Illinois Colleges: <http://www.itransfer.org/IAI/Other/Articulationlinks.taf>

Visit the web sites of colleges and universities to which you plan to transfer.

FOR LAW SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Law School Admission Council: www.lsac.org

How to Get Into the Right Law School, by Paul Lermack

Official Guide to U.S. Law Schools: A Publication of the Law School Admission Council

Official American Bar Association Guide to Approved Law Schools, Edited by Rich L. Morgan & Kurt Snyder

Catalogs and brochures from the law school(s) of your choice. (See list of Illinois Law Schools below)

ABA (American Bar Association) APPROVED LAW SCHOOLS IN ILLINOIS

Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology: <http://www.kentlaw.edu>

565 W Adams St, Chicago, IL 60661-3691 1-312-906-5000

DePaul University College of Law: <http://www.law.depaul.edu>

25 E Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60604-2219 1-312-362-8701

John Marshall Law School: <http://www.jmls.edu>

315 S Plymouth Ct, Chicago, IL 60604 1-312-427-2737

Loyola University Chicago School of Law: <http://www.luc.edu/law/>

25 E Pearson St, Suite 1440, Chicago, IL 60611 1-312-915-7120

Northern Illinois University College of Law: <http://law.niu.edu>

Swen Parson Hall Room 276, DeKalb, IL 60115 1-800-892-3050

Northwestern University School of Law: <http://www.law.northwestern.edu>

357 E Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611-3069 1-312-503-3100

Southern Illinois University School of Law: <http://www.law.siu.edu>

1209 W. Chautauqua, Carbondale, IL 62901 1-800-739-9187 or 1-618-536-7711

University of Chicago Law School: <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/index.html>

1111E 60th St, Chicago, IL 60637 1-773-702-9494

University of Illinois College of Law: <http://www.law.uiuc.edu>

504 E Pennsylvania Ave, Champaign, IL 61820 1-217-333-0931

FOR CAREER INFORMATION:

Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S. Department of Labor: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>

TIPS FROM LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PERSONNEL:

The law curriculum is demanding and rigorous. Admission to law school is very competitive. Students can improve their chances for success by focusing on courses that are intellectually challenging and which help develop good writing, critical thinking, and communication skills. Prospective law students should consider the following:

- ✓ Lawyers need the ability to communicate clearly and precisely in both oral and written form.
- ✓ Excellent writing skills are a must. Ninety percent of a lawyer's job involves writing.
- ✓ Lawyers are often called upon to make oral presentations to both their clients and the courts. Well-developed oral communication skills, as well as good interpersonal communication skills, are a must.
- ✓ Learn to think synthetically and analytically. The study of law requires a high degree of comprehension and the ability to analyze detailed and complex subject matter.
- ✓ Develop good research skills by taking courses that require the writing of significant research papers.
- ✓ Develop an understanding and appreciation of the human experience and human behavior.
- ✓ Learn about the origins and history of modern institutions in the world today.
- ✓ Develop an understanding of basic accounting procedures, basic business concepts, and economic principles. Some pre-law advisors insist that this is a necessity for all law students.
- ✓ Computer and word processing skills are necessary for success. This will save tremendous amounts of time and effort during the law school years.
- ✓ **READ! READ! READ!** Become a well-read person.