

Debunking Pre-Law Myths

Q: TRUE OR FALSE?

I have to take Business Law, Introduction to International Law, American Constitutional Law, etc., to show that I am interested in attending law school.

A: FALSE.

Although you can take law-related courses if you are interested in them, taking such courses are not a requirement for law school. You will perform best in courses that you are genuinely interested in, and a strong GPA is an integral component in determining whether you will gain admission to the law school of your choice. Law schools will look to see that you have challenged yourself - and succeeded - in your course selection rather than if your courses specifically dealt with legal topics.

Q: TRUE OR FALSE?

I have to major in Political Science, English, History, etc., to go to law school.

A: FALSE.

As with course selection, major in what interests you. The most popular majors for those continuing on to law school are:

- History
- Political Science
- English
- Specifically at Hopkins, International Studies (IR)

Although taking courses in these areas can help you build various skills that may be helpful in law school, your major is ultimately your choice and will help shape the unique skillset you will bring to law school.

Q: TRUE OR FALSE?

I can study abroad if I want – wherever I want.

A: TRUE.

Studying abroad is one of the greatest opportunities you can take advantage of while in college. There are many options:

- Pre-law track programs, including parliamentary internships abroad
- Studying in a non-English speaking country where you have the chance to gain the marketable skill of fluency in another language
- Studying somewhere you have always wanted to explore and live

Q: TRUE OR FALSE?

It is a good idea to intern/work in a legal setting before applying to law school.

A: TRUE.

Although not required to gain admission to the law school of your choice, it is important that your decision to become an attorney is an educated one. By working in a legal setting, you can best witness a “day in the life” of an attorney, to determine whether you would be happy doing the same as a career.

Q: TRUE OR FALSE?

I do not need to meet with a pre-law advisor until I am applying to law school.

A: FALSE.

You should meet with a pre-law advisor early in your undergraduate career to ensure that you are doing everything you should be.