

DEFIANCE COLLEGE

Defiance College graduates who major in such diverse areas as history and criminal justice have been accepted and have excelled at numerous law schools.

Regardless of the academic major, it is important to take additional courses which require writing, and others which broaden and enrich one's background and understanding of the United States history and government.

Helpful electives are principles of accounting, logic, and argumentation and debate. It is essential also to have earned a 3.5 or higher grade point average in one's undergraduate program.

Pre-Law Program



A student who anticipates attending law school should begin planning for that goal upon his or her enrollment at Defiance College.

No particular major is required for admission to law school. Students from Defiance College who have attended law school have majored in English, history, communication arts, criminal justice, business administration, and education. The student should select a major of interest and one that is academically challenging.

After College — What's Next?

It is important to score well on the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test). A study guide is available in the Office of Career Development. This office also has academic catalogs from law schools across the country. Through a computer program it is possible to search for a law school which matches one's criteria for size, location, and available financial aid. The Director of Career Development will help students distinguish between the qualities of law schools and locate the law school that is right for each student.

Being admitted to law school is dependent upon the undergraduate grade point average (minimum of 3.5) and good scores on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The LSAT is offered four times per year, and students are strongly urged to take it in June before their senior year or the next October. Scholarships, usually in the form of partial tuition grants, are available for top students who apply early.

Some of the law schools attended by DC graduates include the University of Toledo, Thomas M. Cooley, Capital University, Mercer University, University of Dayton, and The Ohio State University.



The Bill of Rights is a frequent topic in Defiance College professor Steve Sondergaard's criminal justice classes, most notably the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments.

Professor Sondergaard (left) reviews U.S. Supreme Court case law with students Laurel Palk and Jessie Yates. September 17th marks the anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights.

Photo courtesy of The Crescent-News

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www.defiance.edu/pages/NS_majors_preprofessional.html

The Details

The student interested in law school should work closely with his or her academic advisor to select courses each semester. The student should consider classes that emphasize reading comprehension and analytical and communication skills. Following such a curriculum will assist the student in the admission to and successful completion of law school.

Many of the suggested classes are offered as a Fall-Spring sequence, or as an alternate year offering. Dependent upon the student's area of study, suggested class offerings may be required as electives throughout the student's study at Defiance College.

Reading Comprehension

Courses should be taken to develop reading comprehension and the ability to synthesize abstract ideas and thoughts.

Analytical Skills

Courses should be taken to develop critical thinking and analytical skills required in the study of law.

Communication Skills

The study and practice of law requires the professional to express his or her thoughts clearly and effectively. Communication skills must focus on both verbal and written skills.

Patent Attorney

One exception exists pertaining to the chosen major and course requirements discussed. A student interested in becoming a patent attorney must examine the special requirements imposed by the federal patent bar. The patent bar requires that a student possess a bachelor of science degree in chemistry, engineering, biology, or similar science or technical area. Furthermore, the student is required to graduate from an American Bar Association accredited law school and successfully complete the patent bar exam in addition to being admitted to a state bar.

Career Development

The Office of Career Development at Defiance College offers a variety of information for the prospective law student. Catalogs of many law schools in the U.S. are on file along with resources to help you write your personal statements. Students should also watch for annual events such as Law Day and law school open houses that are held throughout the academic year.

Defiance College admits students regardless of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, disability, or sexual orientation. 6/11



Law School Entrance Examinations

In the Fall semester of the junior year, the student should obtain the booklet published by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). The Law School Admission Council administers the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), which is required by all American Bar Association approved law schools. Not only does LSAC administer the entrance exam, it also offers the Official Guide to U.S. Law Schools. The guide assists the student in preparation for the exam, applying to law school, and the study of law. The student's academic advisor, the Office of Career Development, and the Pre-Law advisor will gladly assist the student at this juncture. Booklets are available in the Office of Career Development.

The LSAT examination should not be taken lightly. The LSAT examination will challenge the student's academic abilities. The student interested in attending law school should consider intensive preparation for the LSAT well in advance of the examination date. LSAT preparation materials are available through LSAC or retail bookstores. In addition, accredited study courses are available to assist the student. A registration fee is connected with these courses.

It should be noted that the LSAT may be taken more than once. The scores are combined and averaged, however, making it difficult to significantly raise your score on repeated attempts at the exam.

Come for a Visit!

A campus visit is the best way to find out how Defiance College defies the ordinary college experience. We'll arrange for you to meet with an admissions counselor, professors, coaches, students, and learn about scholarship and financial aid opportunities. You can sit in on a class, tour campus, and stay overnight if you wish. Call our Office of Admissions at 419-783-2359 or 1-800-520-GO DC to set up your appointment.