Pre-Law Program

I’m interested in Pre-Law. What’s the right major for me?

The preparation law schools require is found in majors like Political Science, Economics, Philosophy, History, and others. Top law schools seek students with skills in critical thinking, reading, analytical writing and communication. Importantly, Simpson’s liberal arts curriculum puts a strong focus on these very skills. Simpson advisors have years of experience helping Pre-Law students find internships and navigate law school applications, as well as writing those all-important letters of recommendation! Simpson is a challenging and supportive environment where students can learn, grow and prepare for a career in law.

How will Simpson help me succeed?

Our professors are instrumental in helping students gain the experience necessary to succeed. Pre-Law students are consistently hired for prestigious national and state internships. In just the last three years, Pre-Law students interned in Washington D.C. with:

- Amnesty International
- Democratic National Committee
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Senate Finance Committee

Simpson’s ideal location near Des Moines offers an array of opportunities for internships in legal areas. At the state level, recent Pre-Law students have interned with:

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Iowa Attorney General
- Iowa Governor’s office
- Iowa State House and Senate
- United States Attorney, Southern District
- Several law firms in central Iowa

How have Simpson graduates used their Pre-Law studies?

Simpson College alumni pursue post-graduate and law degrees at some of the top universities in the nation: the University of Notre Dame, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Denver, Loyola University, the University of California – Berkeley, and American University. Students who stay close to home thrive at the University of Iowa, Creighton University, Drake University, and University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

What are some opportunities for involvement that can help me reach my goals?

There are many opportunities for campus involvement and experiential learning, including legislative internships, the John C. Culver Public Policy Center, and a Pre-Law Society that sponsors speakers, LSAT preparation, and trips to visit law schools in the state.

Simpson is the first and only private liberal-arts college in Iowa with an intercollegiate public forum debate team. Many of the nation’s top attorneys say skills they learned from college debate contributed to their success.

Many Simpson Pre-Law students live, learn and intern in Washington, D.C. through our Capitol Hill Internship Program (CHIP). Housing is just blocks from the Capitol and the program costs nearly the same as a semester on campus. What better place to learn about the legal field?

CONTACT INFORMATION

John Epperson, Ph.D.
Pre-Law Advisor
515-961-1694
john.epperson@simpson.edu

Marilyn Mueller
515-961-1574
marilyn.mueller@simpson.edu
WHY STUDY PRE-LAW AT SIMPSON?
A LOOK AT A FEW OF OUR RECENT GRADUATES

JORDAN OSBORNE ’09
Jordan majored in History and Political Science and graduated from Creighton Law – with internships for the Nebraska District Court and the Appeals office of the Nebraska Attorney General.
She has drafted motions to the Nebraska Court of Appeals and a brief on an issue of 1st impression to the Supreme Court of Nebraska. She participates in Negotiation Competition and Creighton’s Trial Advocacy Competition.
Jordan is taking litigation courses and studying for the bar exam in July.

KYLE LISKE ’09
As Simpson’s Student Body President, Kyle – a double major in Political Science and Economics – was instrumental in bringing a biodiesel generator to campus to recycle cooking oil. He graduated from Drake Law, where he was a staff member for the Journal of Agricultural Law.
He studied international law in France and spent this summer as an environmental law clerk for the National Pork Producers Council in Washington, D.C. He has attended meetings with legislators and top EPA officials and worked on an amicus curie brief for Sackett v. EPA, an upcoming case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

KATHRYN PEARSON ’10
Katheryn graduated with a double-major in Political Science and Economics and is a 3L at Drake Law School.
She has worked for Roxanne Conlin, a well-known Iowa attorney in Employment Law, Medical Malpractice and Personal Injury.
Katheryn now works as a law clerk for Fiedler Law in Des Moines (attorney Paige Fiedler is a Simpson graduate) in the area of Civil Rights Law.
After graduation, Katheryn plans to practice business law.

ADRIENNE GATHMAN ’11
Adrienne, a double major in Criminal Justice and Political Science, was involved in the Pre-Law Society at Simpson. While at Simpson, she worked for two years in the office of the United States Attorney – Southern District in Des Moines. Based on her LSAT and academic record, Adrienne was judged one of the top five entering law students at Drake University – winning the Law School’s prestigious Dwight D. Opperman Scholarship.

STEVEN RAMSEY ’11
Steven majored in Political Science and Philosophy and is a 2L at Notre Dame Law School.
He also plans to pursue a Masters in Public Administration or Public Policy.
While at Simpson, Steven was very active in Student Government Association, Campus Activities Board, and College Democrats.
He believes the opportunity Simpson gave him to take the lead in so many campus organizations strengthened his law school application.

MAKENNA DOPHEIDE ’12
MaKenna graduated from Simpson with a degree in Political Science and Economics in only three years.
As part of Simpson’s CHIP semester program in Washington D.C., she interned with a prominent member of the House of Representatives and worked on the election campaign of Senator Richard Luger (R-IN).
MaKenna has been accepted to Creighton University School of Law.