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.

How will Simpson help me succeed?

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! Pre-Law students are hired for prestigious national internships 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

What is the track record of Simpson graduates?

Simpson pre-law alumni attend some of the top universities in the nation: the University of Notre Dame, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Denver, Loyola University, and American University. Students who stay close to home thrive at Iowa, Creighton, Drake, and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. In the last two years, Simpson Political Science graduates averaged a 157 - 158 on the LSAT, placing them in the 70th percentile nationally, tied with UCLA, USC, and Boston College.

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

Opportunities for campus involvement and experiential learning include 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.

Simpson is the first and only college in Iowa with a public forum debate team, and two Simpson students were named the top public forum team in the nation in 2013. 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

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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 is a recent graduate of Creighton Law. She held internships with the Nebraska District Court and the Nebraska Attorney General. She has drafted motions to the Nebraska Court of Appeals and a brief to the Supreme Court of Nebraska. She has participated in Negotiation and Trial Advocacy Competitions. Jordan is now Deputy County Attorney in Hastings, Nebraska.

MAKENNA DOPHEIDE ’12
Makenna graduated with a degree in Political Science and Economics in only three years. As part of Simpson’s CHIP semester in Washington D.C., she interned in the House of Representatives and worked on the campaign of a U.S. Senator. MaKenna attends Creighton University School of Law, is a member of Creighton Law Review, and works as a law clerk in Omaha.

KATHRYN PEARSON THORSON ’10
Katheryn was a double-major in Political Science and Economics and recently graduated from Drake Law School. She has worked in Employment Law, Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, and civil rights laws. Katheryn now works as a law clerk for Brown Winick law firm in Des Moines and plans to practice business law in the future.

ADRIENNE GATHMAN ’11
Adrienne, a double major in Criminal Justice and Political Science, was involved in the Pre-Law Society at Simpson. She also 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 Opperman Scholarship. Adrienne’s future plan is to get her Ph.D. and become a college professor.

STEVEN RAMSEY ’11
Steven graduated from Simpson with degrees in Applied Philosophy and Political Science. Steven is currently in his third year at Notre Dame Law School, a perennial top 25 law program. He is active in moot court and the Journal of International and Comparative Law, and is currently a Summer Associate at Bryan Cave LLP. “There are two main ways that Simpson helped me to become prepared for attending a top law school in the country. The first is in helping me facilitate my intellectual abilities. The second is by giving me opportunities that allowed me to set myself apart from other applicants.”

MEGHAN BERRYMAN CHAFFEE ’10
Meghan was a double major in Political Science and Philosophy and an intern for the Iowa Attorney General while at Simpson. Meghan graduated from the University of Nebraska’s College of Law in 2013, and was a law clerk for the Nebraska Hospital Association’s Advocacy and Public Policy team. She has researched and written on health care policy, submitted written testimony for legislative hearings, and met with state senators to advocate NHA positions. Meghan will start a full-time position with the NHA as Staff Attorney and Lobbyist in the fall of 2013.