

Pre- Law Advising

Colorado College students interested in the field of law are found in all divisions of the college, in departments ranging from political science to philosophy to biology. Because no single department or program has a monopoly on the capacity to educate students to think for one's self and the ability to express thoughts with clarity and force, the college has no structured pre-law major with a prescribed curriculum. The Liberal Arts education nourishes intellectual ideas and develops strength of the mind, which are valuable qualities to obtain, especially when venturing into law.

Law schools require no specific major or classes. When evaluating an application, Law School Admissions will focus on two important components of the applicant's information, the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score and the student's grade point average. Law schools also place importance on recommendation letters and the personal statement. LSAT scores range from 120 to 180. If you drop the leading "one" and add a "zero" to the end, the score looks and reads much like the SAT. The LSAT is a combination of logic and reasoning, reading comprehension and analysis, similar the SAT and the GRE. These skills are greatly supported and developed through a Liberal Arts education. CC students score above the national average score on the LSATs.

As with most graduate schools, there is a range of expectations in law schools. For every area discussed above there are law schools that will accept students on the lower scoring side as well as the higher scoring side of the spectrum. The CC Pre-Law Advising Committee helps and advises students in finding appropriate matches.

Pre-Law Advising Committee

At the center of Colorado College's commitment to offering pre-law preparation is the Pre-law Committee. The major thrust of the Committee's efforts is the counseling and advising of students one-on-one. Such advice covers consultation on courses and majors, the Law School Admission Test, selecting appropriate law schools, part-time summer employment, and general career advice.

The pre-law advising committee is composed of three people. Lief Carter received his law degree

from Harvard in 1965. After a stint in the Peace Corps in Bolivia, he decided not to return to law practice but to teach legal politics. He earned his Ph.D. in political science at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1972. He has served as CC's McHugh Family Distinguished Professor since 1995. Matt Birnbaum graduated from Colorado College in 1989. After working with incarcerated teenagers for three years, he earned his M.A. in Higher Education from the University of Arizona in 1994. Prior to arriving back at CC as Career Center Director in 1998, Matt worked as a community college counselor. He is a member of the Western Association of Pre-Law Advisors. The third member of the counsel is Loretta Martinez, CC's Legal Council. Loretta serves on the Legal Education Section of the American Bar Association and the Committee on Legal Education and Bar Admissions of the Colorado Bar Association. In these resourceful advisors the college community has a source of information and contact with state and national resources and monitors developments of concern to pre-law education and counseling

The Committee is a member of the Rocky Mountain Pre-law Advisors Association, which sponsors an annual conference, often in Denver. At this conference, Colorado College students may confer with law school admission officers from all over the country. On campus, the Committee works in cooperation with the Colorado College Career Counseling and Placement Center, sponsoring meetings with law school faculty and admission personnel as well as workshops on interview taking and resume writing.

Colorado College Graduates

In 2003, over 25 of the nation's law schools saw Colorado College alumni in their first-year classes. Within the past few years Colorado College students have been admitted to schools such as Yale, Harvard, Georgetown, University of Chicago, University of California Berkeley, University of Colorado Boulder and University of Denver and been recipients of prestigious scholarships, including the Root-Tilden Scholarship to New York University.

For more information, please contact:

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