

PRE-LAW

START EARLY. STAY AHEAD.



UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION



**STETSON
UNIVERSITY**



START EARLY. STAY AHEAD.

Through our highly regarded undergraduate Pre-Law program, you can prepare for admission to distinguished law schools throughout the country, including Stetson's own College of Law in Gulfport and Law Center in Tampa.

Our Pre-Law Advisory Committee will guide you through your undergraduate years, helping you to select fields of study and appropriate courses and assisting you in understanding the law school admission process. The committee sponsors law school admission fairs and visits to law school campuses. Faculty advisors will assist you in finding internships and leadership opportunities and preparing for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Finally, advisors will support you as you complete applications for programs that best fit your interests and credentials.

The Pre-Law Advisory Committee has been designed to incorporate elements from a variety of disciplines, and to be available to students in need of academic advising — helping them find the courses most appropriate for law school preparation. Members may be found at www.stetson.edu/artsci/pre-law/advisors.php.

**MORE THAN 50 AREAS OF STUDY CAN BE
COMBINED WITH THE PRE-LAW PROGRAM.**



Stetson also has a mock trial team that has competed across the Southeast and regularly receives mentorship from Stetson's Exemplary Law School Mock Trial Team members, who compete nationwide and internationally.



*Scan this QR code for
more info on Stetson's
Mock Trial program.*



FINDING YOUR INTELLECTUAL PASSION

Law schools do not list specific courses that are required, nor do they endorse a particular pre-law major. Many of Stetson's undergraduate programs can help you prepare for admission to law school. The key is to select a major that challenges you intellectually and brings out your best as a student. Courses should emphasize analysis, critical thinking and writing, logical reasoning and persuasive speaking — the skills that law schools value.

- Sven Smith, PhD, JD,
Assistant Professor of Sociology



PRE-LAW SPOTLIGHT

ALAN HINDERLEIDER BA '16 PSYCHOLOGY

*DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HONORS ATTORNEY,
UNITED STATES TRUSTEE'S OFFICE*

"The pre-law program guided me towards my favorite classes and organizations at Stetson. I developed a passion for litigation and learned skills that would be invaluable during my time in law school. My pre-law advisors also told me when to and how to maximize my chances at getting into law school AND at doing well once I was in, both academically and strategically (when to intern, what kind of internship, what associations to join, etc.). It gave me a strong advantage on becoming the professional I wanted to be."

TWO SPECIAL ADMISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Nationally recognized for its commitment to professionalism, Stetson University College of Law is ranked among the very best ABA-accredited law schools nationally for trial advocacy and legal writing. In addition to the JD degree, the College of Law offers LLM programs in Elder Law and International Law, as well as dual-degree programs in Business, Public Health and Medicine. Further, Stetson's College of Law has study abroad programs in nine countries. Stetson undergraduates have two paths to admission to the College of Law:

4 + 3 DIRECT ADMISSION PROGRAM

Stetson's faculty encourages you to take full advantage of the undergraduate experience, using the full four years to strengthen your skills and gain experience to prepare for professional study.

Our 4+3 program allows you to select any of our undergraduate majors to prepare over four years for direct admission to the College of Law's JD program, which typically requires three years of full-time study. Transfer students may also use the 4+3 program to enter the College of Law. The more notable guidelines are:

- Complete all requirements for a Stetson University bachelor's degree before matriculating at the College of Law;
- Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 in courses taken at Stetson University and no lower than a 3.0 GPA on all transferred courses;
- Earn a minimum score on the LSAT at or above the 50th percentile of the most recent class to matriculate at the College of Law.

Note: For complete guidelines, contact the Pre-Law Advisory Committee.

3+3 ACCELERATED PROGRAM

If you begin Stetson with an outstanding academic record, you may be eligible for a special program that can lead to early admission to the College of Law.

If selected, you will be eligible to count credits completed in the first year of study at the College of Law (usually 31 credits) toward your undergraduate degree. In this way, you may earn an undergraduate degree (BA, BS, BBA) after completing the first full year at the College of Law. With two more years of study, you may earn the JD degree.

Notable guidelines:

- Complete the number of credits necessary in the undergraduate curriculum required for graduation, except for the 31 credits to be earned during the first year at the College of Law. Such credits must be earned before matriculating at the College of Law, and at least 48 credits earned in the undergraduate curriculum must be completed at the university;
- Complete all general-education requirements and all requirements for the student's major before matriculating at the College of Law;
- Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 in courses taken in the undergraduate program as of the date of application to the College of Law;
- On or before the application date, earn a minimum score on the LSAT at the 75th percentile of the most recent class to matriculate at the College of Law.

Because the 3+3 program requires careful curricular planning, you must inform the Pre-Law Advisory Committee of your interest before the end of your first year, and you must stay on track to meet all requirements and apply to the College of Law with support of the Pre-Law Advisory Committee by February of your junior year.

Note: For complete guidelines, contact the Pre-Law Advisory Committee.

A young man with brown hair, wearing a black jacket and blue jeans, stands on a long, dark stone staircase. The staircase is flanked by tall, red torii gates, creating a perspective that leads the eye up the stairs. The man is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a vibrant red, and the overall scene is brightly lit.

PRE-LAW SPOTLIGHT

NATHAN MICHAEL BODGER **BA '19 RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

*COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL — FOCUSING ON HUMAN RIGHTS
LAW AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY*

"It wasn't until after my sophomore year that I decided I wanted to go to law school. As a first-generation American, I had no idea where to start. Thankfully, my mentors were integral in forging a path to law school, even with my unusual major in religious studies. Stetson allowed me to better understand the field and focus my interests within law. Internship programs and study abroad opportunities were also crucial. I was able to intern with an NGO in Guatemala and study abroad in Thailand. These experiences both solidified my passion and helped me stand out from the crowd."



PRE-LAW SPOTLIGHT

ELIJAH CAMPBELL **BA '20 PRE-LAW**

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA '24

"My pre-law advisor helped me prepare for UPenn law school and know what to expect in law school. He continues to assist with advancing my career, including dual enrollment and gaining a Master's degree in business too."



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRE-LAW

In preparing for admission to Stetson's College of Law and other ABA-accredited law schools in Florida and throughout the country, students can draw on our special opportunities for undergraduate research and study abroad at Oxford and other prestigious universities, or study in Washington, D.C. through our collaboration with American University.

Another opportunity for pre-law students are internships offered through Stetson. Internships with law offices, local and federal law enforcement, and law-related professions (such as Court Administration) are all possible. The Pre-law Advisory Committee works hand-in-hand with Stetson's Office of Career Placement, as well as with professional partners in the community to ensure that opportunities in these areas are available to undergraduates who want firsthand experience.

COMMUNICATION FOR PRE-LAW

Stetson has a thriving Pre-Law Fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta. Phi Alpha Delta's chapter in Stetson's DeLand campus encourages communication with Phi Alpha Delta of Stetson's Law School, creating the possibility for communication and mentorship between the two chapters' members. Pre-law honorary society members may receive mentorship for Stetson Law's honorary society members.



Stetson University College of Law | Gulfport, Florida

PRE-LAW COURSES

In addition to these opportunities, some of the regularly offered courses of interest that are beneficial to pre-law Stetson students:

ACCT 402-Federal Taxation of Entities

SOCI 296-Sociology of Criminal Procedure

BLAW 407-Business Law 1

BLAW 409-Legal Research, Writing and Analysis

FINA 361-Real Estate Principles

FENT 355-Legal and Fiscal Foundations for Family Enterprises

HIST 250V-Immigration, Race and Ethnicity in American History

HIST 248H-U.S.-Latin American Relations

PHIL 104Q-Introduction to Logic

PHIL 300-Philosophy of Law

POLI 306V-Law and Society

POLI 320-Congress

POLI 322-The American Judicial Process

SOCI 379-Sociology of Law

SPTB 320-Legal Concepts of Sport Business

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information may be found at www.stetson.edu/artsci/pre-law. Also, you may contact Pre-Law Advisory Committee Chair Sven Smith, PhD, at slsmith@stetson.edu, or any other committee member. The Pre-Law Advisory Committee will advise students regarding what law school is right for them, what is needed to enter the law school of their choice and, most importantly, how to organize the completion of all the requisites (LSAT, Intent letter, etc.) in order to gain the greatest advantage at entering and excelling at those institutions. Some of its members have decades of legal networking and experience from which to draw. The members:

- Sven Smith, PhD, JD, Sociology, Chair
- Patrick Coggins, JD, PhD, Education
- Joel Davis, PhD, English
- Chris Ferguson, PhD, Psychology
- Elizabeth Galloway, JD, Business
- Steven Smallpage, PhD, Political Science
- Joshua Rust, PhD, Philosophy
- Leander Seah, PhD, History
- John Sheehy, MA, Career and Professional Development
- Karla Davis-Jamison, MA, Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management at Stetson Law



Use this QR code for more information on the Pre-Law Program and Stetson's process for optimal success.

Questions? Email the program chair: slsmith@stetson.edu

FURTHER RESOURCES

- College of Law Admissions and Student Financial Planning: law.stetson.edu/admissions, (727) 562-7802
- Phi Alpha Delta: Pre-Law Fraternity at Stetson: www2.stetson.edu/pad
- University Career Services: stetson.edu/administration/career
- American Bar Association Guide to Pre-Law Studies: americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/pre_law
- American Mock Trial Association: collegemocktrial.org
- Law School Admissions Council: lsac.org
- Information on Stetson's departments and programs of study: stetson.edu/academics/programs.php

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Since 1883, Stetson University has empowered courageous individuals to go beyond expectations and limitations to make a lasting impact in our world.

Undergraduates on the flagship campus in DeLand enroll in the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business Administration and the School of Music. The College of Law is located in Gulfport and has a Law Center in Tampa.

As a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's most prestigious academic honorary society, Stetson celebrates excellence in learning and empowers the practice of values-centered citizenship and service. The university is one of 47 institutions nationwide to be selected as a Bonner university for its dedication to student-led community transformation, leadership and social justice.

Today we call on daring hearts and bright minds to reach deeper and go beyond today to create a better and brighter tomorrow.

» ***STETSON.EDU/PRE-LAW***

admission@stetson.edu | (800) 688-0101

