

# Prelaw Studies

## Forming a Foundation for Legal Studies

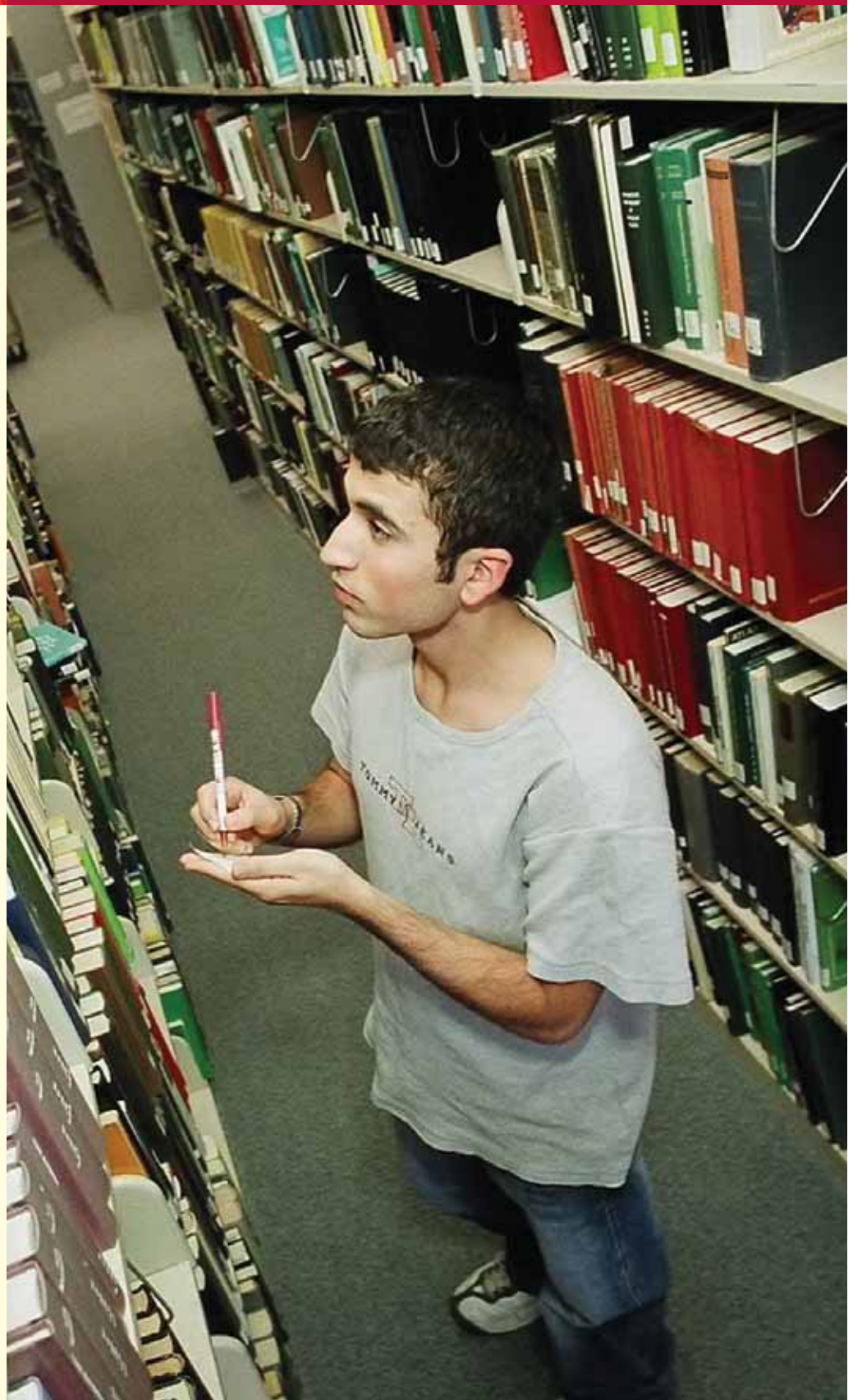
### STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top 100 best national universities. We are home to an exceptionally diverse student body of more than 23,000 high-achieving students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries.

Stony Brook offers more than 150 majors, minors, and combined bachelor/master degree programs through our College of Business, School of Journalism, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health Sciences Center. All undergraduates experience a thriving research environment, exciting study abroad opportunities, and a dynamic first-year experience in one of six small undergraduate communities.

Our campus includes the Staller Center for the Arts, featuring world-class dance, music, and theatrical performances; Stony Brook University Medical Center, Long Island's only tertiary care academic medical center; the Charles B. Wang Center, celebrating Asian and American cultures; an 8,300-seat stadium; a new Humanities Building; and the Frank Melville Jr. Library. The academic, cultural, and research facilities at Stony Brook University provide an ideal environment for growth and the opportunity to advance knowledge that changes the world.

Our 1,100-acre campus, on the North Shore of Long Island halfway between Manhattan and Montauk, is easy to reach by train, plane, car, and ferry. Come for a visit and discover why we are named one of 40 "Best Buys" nationwide by *Fiske Guide to Colleges*. For more information, visit [www.stonybrook.edu](http://www.stonybrook.edu)



# Forming a Foundation for Legal Studies

## Pre-law At Stony Brook

As a pre-law student at Stony Brook, you will discover countless avenues to help you prepare for law school. A rich and challenging academic curricula, vast resources that include one of the nation's largest academic libraries, exciting internship opportunities, extensive support services, and focused student organizations provide the foundation for a comprehensive pre-law education at Stony Brook.

## Do What You Do Best

Because there is no specific major or list of courses required or recommended for law school, at Stony Brook, you'll be encouraged to choose a course of study that you enjoy and one in which you have the ability to excel. And, Stony Brook offers more than fifty majors, making it easy for you to find the program that suits you best. The important thing is to select a major based on your interests and aptitude. Your grades will be better and you'll be a happier person for it.

Law schools will look most closely at your cumulative grade point average and your score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). In addition to grade point average and LSAT scores, other factors, such as extracurricular activities, work experience, recommendations, and the rigor of your academic experience will also be reviewed. Most law schools will be looking for students with a well-rounded liberal arts education.

Law schools want students who can think critically and write well, and who have an understanding of our society. You'll want to take courses that include critical analysis, logical reasoning, and written and oral expression. At Stony Brook, there are countless such courses, including Logical and Critical Reasoning, Argumentative Writing, Advanced

Analytic and Argumentative Writing, and Public Speaking. And, many seminar courses at Stony Brook provide students with the opportunity to research an issue, write a significant paper, and make an oral presentation to a class of peers.

The LSAT is frequently taken by pre-law students in October of their senior year of undergraduate studies. However, some students will elect to take the test in June upon completion of their junior year.

So, you'll want to select courses during your first three years of college that will help you improve the skills needed to perform well on the LSAT and to be successful in law school.

## Prepare To Achieve

Whatever you do, you'll want to prepare for the LSAT well in advance of sitting for the exam. There are LSAT prep courses, including Kaplan, Princeton Review, and courses using Cambridge materials, among others. Some students do well with these courses; others do well studying on their own (many knowledgeable about the test recommend using Triple Prep Plus, available through the Law School Admission Council). Pick up the LSAT registration booklet at the Academic and Preprofessional Advising Center. It's free and has a lot of important information.

Most law schools are looking for a g.p.a. of 3.0. Averages above this are helpful in getting into more competitive law schools; marks slightly below this average can be offset with higher than average LSAT scores. The LSAT is marked on a scale of 120-180. A score of 152 puts the student in the upper half of the test and this is viewed as sufficiently competitive to gain admission to law school. More competitive law schools are looking for scores in the upper 150's and 160's.

## Build Your Network

With other students...Stony Brook has a vibrant pre-law program with a number of student organizations which actively assist students in examining the potential for pursuing a career in law. Two of these organizations are Phi Alpha Delta and Stony Brook @ Law.

With advisors...Stony Brook's Academic and Preprofessional Advising Center has trained advisors ready to provide you with the guidance and information you need to succeed at Stony Brook. Make sure to talk to one of our pre-law advisors (James Montren and Mary Beth Powers). They have the resources and experience to help you get the most out of each semester while you move productively toward your future career in law. Later in your undergraduate career you'll consult with them to discuss planning an application strategy, developing your personal essay, financing law school, and preparing for the LSAT. Our Career Center has career counselors and the resources to help you make the right decisions concerning your future.

With faculty...At Stony Brook, faculty interact with students by holding regular office hours and making themselves available to meet with students and discuss course-related material. Many also serve as sponsors for student internships, research, and independent studies. In addition, Stony Brook's Undergraduate Colleges and Living/Learning Centers promote interaction between students and faculty with common academic interests and provide many of the advantages commonly found at smaller institutions with those of a resource-rich large research university. All of these programs represent excellent opportunities for faculty to become familiar with your intellectual abilities, leadership potential, and other qualities and skills relevant to a law school admission committee.



## Explore Your Future

The legal profession is very broad and multifaceted, with many different areas of specialization and different types of employers. The best way to learn about the different types of law and employers is to speak with many different attorneys practicing different types of law.

At Stony Brook, you'll have many opportunities to get out and see the courts in motion and speak with attorneys about the practice of law. Both the pre-law advisor and the student-run Stony Brook @ Law organize discussions with attorneys and judges and field trips to observe court proceedings and participate in in-chambers discussions with judges.

In addition, Stony Brook's Department of Political Science offers a number of law-related courses which may serve to affirm your interest in studying law, including Business Law, Criminal Law, Gender Issues in the Law, Administrative Law, and Supreme Court Decision Making.

## Garner Experience

Stony Brook's Internship Program is a great way for pre-law students to obtain experience working in the area of law while earning credit. Stony Brook students participate in legislative internships in Albany and Washington, D.C. Local internships with private lawyers, the local courts, and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office are also available.

Up to six credits may be earned for semester internships during the academic year; up to six for each summer term. While working

for academic credit under the supervision of both University faculty and professional staff at a cooperating agency or organization, you'll have the opportunity to: test your career intentions; improve intellectual skills in writing, quantitative analysis, research, and administration; increase understanding of social, political, and economic forces; and acquire work experience useful for seeking entrance to law school.

## Discover Your Passion

You can expect law schools to look closely at your extracurricular activities. What kind of jobs have you held while in college? Have you been involved in campus activities? Have you held any leadership roles in student government, fraternity, sorority, or residence halls? Your outside activities will help an admission committee to determine how well you have organized your time and how well you have handled responsibilities. They'll be looking at the quality of your participation – not the quantity.

At Stony Brook, cultural and religious groups, intramural and varsity sports, sororities, fraternities, and student newspapers and magazines abound. And, with its own radio station and more than 100 student interest clubs and organizations as diverse as the Cycling Club, Committee on Cinematic Arts, the Chess Masters, the Science Fiction Forum, Stony Brook @ Law, the USB Equestrian Team, the Badminton Club, the Ballroom Dance Club, the Gospel Choir, and the Stony Brook Outdoors Club, you have your pick of fun and worthwhile activities.

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

used an independent benchmarking system to evaluate how successful graduates of different colleges are in gaining admission to top graduate schools in medicine, law, and business. Stony Brook University performed very well under scrutiny. We ranked 8th among all public colleges and universities nationwide. Among all colleges and universities (a group of about 3,000 institutions), we ranked 86th. We like to think that this information confirms what we have known all along. Stony Brook is an excellent educational value and an excellent place to prepare for a future in a profession like law.



# Forming a Foundation for Legal Studies

Pre-law students at Stony Brook have been very successful in gaining admission to law school. More than a thousand Stony Brook graduates have gone on to law school over the last decade. They have attended virtually every major law school in the east and many more highly competitive law schools throughout the country.

## ACCREDITED LAW SCHOOLS WHERE STONY BROOK STUDENTS HAVE GAINED ADMISSION IN RECENT YEARS:

Albany Law School	Roger Williams University
Appalachian School of Law	Rutgers Camden
Benjamin Cardozo Law School	Rutgers Newark
Boston College School of Law	Saint John's University
Boston University	Seattle University School of Law
Brooklyn Law School	Seton Hall University
Cleveland Marshall College of Law	Suffolk University School of Law
Columbia University	Syracuse University College of Law
CUNY Queens	Temple University
Emory University	Texas Southern University
Florida Coastal	Thomas M. Cooley School of Law
Fordham	Thomas Jefferson School of Law
Franklin Pierce Law Center	Touro College
George Mason	Tulane University
George Washington	University at Buffalo
Georgetown	University of California Los Angeles
Georgia State University	University of the District of Columbia
Harvard	University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hofstra	University of Maryland
Howard University	University of Miami
Indiana University Bloomington	University of Minnesota
Loyola University of New Orleans	University of North Carolina
Michigan State Detroit	University of Pittsburgh
New England School of Law	University of Saint Thomas Minneapolis
New York Law school	University of San Diego
New York University	University of San Francisco
Northeastern University	University of Tennessee
Nova Southeastern	Washington and Lee University
Pace University	Western New England College
Pennsylvania State University Dickinson	Whittier Law School
Pepperdine University	Widener University School of Law

## STONY BROOK'S RED HOT!

Apply online as early as possible to receive the fullest consideration for merit scholarships and special programs. For admissions criteria, procedures, and to apply online, visit us on the web.

Campus tours and information sessions are offered year-round when classes are in session; visit our Web site to schedule your campus tour.

[www.stonybrook.edu/admissions](http://www.stonybrook.edu/admissions)

[enroll@stonybrook.edu](mailto:enroll@stonybrook.edu)

(631) 632-6868

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