

So You're Interested in Law?

Lawyers, also called *attorneys*, act as both advocates and advisors. Lawyers advise and represent clients in courts, before government agencies and private legal matters. They conduct research, analyze legal problems, interpret laws, and present facts in writing and verbally. Lawyers may specialize in a single area or may practice broadly in many areas of law.

Types of Law: *Business and Industry, Copyright, Criminal, Education, Employment, Energy, Environmental, Estate/Planning, Family and Juvenile, Federal Government, Financial Planning, Health, Immigration, Intellectual Property, International, Investment Banking, Judicial Clerkships, Natural Resources, Patent, Property/Real Estate, Public Interest, Sports and Entertainment, State and Local Government.*

Quick Facts

Sample Job Titles	Median Wages (2019-2020)*	Required Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Lawyer Tax Lawyer Intellectual Property Lawyer Family Lawyer Immigration Lawyer 	In CA: \$71,550-\$171,550 In Los Angeles Area: \$176,020 *For current wages, visit CareerOneStop.org/salary	Doctorate Degree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juris Doctor (J.D.)

The Path to Law



Most states and jurisdictions require lawyers to complete a J.D. (Juris Doctor) degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association. Full-time law school programs typically take 3 years to complete and 4 to 5 years for part-time students. Graduates of J.D. programs must also apply for a license to practice. The licensing exam is called “bar exam”.

Choosing an Undergraduate Major

There is **no required undergraduate major** to apply to a Juris Doctor program. Law schools do not require or prefer any particular major; they look for an undergraduate background that sharpens analytical reasoning and writing skills. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you.

How to Prepare for Law School

As an undergraduate pursuing your bachelor’s degree, there are several things you can do to prepare for graduate school. You can begin now as a Citrus College student!

- Maintain a **high GPA**; grades are a major factor in the selection process.
- Study for the **Law School Admission Test (LSAT)**.
- Connect with faculty and professionals. Remember that most programs will require multiple **letters of recommendation**.
- Acquire excellent **research and writing skills**.
- Develop tolerance for **bureaucratic procedure**.
- Gain **exposure to the law**. For example:
 - Volunteer for non-profit organizations that serve a wide range of people
 - Complete an internship with the federal government
 - Stay up-to-date with state and national policies
- Join a **pre-law club**, or start one if it doesn’t already exist at your college!



Law School Application Process

- Apply to law school graduate programs using the **Law School Admission Counsel (LSAC)**. The LSAC is a centralized application which allows students to apply to multiple law school programs and colleges. LSAC also has a school directory which houses information on the various graduate programs as the deadlines and requirements are unique for each program.
- All American Bar Association approved law schools require the **Law School Admission Test (LSAT)**. The LSAT is a standardized test that assesses your reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, logical reasoning, and your writing through a writing sample. The LSAT is a major factor in the selection process.
- Almost all American Bar Association schools require applicants to use the **Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS)**. The report standardizes your grades and sends them as part of a report to the law schools you are applying.
- Complete a **personal statement**. Most schools do not conduct interviews; therefore, the personal statement represents an opportunity for you to present yourself as more than just a GPA and LSAT score.
- Many programs require **letters of recommendation** from professors, people who know you well, or employers who can attest to your analytical and logical reasoning skills.

Resources

Organizations

- Law School Admissions Council (lsac.org)
- Association of American Law School (aals.org)
- American Bar Association (americanbar.org)
- National Association for Law Placement (www.nalp.org)
- National Conference of Bar Examiners (www.ncbex.org)

Podcasts

- Law School Toolbox (lawschooltoolkit.com)
- LSAT Unplugged + Law School Admissions (lsatunplugged.com)
- Above the Law - Thinking like a Lawyer (abovethelaw.com)

Visit **CandidCareer** to learn more about this occupation from the perspective of current Lawyers!

bit.ly/CandidLaw

Related Occupations

Not sure if getting a doctoral degree in law is the right fit for you? Here are some related careers with different educational requirements. For more information on these careers or others, visit ONetOnline.org.

Job Title	Median Wages	Required Education	Code
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	In CA: \$61,240	Associate Degree	CIE
Arbitrators, Mediators, and Conciliators	In CA: \$97,430	Bachelor Degree	SE