



LAW SCHOOL AND ENGINEERING

I'M AN ENGINEER - WHY SHOULD I THINK ABOUT A CAREER IN LAW?

When most people think about what an attorney does, they tend to think in terms of what we see on TV and in the movies—cross-examining a witness, or standing up in front of a judge making an argument. However, that is a very small part of what attorneys do. Here are some reasons why, as an Engineer, you might want to consider law school:

Core Skills

- Among its core skills values for the legal profession, the American Bar Association lists analytical and problem-solving skills, general research skills, and organization and management skills. These are skills that you have already developed in your studies as an Engineer

The Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)

- The Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) consists of four parts: Reading Comprehension, Logical Reasoning (two separate sections), and Analytical Reasoning. It does not measure your knowledge of the law. Rather, it measures your ability to analyze a problem and quickly determine not only a correct solution, but the *best* solution. Essentially, 75% of the exam consists of skills that you have spent your time in Engineering developing. The LSAT, combined with your GPA, comprise the two most significant factors in law school admission. According to the most recent data, Engineering students rank 4th in average LSAT score, with Physics/Math majors ranking 1st.

Patent Law

- Engineers typically make great patent attorneys, due to their knowledge and expertise in the Math and Science fields. In fact, just having a Bachelor's degree in Engineering will qualify you to take the Patent Bar Exam. There is currently a significant need for people with a technical background—especially in the fields of Electrical and Chemical Engineering—in the field of patent law.

COMMON CONCERNS ABOUT THE LEGAL FIELD

"I DON'T LIKE PUBLIC SPEAKING"

Trials can be a very expensive use of time, funds, and resources. In fact, it's estimated that only about 1% of all civil cases ever go to trial. Unless you decided that you wanted to go into criminal law, there is a good chance that you would never set foot in a courtroom! Despite what is portrayed in the media, most attorneys spend a lot of time researching case law, and drafting legal documents. The ability to effectively analyze information and communicate ideas is much more important than public speaking skills.

"I NEVER TOOK ANY PRE-LAW COURSES"

There is no specific coursework or curriculum that is required for admission into law school. While courses that study constitutional law and the philosophy of law can give students experience in reading court opinions and understanding legal theory, those courses alone will not adequately prepare you for law school or the LSAT. Courses that will help you develop logical and analytical skills, and courses that require a great deal of reading comprehension and writing will be the best preparation for law school, regardless of the subject. Many of your GEC courses will serve as excellent preparation for law school, regardless of their discipline.

PREPARING FOR LAW SCHOOL

FIRST YEAR

- Build good reading and study skills
- Develop a strong program by looking into honors opportunities, taking challenging courses, and scheduling good quarterly course loads
- Visit your pre-law advisor
- Read about the field of law
- Visit the [Law School Admission Council Website](#)

SECOND YEAR

- Continue to strengthen your undergraduate record with strong grades and courses
- Consider an Honors Contract or Honors Research Thesis if you are in Engineering Honors
- Develop contacts with faculty in your major area
- Look into internships and co-op opportunities
- Attend the Law School Expo to talk to law school admissions officers about admission to law school and law as a career
- Continue to see your pre-law advisor
- Become more involved in Ohio State and [community service activities](#)
- Visit the [Law School Admission Council Website](#)

THIRD YEAR

- Schedule upper division coursework
- Attend Law School Expo on campus (most often held very early fall quarter)
- Begin contacting professors for letters of recommendation
- See your pre-law advisor to discuss the law school application process
- Begin to prepare for the LSAT by researching prep courses
- Visit law related web sites
- Make visits to law schools of interest; ask to sit in on a class and/or take a tour of the campus

FOURTH YEAR

- Take the LSAT (preferably prior to October 1st)
- Meet with a pre-law adviser
- Visit [Law Services Web Site](#)
- Attend a Law Forum sponsored by Law Services or the Law Expo on campus
- Visit law schools, narrow choices
- Get faculty recommendations
- Apply to law schools-discuss with pre-law adviser
- **COMPLETE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

PRE-LAW CONTACT

Pre-Law Advisor

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HELPFUL LINKS

The Law School Admissions Council: <http://www.lsac.org/>

The Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools: http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education.html

The American Bar Association: <http://www.americanbar.org/aba.html>

The Ohio State Pre-Law Program: <http://prelaw.osu.edu/>

The Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University: <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/>

Patent Bar Information: <http://www.patentbarstudy.com>

LSAT HELP

The LSAT Center: <http://www.lsat-center.com/columbus.htm>

Kaplan: <http://www.kaptest.com/LSAT/Home/index.html>

Princeton Review: <http://www.princetonreview.com/law/lsat-test-preparation.aspx>