

Pre-Law Studies

Pre-Law Advisor: Dr. Joseph Melusky

Students interested in attending law school may elect a pre-law concentration. While this concentration is not mandatory for students preparing for a legal career, it does provide a unique preparation for law school. Enrolling in the Pre-Law Concentration ensures that interested students will receive appropriate advising as they prepare for a career in the legal profession. Students majoring in any field at Saint Francis University may enroll in the Pre-Law Concentration.

PRE-LAW CONCENTRATION

Required Pre-Law Courses:

Business Law 301; Political Science 301, 305.

Core Requirements: 30 credits (all of which fulfill general education requirements) including Political Science 102; Philosophy 311; Speech 103; English 103; Religious Studies 308; Economics 101; Psychology 101; History 101-102 or 103-104; Mathematics 101 or 111 or Statistics 101 or Computer Science 101.

Pre-Law Electives:

Nine credits (some of which may fill major requirements) chosen from courses including Accounting 101, 102; Psychology 304; Sociology 204, 306; English 208; History 331 or 332 or 340 or 422 or 440; Philosophy 309 or 312 or 313 or 410; Political Science 313; Internship 398/399 (no more than three credits applicable to minimum requirements for pre-law concentration).

Pre-law students should take steps to acquire research proficiency. Those pre-law students whose majors do not require a research seminar should enroll for a minimum of two credits of Independent Study.

Pre-law students are encouraged to gain field experience through internships. Students should pursue internships in their majors or consult the Pre-Law Program advisor about arranging a law-related internship.

All pre-law students will be expected to participate in extracurricular activities designated by the program advisor. To facilitate entry into the legal profession, students are encouraged to participate in the Pre-Law Club. The Club sponsors debates, films, guest speakers, a "law day" program, and moot court exercises (in which Constitutional Law or Civil Rights and Civil Liberties students serve as members of a "mock" Supreme Court). SFC pre-law students also participate in moot court competitions sponsored law schools.

Dr. Joseph Melusky, Chair of History and Political Science and a member of the Northeast Association of Pre-Law Advisors, serves as faculty moderator for the Pre-Law Club.

EARLY ADMISSION PROGRAM WITH DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Saint Francis University, in collaboration with Duquesne University School of Law, offers a highly competitive early admission program for pre-law students. This partnership provides special academic opportunities for qualified students to earn both an undergraduate degree and a law degree in six years rather than seven. The program is designed to save qualified students time and money by enabling them to move on to law school following their junior year. Duquesne University School of Law agrees to accept all candidates from Saint Francis University provided that they meet the following eligibility requirements:

- a. A cumulative grade point average of approximately 3.5 for three years at Saint Francis University (at least 96 credit hours);
- b. Completion of all undergraduate major field and general education requirements at Saint Francis University;
- c. A minimum LSAT score in the 60th percentile on the present LSAT. It is the student will take the LSAT in the Winter of his/her third year at Saint Francis University. However, by request, a student may defer taking the LSAT until the Spring of his/her third year;
- d. Recommendation by a selection committee appointed by the Provost at Saint Francis University and the Dean of Admissions at Duquesne University School of Law.
- e. All candidates for this program must, upon application, schedule an interview with the Dean of Admissions of Duquesne University School of Law. This interview should be scheduled after the student has taken the LSAT, but the results of the LSAT need not be available to the Law School at the time of the interview.

Each student in this early admission program will be awarded a Bachelor's Degree by Saint Francis University after successful completion of the first year of the Day Division program or the first three semesters of the Evening Division program at Duquesne University School of Law. If the student does not successfully complete the first year program at Duquesne University School of Law, s/he will have to complete additional undergraduate credit hours (totaling 128 credit hours minimum) to obtain a Bachelor's Degree from Saint Francis University.

Through this program, pre-law students at Saint Francis University can get an early start on their law degrees. The program provides a combination of liberal and professional education well suited to those desiring to enter the field of law.

The pre-law concentration is designed to accompany any major. The total number of credits required to complete the concentration and the major varies with the major. For some majors, there is considerable overlap between the concentration and the major. For other majors, there is less overlap. As such, it would be extremely difficult or impossible for students in certain majors to fulfill all General Education, major, and pre-law concentration requirements in three years.

With this in mind, it is recommended that students wishing to participate in the early admission program pursue the political science/pre-law track.

Political Science/Pre-Law:

General Education Requirements = 55-58 credits

Political Science = 36 credits (PLSC 102 fulfills a core requirement
= 33 credits net)

Pre-Law Concentration = 18 credits beyond core requirements
(PLSC 301, 304, 313, and 398/399 all fulfill major requirements
= 6 credits net)

Total = 94-97 credits net.

Students can reasonably expect to complete the political science/pre-law major within three years, making the Duquesne University School of Law early admission program an attractive alternative. Other majors would be possible. If you are interested in this program, it is important to plan carefully and to discuss your plans with your advisor and with Dr. Melusky.



SFU Alumna Kenneth J. Horoho, Jr., Esq. '77, addresses the audience during the University's annual Law Day celebration.