

A four-year Bachelor's degree is needed to apply to most Law Schools nationwide. Students at Montgomery College can complete part, or all of the first two years (60 credits) of a bachelor's degree prior to transfer to a four-year institution. While students are completing a Bachelor's degree, they usually apply in their junior year to [law schools to earn a JD \(Juris Doctorate\) to become a lawyer](#). Most JD degree programs take 3 years to complete if attending full-time, or longer if attending part-time.

All four-year colleges and universities have "Pre-Law Advising" for students who want to become lawyers; however, there is not a single "Pre-Law" major.

The University of Maryland, College Park's Pre-Law Advising Page provides great answers to questions about applying to law schools. **Here are some Frequently Asked Questions on the UMD's Pre-Law Advising Page:** <https://ltsc.umd.edu/prelaw#:~:text=The%20Pre%2DLaw%20Advising%20Office%2C%20located%20at%2000110%20Hornbake%20Library.quick%20and%2For%20general%20questions>.

What courses are required for admission to law schools?

There are no required courses for admission to law school. You are encouraged to select courses that will develop your reading, writing, critical thinking, and analytical reasoning skills. Most undergraduate courses will develop one or more of these skills.

What major should a student pursue when planning to apply to law school?

There are no preferred majors for law school. You are encouraged to pursue a major that best suits your academic interests. Admittedly, there are some majors that are traditionally recognized as being "pre-law," including Government and Politics, History, Criminology and Criminal Justice, English, Sociology, and Communications. However, students who pursue such majors as Business, Engineering, Computer Science, Economics, Art History and others also have decided to go to law school. **The key is to select a curriculum in which you are interested.** Typically, when a student majors in a subject that reflects his/her interests, that student will perform well in that subject, which in turn, will give the student a competitive grade point average for purposes of law school admission.

Are internships and co-curricular activities required for admission to law school?

Law schools are most interested in students who are well-balanced academically, professionally, and socially. Although internships and co-curricular activities are not mandatory, they are highly encouraged. When participating in an internship or co-curricular activities, you should select opportunities that suit your interests and allow you to develop essential skills - i.e. time management, creativity, initiative, working with people. These opportunities do not necessarily have to be law-related. Students who participate in law-related internship benefit, in that such activities give them the chance to confirm whether or not they are truly interested in law. Moreover, students who are involved in law-related organizations benefit from being a part of a community of people with similar interests. However, you should take advantage of any available opportunities to get involved. The key is quality and not quantity. You should participate only in those activities in which they are actively interested. You should not join organizations for the purpose of "looking good" for law schools.

Source: UMD Pre-Law Advising <https://ltsc.umd.edu/prelaw#:~:text=The%20Pre%2DLaw%20Advising%20Office%2C%20located%20at%2000110%20Hornbake%20Library.quick%20and%2For%20general%20questions>

Advice for Montgomery College students who are interested in becoming a lawyer:

1. **Search for articles about how to become a lawyer** – example, “**How to Become a Lawyer in Maryland (Plus Additional Tips)**” <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-lawyer-in-maryland>
2. **Review majors offered at four-year transfer schools of interest** and select courses at MC that will align with your four-year major at a transfer school.
3. **Build your list of experiences while attending MC** - find Internship, Employment and Leadership Opportunities through these Montgomery College programs:
 - Check MC’s [College Central Network online job board](#) for internships and major/career-related positions.
 - Look for Student Assistant (SA) and Federal Work Study (FWS) opportunities on the [College Central Network online job board](#).
 - Get involved in [campus clubs and organizations](#) through the **Office of Student Life on your campus**.
 - Participate in [service learning](#) and/or [become a volunteer](#) in the community.
4. **Include exploratory courses at MC in the General Education portion of any degree:**
 - **CCJS 110 Administration of Justice – BSSD Distribution**
An analysis of crime and the administration of justice in a diverse, democratic society operating within a global environment. Emphasis is on the theoretical and historical development of law enforcement, courts, and corrections and the agents and agencies responsible for administering justice. (BSSD [GCP]) Assessment level(s): ENGL 101/011. Three credits.
 - **POLI 101 American Government – BSSD Distribution**
Structure, powers, and processes of the American political system: executive, legislative, and judicial branches; civil liberties, federalism, democratic patterns and backgrounds, public opinion, pressure group politics, political parties, constitutional mechanisms, and administrative establishment; foreign and domestic policy. Emphasis on national level. (BSSD) Assessment level(s): ENGL 101/011. Three credits.
5. **Search for “Pre-Law Advising” on the main pages of transfer schools of interest** – examples are:
 - UMD: <https://ltsc.umd.edu/prelaw>
 - UMBC: <https://cahssadvising.umbc.edu/pre-law-advising/>
 - Morgan State University: <https://www.morgan.edu/philosophy-and-religious-studies/pre-law>
6. **Meet with an MC Counselor or Program Advisor to discuss your plan.**
MC Counselors: www.montgomerycollege.edu/can