

LAW

What can I do with this graduate degree?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
<p><u>PRIVATE PRACTICE</u></p> <p>Attorney (See following pages for practice areas):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership Track Non-partnership Track Contract Document Review Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large multi-office firms Medium-size firms Small firms Sole practitioners Legal clinics Other private legal services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire excellent research and writing skills. Obtain clerkships or internships during law school. Large and medium-size firms frequently emphasize grades and class rank and value law review and moot court experience. Expect to exhibit management and marketing expertise and practice profitably. Those in administration handle office management (e.g. work flow), business development, clerk and attorney recruitment, clerkship programs, finances, and human resources.
<p><u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counsel Legal Aid Services Public Defense Civil Rights Law Indigent Services Advocacy Community Outreach Law Reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Services Corporation Legal aid societies Federal, state, and local government Public defender offices Private public interest law firms Nonprofit and public interest organizations, e.g., ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense Fund Unions Foundations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain supervised work experience in an area through summer internships. Demonstrate a desire to help the economically disadvantaged and show an interest in law as a means of change. Volunteer for non-profit organizations that serve a wide range of people. Learn to communicate and interact with a diverse clientele.
<p><u>BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Practice In-House Counsel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transactional Litigatory Law-related Areas Including: Compliance, Procurement, Contracts, and Human Resources Securities Law Mergers and Acquisitions Tax Law Legislative Compliance Liability Issues Contracts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law firms with corporate law and related business practice areas Any large corporation (largest number of attorneys are at corporate headquarters) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting firms Financial institutions and insurance companies Hospitals Retailers Consulting firms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate office summer clerkships and entry level in-house counsel positions are rare. Usually only experienced lawyers are hired by corporations as in-house counsel. Entry level positions in compliance, procurement, or other law related departments are more common. Develop tolerance for bureaucratic procedure. An undergraduate major in business, particularly accounting or finance, is helpful. A joint MBA/JD degree may open additional opportunities.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
<p><u>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</u></p> <p>Litigation Advisory/Counsel Regulatory Public Policy</p> <p>Judicial Clerkships</p>	<p>Most government branches have legal counsel; some of the largest employers of lawyers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Department of JusticeDepartment of DefenseDepartment of CommerceFederal Bureau of InvestigationEnvironmental Protection AgencyCentral Intelligence AgencyFederal Trade CommissionInternal Revenue ServiceSecurities and Exchange CommissionJudge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for all branches of the military <p>Federal courts of appeal and district court (trial) judges and magistrates</p> <p>Bankruptcy and administrative law judges</p> <p>State courts of appeal and trial level judges</p> <p>Federal and state court clerkships for collective judges in a court</p>	<p>Complete an internship program with the federal government to get a foot in the door. Research the Presidential Management Fellows Program. New lawyers frequently go to court and litigate sooner; experience gained here can be valuable to private firms later.</p> <p>Government work offers a variety of practice opportunities from criminal to contracts. High academic achievement is emphasized by State and Federal judges; Federal judges usually require top 10% or 15% class rank.</p> <p>Clerkships can be a stepping-stone to other legal areas and provide many benefits for future career opportunities.</p> <p>For U.S. Supreme Court, applicants must be top law graduates with one to two years clerking at lower Federal Court.</p> <p>Moot Court participation in regional and national competitions is helpful.</p> <p>Law review membership, as an indication of writing ability, is highly valued and emphasized at all court levels.</p>
<p><u>STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT</u></p> <p>Litigation Advisory/Counsel Regulatory Public Policy Criminal Prosecution Public Defense</p>	<p>District Attorney's offices</p> <p>Attorney General's offices</p> <p>Governor's offices</p> <p>State agencies</p> <p>State legislatures</p> <p>Cities, municipalities, counties, school districts, boards of education, and state universities</p> <p>Public Defender's offices</p>	<p>Take essential courses related to criminal law, criminal procedure, constitutional law, and evidence.</p> <p>Participate in a criminal clinical program.</p> <p>Obtain summer positions in a prosecutor's office or a criminal litigation office or private firms practicing criminal law.</p> <p>New lawyers frequently go to court and litigate sooner; experience gained here can be valuable to private firms later.</p> <p>Civil law deals with a broad range of subjects other than criminal matters and provides for a wide variety of functions including the opportunity to work with private lawyers and public officials.</p> <p>A demonstrated interest in public issues and completion of related internships are helpful.</p> <p>Consider earning a joint Masters of Public Administration/JD degree.</p>

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
<u>EDUCATION</u> Teaching Student Affairs: Law Schools Universities/Colleges Higher Education Administration Pre-Law Advising Law Librarianship General Counsel	Law schools including departments of: Career Services Admissions Student Services Law libraries Business schools Undergraduate departments of History and Political Science Paralegal schools Universities and colleges including: Judicial Affairs/Student Conduct Office Dean of Students Human Resources	For teaching: Obtain several years of experience in private practice or government agency. The LLM degree and an outstanding academic record are usually required for law school teaching. Teaching allows for more flexibility of time and some lawyers teach on an adjunct basis. For administration and student affairs, consider earning a master's degree in College Student Affairs, Higher Education Administration, or related area. As an undergraduate, participate in campus leadership roles. In law school, secure a graduate assistantship in an office of interest, such as judicial affairs. For librarianships, a master's in library or information science, in addition to the law degree, is often required.
<u>MANY LAW SPECIALTIES EXIST INCLUDING:</u>		
CRIMINAL LAW	District Attorney's offices Law firms Sole practitioners Public Defender's offices	There are two sides to criminal law: criminal defense attorneys, including public defenders, and prosecutors/district attorneys. Criminal law requires outstanding oral and written communication skills and the ability to persuade others. A deep understanding of federal, state, and local laws, and court procedures is necessary.
PATENT, COPYRIGHT, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW	Law firms (specialized) Corporations U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	These lawyers help protect clients' claims to copyrights, inventions, patents, creative work, etc. This highly specialized area usually requires technical, science, or engineering degrees at the undergraduate or graduate level.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW	Law firms Corporations Federal agencies, e.g., Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency State agencies Environmental compliance services companies Regulatory commissions Advocacy organizations and public interest groups	This area involves rights to resources including those in the Earth and dangers in production of energy as well as transportation, taxation, patents, clean air and water, and government regulation. An undergraduate major in environmental science, agriculture, engineering, or science may be good preparation.
FAMILY AND JUVENILE LAW	Law firms, Sole practitioners Government agencies Nonprofit organizations Adoption agencies	Work with families and individuals on matters such as divorce, adoption, and juvenile justice.
HEALTH LAW	Law firms Insurance companies Health Maintenance Organizations Hospitals and nursing homes Government agencies Pharmaceutical companies	Represent all parties in healthcare such as hospitals, physician groups, health maintenance organizations, individual doctors, insurance companies, and patients.
INTERNATIONAL LAW Public: Relations between governments and citizens Private: Interactions of private citizens, corporations or other organizations	Governments Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) United Nations World Bank Law firms Large corporations	This area deals with a myriad of issues faced by governments, corporations, or non-profits in an international arena. Fluency in another language and familiarity with other cultures will help prepare one for this field. Seek international experience by studying, volunteering, or working abroad. Intern with a firm or organization that deals with international law. It may be difficult to find an international law job immediately after law school.
IMMIGRATION LAW	Law firms Nonprofit organizations assisting immigrants or refugees Legal Aid Government agencies, e.g., Immigration and Customs Enforcement Corporations employing international employees	Assist individuals or organizations dealing with issues of immigration, citizenship, naturalization, VISA/employment status, deportation, or asylum, Fluency in another language, particularly Spanish, may increase opportunities in this field.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR LAW	Law firms Large corporations Government Unions Special interest groups	Represent workers and employers on employment issues including wages, discrimination, harassment, unlawful termination, benefits and pensions, etc.
SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW	Law firms Sports teams Universities/colleges Studios Record labels Production companies Other employers in the radio, television, movie, and video game industries	Work with individual athletes or artists, as well as the sports and entertainment companies that hire them, on a range of issues including contracts, intellectual property, royalties, or disputes. Firms specializing in this area are more commonly found in Los Angeles, New York City, and Nashville.
PROPERTY/REAL ESTATE LAW	Law firms Large corporations Financial institutions Government Property management firms	Deal with individuals or organizations on matters related to land or property. Lawyers may focus on contractual work or litigation.
EDUCATION LAW	Law firms Educational institutions including: K-12 school districts Universities/colleges Government	Represent educational institutions, students, or parents on issues related to the educational process such as: special education rights, student discipline, teacher/administration selection/retention, etc.
FINANCIAL PLANNING, ESTATE PLANNING, INVESTMENT BANKING	Law firms Bank trust departments Brokerage firms Insurance companies Development offices for preparatory schools, hospitals, and universities	Insurance "Estate Planning" positions require interest and ability in sales. Bank trust department positions are good for those who do not want to litigate or be confrontational. An undergraduate major in accounting or finance may be helpful.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
<u>POLITICS</u> Lobbying/Government Relations Elected Office	Corporations Trade and professional associations Political action committees Law firms Public interest advocacy groups Government	Clerkship or summer associate positions with law firms providing lobbying services provide good experience. Demonstrate an interest in politics through your undergraduate major, active campaigning, or research papers/articles. Obtain full-time law firm experience as a stepping stone into field. Acquire superior writing skills. Develop a pleasing personality, enthusiasm, and high energy level. Demonstrate a service-oriented attitude. Show ability to work with people and good communication and organizational skills. Learn to enlist the help of others. Consider earning a joint Masters of Public Administration/JD degree.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- Students planning to attend law school may choose any major of interest. Some undergraduate majors can help prepare students for a particular area of law, e.g., a B.S. in environmental science for a career in environmental law. Select courses that prepare you for the rigors of law school.
- Develop strong research and writing skills. Enhance communication skills through public speaking courses, debate team, or Toast Masters (a public speaking organization).
- Maintain a high grade point average to increase chances of gaining admission to law school, and thoroughly prepare for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test).
- Visit the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) website to learn about the admissions process, law school, and the field of law.
- Join Phi Alpha Delta professional association.
- Secure strong personal recommendations from professors.
- Find part-time jobs or internships in law firms or government agencies to reality test your interest in law and to gain relevant experience.
- Participate in mock trial, student government, student judiciary boards, and other related organizations.
- Completing the law degree, Juris Doctor or JD, typically takes three years of full-time coursework. After completion, one must pass a state bar examination in order to practice law in that state.
- New law specialties are always emerging and the fields included here are not exhaustive. Consider your interests and skills when choosing an area of practice and research fields more thoroughly to learn how to effectively plan for a career in that area.
- Law school graduates may also find job opportunities outside the field of law if interested in pursuing alternatives.