

Big
ideas.
Real-world thinking.



MINNESOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY
MANKATO

PRE-LAW *College of Humanities and Social Sciences*

WHAT DEGREES AND PROGRAMS DO WE OFFER?

The Pre-Law program is not a major at Minnesota State Mankato but is a cohort within the Department of Government. Generally students declare Political Science as their major, although any major is acceptable. As the Student's grade point average and score on the Law School Admissions Tests are the primary factors on which law schools base their admission decisions, the selection of an appropriate major is very important. You should select a major field that interests you and that will provide you with a basis for an alternative vocational choice should your plans to finish law school not be realized.

Even though no particular pre-law major is best for all students, there must be substantial academic content in the pre-law education. In addition, you should supplement your major field by taking intellectually demanding courses that will develop broad educational foundations and mental skills required of the successful law student or lawyer — the ability to analyze, to reason, to read carefully, to think abstractly, and to speak and write precisely. Since the Pre-Law program is housed in the Department of Government, you should come in and visit with the Pre-Law Advisor as you go through your college career.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH THIS DEGREE?

Laws affect every aspect of our society. Lawyers act as both advocates and advisors. They represent opposing parties in criminal and civil trials by presenting arguments that support each side in a court of law. As advisors, lawyers counsel their clients as to their legal rights and obligations and suggest particular courses of action in business and personal matters.

PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

Lawyers do most of their work in offices and courtrooms. They frequently travel to attend meetings; to gather evidence; and to appear before courts, legislative bodies, and other authorities.

Lawyers generally work long hours and are under particularly heavy pressure when a case is being tried. Salaried lawyers generally have structured work schedules, while independent lawyers may work irregular hours while conducting research, conferring with clients or preparing briefs during non-office hours.

EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL

About three-fourths of all lawyers practice privately, either in law firms or in solo practices. The U.S. Department of Labor projects a 10% growth in demand for lawyers over the decade (2012-2022), but despite that growth, the sizable number of law school graduates entering the job market each year has created keen competition for jobs. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2020, the median annual wages of all wage-and-salaried lawyers were more than \$126,000, with annual wage ranging from more than \$61,000 (lowest 10%) to more than \$208,000 (top 10%).

EXAMINING THE QUALITY OF OUR PROGRAM

The Pre-Law program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, has been extremely successful with placement of students in such outstanding law schools as University of California-Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Northwestern, Stanford, UCLA, Yale, and Harvard.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE/ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Clubs

The Pre-Law Society, a student-sponsored organization, is available for the purpose of encouraging communication and interaction among pre-law students on campus.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Pre-Law Program
Department of Government
Minnesota State University, Mankato
109 Morris Hall
Mankato, MN 56001

Phone
507-389-2721 (V)
800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

Fax
507-389-6377

Email
government@mnsu.edu

Website
hss.mnsu.edu/pre-law

You are encouraged to visit the campus.
To arrange for a visit, please call:
Office of Admissions: 507-389-1822
Toll-free: 800-722-0544

For additional information about course requirements, please visit mnsu.edu/academics/academic-catalog/

08-22



An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity University. This document is available in alternative format to individuals with disabilities by calling the telephone numbers listed on this page.