Pre-Law Checklist

Interested in Law school? Use these steps to prepare.

1. **Meet with a pre law advisor regularly.**
    a. First & Second Year Students (Academic Advising & Transfer Services)
        i. Taylor Davis tcdavis@southalabama.edu
        ii. Victoria McMahon vmcmahon@southalabama.edu
        iii. Dallas Schmidt dallasschmidt@southalabama.edu
    b. Third & Fourth Year Students
        i. Dr. Ryan Williams ryanjwilliams@southalabama.edu

2. **Get involved on campus.**
    a. Join the Pre Law Society
    b. Be a part of an organization that interests you and works to better the community.

3. **Explore different academic areas. Take courses in a variety of disciplines.**
    a. This will give you a broader perspective on many topics.
    b. Check out these courses to build your critical thinking!

4. **Develop strong reading and writing skills.**
    a. Most lawyers need strong reading and writing skills for daily tasks.
    b. This will also be important for the LSAT and law school assignments.

5. **Choose a major based on your interests and skills. Do not choose a major just because you think it may help your JD admissions application.**
    a. Law school does not require any particular major. Pick a major you would excel in that still helps you build your critical thinking.
    b. Lawyers often specialize in certain areas of law and use their undergraduate work to supplement their understanding. For example, a computer science major who attends law school may

specialize in cyber law or a chemistry major may specialize in intellectual property law.

6. **Meet with Career Services to talk about internships, law school resumes and interview tips.**
    a. Gain experience through internships and co-ops.
    b. Refine your resume to emphasize your coursework, GPA/LSAT score and overall work experience.

7. **Conduct informational interviews with lawyers in your area.**
    a. Lawyers already in the field can give you their honest perspective on the profession.
    b. Possible shadowing opportunities can give you the inside scoop on the job requirements.

8. **Work on building relationships with your professors.**
    a. JD applicants often use letters of recommendation from their professors. The best letters of recommendation usually are written when the professor and student have a positive working relationship.

9. **Look into the legal job market and the cost of attending law school.**
    a. Pay attention to the job market and how lawyers are being hired and where.
    b. Research the cost of attending law schools, possible scholarships and student loans.

10. **The numbers matter! Keep those grades high and study for the Law School Admissions Exam (LSAT).**
    a. A strong GPA can elevate a JD application for scholarships and faster admission.
    b. The LSAT score is often the defining factor for JD admissions.
    c. Here's some free study tools and tips you can use to prepare for the LSAT.
        i. LSAC June 2007 Practice Exam & Info on this Exam
        ii. Khan Academy-Free LSAT Prep Course
        iii. Manhattan Prep-Free LSAT Resources

iv. Powerscore Virtual Proctors–Free Video Proctoring