

PRE-LAW & 3+3

Advising Guide

2024/25 Academic Year



UMass | Dartmouth

Introduction

Congratulations on pursuing the **UMass Dartmouth Pre-Law advising track**.

Your dedication to pursuing your undergraduate degree and pursuit of admissions to a law degree will be fully supported by your UMass Dartmouth major advisor and Pre-Law advisor.

All students are responsible for tracking their progress and making satisfactory progression in their bachelor and minor degree requirements and towards Law School admissions.

Students are responsible for meeting regularly with your Academic advisor, minor advisor (when applicable), and Pre-Law advisor.

Please note this advising handbook is not an exhaustive list of all activities a Pre-Law student should do and does not guarantee a student will be admitted to Law School by engaging in this advising program.

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UMassD Pre-Law FAQs

How do I know if Pre-Law is the right choice for me?

Pre-Law at UMass Dartmouth is an advising track and program, so any UMassD undergraduate in any major can participate. Choosing to participate does not mean you have to apply to Law School, in fact many students have chosen to pursue other paths after graduation.

If you have an interest in law or legal career fields, participating in Pre-Law supports you in discovering if Law School is the best choice for you and it connects you with other students who are also interested in this field.

Some factors and activities that students should consider and engage in when choosing to participate in Pre-Law during their undergraduate degree:

- Asking what is my future career goals?
- Participate in a law-based internship or work experience
- Engage with the Pre-Law Society
- Attend legal networking events
- Attend a Law School open house or visit a class at a Law School
- Network with practicing attorneys and engage in an informational interview about their career and Law School experience

What major should I choose for Pre-Law?

Students may choose from several majors at UMass Dartmouth for their Pre-Law pathway.

Popular majors include the Political Science – Pre-Law concentration, Psychology, Philosophy, Economics and Liberal Arts. Please note that select majors participate in the 3+3 fast track pathway, please reach out to the pre-law advisor for more information. Students should work with their major advisor and Pre-Law advisor to ensure their degree meets their career and Law School goals.

Please see your advisor or the CAS STAR Center to discuss the common majors which students choose for Pre-Law here at UMass Dartmouth including, but not limited to:

- College of Arts and Sciences
 - Political Science
 - Philosophy
 - Economics
 - Crime and Justice Studies
 - Psychology
- Charlton College of Business
 - General Business

Should I elect a minor?

Yes, if it fits in your program of study! Many students choose the Legal Studies minor at UMass Dartmouth in addition to their major program of study. The Legal Studies minor offers students a unique

opportunity to explore the legal system and the role of law in society from an interdisciplinary perspective. This minor is designed for students who are interested in learning about the law, the various facets of the legal system, the role of law in society, and how law shapes and is shaped by historical, political, economic, and social forces. Please note 3+3 studies often cannot fit a minor into their program of studies, please see the 3+3 advisor for more information.

For more information, please contact the Legal Studies minor director.

Website: <https://www.umassd.edu/programs/legal-studies/>

Are there particular classes I have to take to get into Law School?

There are no specific requirements for classes for more Law School admissions. However, there are particular skills gleaned from certain classes that would benefit students in their Law School admissions and future Law School studies.

At UMass Dartmouth we encourage students to work with their academic major advisor to make sure they are meeting program requirements.

Some classes we encourage students to consider, but are not required to take, related to Pre-Law include:

- PHL 110 Logic
- PSC 322 Constitutional Law
- PSC 323 Civil Rights and Liberties
- PHL 326 Philosophy of Law
- Statistics courses
- Economics courses such as Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
- Research Methods and Writing course

What is LSAC?

The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) is a nonprofit organization who provides services and information to Law Schools and law students. LSAC services include the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) required by the majority of American Bar Association (ABA) accredited Law Schools. LSAC also provides resources such as study guides, forums, and other support for the field of law and its students. LSAC also provides the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) which many Law Schools utilize for the admissions process.

All UMassD students will set up a LSAC account preferably in their first year of Pre-Law.

Website: <https://www.lsac.org/>

How do I study for LSATs?

There are many ways to study for LSATs, which are a critical component of your Law School admissions application. UMassD 3+3 students are encouraged to start studying the summer before their 3rd undergraduate year and traditional undergraduates in the summer between their 3rd and 4th undergraduate year.

Please see the LSAT Resources appendix for suggestions for studying. Your Pre-Law advisor will meet with you and other students to help discuss a good plan for you to achieve your LSAT goals.

How do I choose a Law School to apply to?

There are many Law School options to choose from and no one school is the proper fit for everyone.

There are several factors you should consider when choosing a Law School including:

1. Location
2. Acceptance Rates
3. Average LSAT and GPA requirements
4. Costs, fees and scholarships
5. Full time and part time study opportunities
6. Clinic opportunities
7. JD, LL.M, Masters, Certificate and other options
8. Specializations
9. ABA certification
10. Career support
11. Graduate employment outcomes and careers

Tools such as the LSAC Law Hub can help you narrow down your search by your key criteria.

Students should meet with their academic and Pre-Law advisor to discuss options and start refining their lists as early as their sophomore year to help in their Pre-Law pathway.

Where should I intern or work to prepare for Law School?

Internships and work experience can strengthen your Law School application and are a great way to identify your law career interests. Students should work with their academic advisor to identify required internship components in their major program of study. The Pre-Law advisor can be a great resource for outreach to potential law based options.

UMassD students should register early for the UMassD Career Center Handshake system and participate in Career Center events.

Website: <https://www.umassd.edu/career/>

Students should also join the UMassD Alumni Corsair Network to network with alumni in legal related fields.

Students should also create a LinkedIn profile early to facilitate networking.

Can I study abroad?

Yes! In fact, this could be a great opportunity for Pre-Law students to earn international experience and network in the legal field. Students interested in a study abroad option should first consult with their academic major advisor and then reach out to the UMassD Study Abroad office.

Website: <https://www.umassd.edu/ipo/study-abroad/>

Check out the experience of Shea Hazel who studied abroad in Ireland with a law focus:

<https://shazelipo.sites.umassd.edu/>

Other options include states-based study away terms including options such as the Washington Center.

Website: <https://twc.edu/>

What is the 3+3 Program?

UMass Dartmouth and UMass Law have established a 3+3 joint degree program to offer an accelerated pathway to an undergraduate and law degree. The fast-track program enables qualifying students to substitute the first year of Law School for the final year of their undergraduate program, thereby earning both a bachelor's degree from UMass Dartmouth and a Juris Doctor from UMass Law in six rather than seven years.

Advantages of the 3+3 Program

- Provides a fast track to a law degree and legal career.
- Saves one year of tuition costs and time.
- Provides a smooth transition from undergraduate to law curriculum.
- Program students enjoy library privileges at both institutions throughout their residence at either institution.

For more information on the 3+3 program, please set up an appointment with Jessica Oliveira, STAR Center Academic Advisor at umassd.edu/cas/star

Website: <https://www.umassd.edu/Pre-Law/three-plus-three-program/>

How do I apply to Law School?

Each Law School establishes their own application, process, deadlines and admissions requirements. Students should early in their Pre-Law advising establish a list of Law Schools that fit their interests and career goals. Students will work with their academic advisor and Pre-Law advisor on the application starting as early as the summer prior to their final year of their undergraduate program, a year before the start of their potential for Law School enrollment.

Please see the Tips for Applying to Law School section after the Checklist and Program Schedule

How do I get recommendations?

Students should review the requirements for recommendation letters for each Law School they are applying to. Typically, a student should choose a faculty who can speak to their academic progress and work. Students can also choose a work experience or internship experience supervisor who can also speak to their performance and work at those sites. In some cases, Law Schools also require a Pre-Law advisor letter. Students should identify and speak with recommenders at least a year before their application submission and then ask at least 3-6 months in advance for their letter of recommendation.

How do I write the personal statement or essay?

Each Law School establishes their own requirements for the admissions essay and statement. Students should review the parameters as soon as the application is opened for the admission year. UMass Dartmouth students should work with their academic and Pre-Law advisor on the parameters, find a reader they trust to review their writing, and work with resources such as the Writing and Multiliteracy Center (WMC). There are digital resources, such as Grammarly, that students can use to review their writing.

How do I pay for Law School?

Paying for Law School is a commitment and factor that all students should consider in their choice of Law Schools to apply to. Law Schools typically have several scholarships and fellowships available to 1L

students, and students should evaluate these opportunities when developing their Law School admission list.

Students should review the FAFSA requirements and apply when FAFSA opens typically around October 1.

There are several external scholarships and fellowship opportunities. These can be found on sites such as LSAC, and should be researched in advance of applying to Law School.

Do I have to have a resume for Law School?

Many Law Schools do ask candidates for an updated resume reflecting their education and work experience. UMassD students can use the Career Center and participate in workshops to update and develop their resume for Law School admission requirements.

Do I have to participate in the Pre-Law Society?

UMass Dartmouth, like many undergraduate institutions, has a student group called the Pre-Law Society. The student led group organizes activities such as alumni panels, Law School visits, LSAT prep, and other activities to support students on the Pre-Law track. Participation in the Pre-Law Society is optional, but strongly encouraged. This type of leadership experience, in addition to other student groups such as Student Government Association is strongly encouraged to support your future Law School admission goals.

Where do I get Pre-Law help?

UMass Dartmouth offers students Pre-Law support through the Pre-Law advisor who is a supporting role in addition to your academic major program advisor. Students should meet with the Pre-Law advisor at least one time per year to check in on their progress and Law School admissions preparation.

Students in the 3+3 UMassD and UMass Law program should meet with the Pre-Law advisor and the 3+3 advisor each semester to ensure they are on track and have the support to apply to Law School in their third year. Students in the 3+3 track are not guaranteed admission to UMass Law and should make sure to meet with their advisors regularly to support their Law School application.

Are there documents that I need to fill out?

For Pre-Law advising you can email the program advisor who will add you to the list and denote your advising in COIN.

For 3+3 advising, students will need to meet with the 3+3 advisor and make sure to fill out the following forms in addition to denoting your 3+3 pathway in COIN:

1. 3+3 Declaration Form
2. 3+3 Status Form (for 4th year and 1L)
3. 3+3 Transfer of Classes Form (for 4th year and 1L)

Second Year Undergraduate

Fall

1. Attend student groups such as Pre-Law Society and engage in activities
2. Meet with your Academic Advisor and Pre-Law Advisor and build next semester schedule.
3. Set a goal of at least a 3.5 GPA
4. Develop a list of reach, target and safety Law Schools that interest you
5. Take a sample LSAT exam to see how you do on LSAC.org

Spring

1. Attend student groups such as Pre-Law Society and engage in activities
2. Meet with your Academic Advisor and Pre-Law Advisor and build next semester schedule.
3. Set a goal of at least a 3.5 GPA
4. Refine your list of Law Schools and create a plan to visit next year
5. Take a sample LSAT exam again to see how you do on LSAC.org
6. Research internship opportunities for your third year
7. Refresh your resume

Summer

1. LSAT Pre – Set a goal of studying at least 1-2 hours per week over the summer

Work with your Academic Advisor, Pre-Law (and 3+3 Advisor if applicable) to create your schedule of classes for Year 2.

YEAR 2			
	FALL		SPRING

Third Year Undergraduate

Fall

1. Attend student groups such as Pre-Law Society and engage in activities
2. Meet with your Academic Advisor and Pre-Law Advisor and build next semester schedule.
3. Set a goal of at least a 3.5 GPA
4. Finalize your list of Law Schools for visits and create a list of GPA, LSAT and other requirements
5. Visit target Law Schools
6. Take a sample LSAT exam to see how you do on LSAC.org

Spring

1. Attend student groups such as Pre-Law Society and engage in activities
2. Meet with your Academic Advisor and Pre-Law Advisor and build next semester schedule.
3. Set a goal of at least a 3.5 GPA
4. Visit target Law Schools
5. Finalize your list of Law Schools for applications
6. Meet with recommenders for your Law School recommendations
7. Take a sample LSAT exam to see how you do on LSAC.org
8. Research scholarships and fellowships

Summer

1. LSAT Prep – Set a goal of studying at least 1 hour each day
2. Sign up for early fall LSATs
3. Review the requirements for each Law School application
4. Start your Law School essay
5. Research fellowships and scholarship opportunities for law school funding
6. Build healthy time management and personal wellness skills to prepare for your senior year and applying to Law School
7. Spend time with family and friends and have fun!

Work with your Academic Advisor, Pre-Law (and 3+3 Advisor if applicable) to create your schedule of classes for Year 3.

YEAR 3			
	FALL		SPRING

Fourth Year Undergraduate

Fall

1. Attend student groups such as Pre-Law Society and engage in activities
2. Meet with your Academic Advisor and Pre-Law Advisor and build next semester schedule.
3. Set a goal of at least a 3.5 GPA
4. Take your LSAT early in the semester
 - a. Retake the LSAT if needed
5. Secure your letters of recommendation
6. Finish your essay by using resources such as the writing center
7. Complete the FAFSA
8. Research scholarships and fellowships and deadlines for funding

Spring

1. Set a goal of applying early (no later than January 1) to Law Schools (or earlier depending on deadline)
2. Finalize applications for scholarships and fellowships depending on deadlines
3. Cross fingers and wait for acceptances

Summer

1. Get ready for Law School!

Work with your Academic Advisor, Pre-Law (and 3+3 Advisor if applicable) to create your schedule of classes for Year 4.

YEAR 3			
	FALL		SPRING

Second Year Undergraduate UMassD

Fall

1. Maintain your 3.5 GPA or higher
2. Meet with 3+3 Advisor by appointment. Build Spring (4th) semester schedule.
3. Optional meeting with UMassLaw admissions
4. Read up on UMassLaw and attend a law school Information Session or Fall Open House.
 - a. Sit in on a class, meet faculty and students, get a tour, and meet with the Associate Dean for Admissions to talk about the specifics of applying to UMass Law.
5. Begin to prepare for the LSAT exam.
 - a. See the resource list. Students should begin to think about how and when to prepare for the exam and what study resources you will use including study groups, etc.

Spring

1. Maintain your 3.5 GPA or higher
2. LSAT Prep – plan to study at least 1 hour during the week and at least 2 hours on the weekend.
3. Meet with 3+3 Advisor by appointment. Build Fall (5th) semester schedule.
4. Optional meeting with UMassLaw admissions
5. Attend UMassLaw Information Session (Optional)
6. Read up on the UMassLaw application process.
7. Register for the LSAT exam at LSAC.org.
8. Participate in undergraduate research opportunities and networking events

Summer

1. LSAT Prep – study at least 1 hour per day during the week.
Consider attending a summer pre-law program

YEAR 2			
	FALL		SPRING
	Study LSATs		Study LSATs

Third Year Undergraduate UMassD

Fall

1. Maintain your 3.5 GPA or higher
2. Meet with your Faculty Advisor. Build Spring (6th) semester schedule and ensure that Degree Progress Report represents appropriate progress in major and in completion of core requirements.
3. Optional meeting with UMassLaw by appointment.
4. Register with Credential Assembly Service through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) at lsac.org.
5. Attend UMassLaw Information Session or Fall Open House.
6. Take the LSAT in September
7. Optional: Retake the LSAT October through December if needed
8. Send transcript and LSAT scores
9. Apply to UMassLaw
 - a. Official deadline June 30
 - b. Students are STRONGLY encouraged to apply by December 31 of their junior year to maximize the opportunity for acceptance at UMassLaw

Spring

1. Maintain your 3.5 GPA or higher
2. Check in with 3+3 Advisor on progress
3. Optional meeting with UMassLaw by appointment.
4. April 15 – first deposit required.
5. June 1 – second deposit required.
6. Participate in undergraduate research opportunities and networking events
7. Prepare for Summer!

Summer

1. Optional: Do summer reading
2. Optional: Take a prep course
3. Build healthy time management and personal wellness skills to prepare for Law School
4. Spend time with family and friends and have fun!

YEAR 3			
	FALL		SPRING
	Take and/or retake LSATs if needed		

Fourth Year + 1L Shared Year at UMassLaw

Fall

1. Law School Orientation:
2. Complete 3+3 enrollment form with Law School Registrar
3. Attack 1L course load!
4. Submit the 3+3 Status form to your advisor

Spring

1. Apply to graduate from baccalaureate program through undergraduate registrar (directions on undergraduate registration website).
2. After graduation from undergraduate institution, request official copy of complete UG transcript be sent to the UMassLaw Registrar
3. Submit the 3+3 Transfer of Courses form to your advisor
4. Upon successful completion of 1L and proof of undergraduate graduation, conditional admissions status with UMassLaw will be removed from student record.
5. Enjoy your undergraduate graduation ceremony and get ready for 2L!

<i>First Year</i>			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Law 545 Civil Procedure I	3	Law 546 Civil Procedure II	3
Law 540 Contracts I	3	Law 541 Contracts II	3
Law 510 Legal Skills I	3	Law 511 Legal Skills II	3
Law 530 Property I	3	Law 531 Property II	3
Law 515 Torts I	3	Law 516 Torts II	3
Law 500 Acad. Skills Lab			
Total Credits	15	Total Credits	15

Student Name:

Expected Graduation Date:

Major(s):

Expected UMassLaw Entrance Date:

UMS Number:

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth ("UMass Dartmouth") and the University of Massachusetts Law School ("UMass Law") has established a 3+3 program that enables students to finish all of their undergraduate major, university studies and college requirements in three years and then start their first year of law school at UMass School of Law. Students who select this option and are successfully admitted to the program will have their first year of law school fulfill elective requirements. Upon successful completion of these requirements, students will graduate with a Bachelor's Degree and a Juris Doctor Degree in 6 years.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please fill out the declaration form below. Filling this declaration form and participating in the 3+3 track does not guarantee admission to UMassLaw and does not guarantee students will graduate in 6 years. Students are encouraged to declare this track no later than the end of the first semester of sophomore year to ensure successful progress. Students may start this track and choose to stop the track at any time before their senior year.

I, _____, declare an interest in the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and University of Massachusetts Law School's joint program, leading to a Bachelor's degree and a Juris Doctor degree in six years.

UMass Dartmouth College of Arts and Sciences juniors who meet the following requirements are eligible for application for admission to UMass Law via the 3+3 program under the following terms:

1. Successful completion of the work acceptable for a bachelor's degree at UMass Dartmouth by the end of the junior year (i.e., no less than 90 credits). At least 30 credits must be earned at UMass Dartmouth.
2. Successful completion of all university, college, and major requirements for the bachelor's degree, other than free electives and requirements for which a first-year law school course may serve as an acceptable substitute.
3. Fulfillment of all admissions requirements normally imposed by the law school, including an acceptable performance on the LSAT, letters of recommendation and a personal statement.
4. A cumulative grade point average of a 3.0 or better which meets the standards of UMassLaw.
5. At least two semesters of pre-law advisement.
6. Acknowledgement of good standing from your pre-law advisor and/or 3+3 advisor.

Signature

Date

**Please see the back of this form for detailed information on required pre-law advising meetings to fulfill your two semesters of undergraduate pre-law advising.*

Required Pre-Law Advising Appointments

			Office
Date	Initials	Discussion with your Faculty Advisor regarding your intent to participate in the 3+3 Program	Academic Advisor
Date	Initials	Introduction to pre-law advising services and resources Discussion on initial interests and major	3+3 and Pre-Law Advisor
Date	Initials	Discussion on current major, GPA, and appropriate classes to help prepare for law school each semester	Academic Advisor and 3+3 Advisor
Date	Initials	Review progress towards meeting the requirements for admission by the end of the junior year	Academic Advisor and 3+3 Advisor
Date	Initials	UMassLaw admissions process including LSATs, recommendation letters, personal statement, and addendums	3+3 and Pre-Law Advisor

Recommended Pre-Law Advising Appointments

			Office
Date	Initials	UMass Law Visit	
Date	Initials	Review of resume and cover letter and law school fellowship and scholarship opportunities	Pre-Law Advisor
Date	Initials	Discussion on status of engagement with experiential learning opportunities one to two years prior to law school	3+3 and Pre-Law Advisor
Date	Initials	Discussion of LSAT preparation How to explore law schools	3+3 and Pre-Law Advisor
Date	Initials	Discussion on Recommendations Discussion on personal statement	3+3 and Pre-Law Advisor

Major Academic Advisor Name:

3+3 Advisor Name:

Pre-Law Advisor Name:

Stipulations for the UMassD 4th year and UMassLaw 1L Year

Below are terms that students must meet in their senior year at UMass Dartmouth and UMassLaw. This is not an exhaustive list, students are required to meet the terms of the UMassD catalog year for their major and matriculation date:

- Students will be admitted only as full-time students in the University of Massachusetts Law School and will follow the usual course of study for full-time, first- year law students (31 credits). The program is not intended to apply to part-time law students.
- Students must complete all undergraduate major, general education, and college requirements by the end of the third year, leaving only free elective credits or other program requirements needed to complete the 120-credit Bachelor's degree.
- After successful completion of the first year at the Law School (2.7 GPA is required to be in good academic standing and is the minimum GPA for graduation from the law school), the 31 credits earned will be transferred to UMass Dartmouth as free elective credits or appropriate credit towards requirements, and will be sufficient to complete the UMass Dartmouth requirements for the bachelor's degree. The student will graduate from UMass Dartmouth in the Spring semester of the year.
- First year law school grades will not be included with the student's UMass Dartmouth grades in calculating the graduating grade point average.
- Students who have less than a 2.1 GPA at the end of the first semester of law school or less than a 2.6 GPA at the end of the first year of law school will be academic dismissed from the law school. Students with a GPA between 2.6 and 2.7 after the first year of law school will be allowed one semester of probation to raise their GPA to at least a 2.7, which is the GPA required to graduate.
- Students who do not successfully complete the first year of law school or who choose to withdraw, may return to UMass Dartmouth the next semester by completing a readmission form. The readmission fee will be waived. Any completed coursework at the law school will be treated by the university in the same way as other transfer credits.
- UMass Dartmouth seniors in their first year at the law school will be required pay the same tuition and fees to the law school as other first-year law students, but will not be required to pay the tuition or fees to UMass Dartmouth undergraduate program.
- Students in the program have access to library privileges at both institutions throughout their residence at their institution.
- Participation in the 3+3 program is not a guarantee of admission to UMass School of Law.
- It is the student's responsibility to meet the program's academic and eligibility requirements, to prepare for the Law School Admission Test, and to comply with all admissions procedures required by the law school including application deadlines, GPA, recommendation letters and personal statements.
- The program is intended for students who make a conscientious choice to attend UMass School of Law and complete their Juris Doctor Degree at the law school. Students can apply for early admission to another law school or transfer at a later date from UMass Law to another law school.

LSAT Study Resources

These materials have not been reviewed and are not Endorsed by the University and are suggested potential options to prepare for the LSAT. Students are responsible for identifying and vetting their own study resources.

Khan Academy: KhanAcademy.org/lsat600

Free LSAT Prep

Power Score: powerscore.com/lsat/

Multiple different options for studying from free to paid, in person or webinars and podcasts. Also promoting a course to familiarize yourself with the digital LSAT.

Law School Admission Council Website: lsac.org/lsat/lsat-prep

General info on the LSAT and some free material and videos. The site advertises the LSAC's official study guides and past tests but you need to go to a bookstore or Amazon.

To familiarize yourself with the new digital format, go to familiar.lsac.org/

Kaplan: kaptest.com/lsat

Free general info on the exam. Occasionally host free "LSAT Boot Camps," simulated tests, and other free sessions. Books are available for purchase, giving both instruction and practice tests. Also offer paid prep courses that start at \$800.

Princeton Review: princetonreview.com/law/lsat-test-prep

Free general info on the exam. Occasionally host free "LSAT Boot Camps," simulated tests, and other free sessions. Books are available for purchase, giving both instruction and practice tests. Also offer paid prep courses that start at \$800.

The LSAT Trainer: thelsattrainer.com/index.html

Mainly a book resource plus some free online resources. The book can be purchased on Amazon for around \$40. Our students have had luck with this program in the past.

7Sage: 7sage.com/

Totally online, low-cost resource for LSAT studying with plans starting at \$180.

Preprobono: preprobono.org/about-us/

The owners of 7Sage have a non-profit that offers students free Law School advice, low cost/or free LSAT prep workshops and application assistance.

CaseBriefs: casebriefs.com/registration-and-course-materials/

Free prep course offered by a trusted study guide of law students. Both an online component and a workbook.



About the Pre-Law Living Learning Community (LLC)

The Pre-Law LLC is open to first year undergraduate students in all majors who have an interest in the law. Students who live in and experience the Pre-Law LLC will be better prepared to enter law school and legal careers after graduation through development of relationships with pre-law advisors and faculty who are actively involved in teaching law-related courses and mentoring student organizations including the Pre-Law Society. Students can engage in fun learning activities from LSAT Game Night to movie nights and mock trials.

This Learning Community is schedule to start in Fall 2023 in Spruce.

Pre-Law LLC Goals

- Develop the mindset to prepare for law school or related legal careers in the public and private sectors.
- Live and learn in a collegial academic space with your peers who have a shared common purpose focused on law, ethics, and civility
- Create lifelong friendships, faculty mentoring relationships, and professional networks with lawyers, judges, and legal stakeholders on campus and in our South Coast community and beyond

Sample Learning Engagement Activities Fall 2023

1. Monthly LSAT Game Night – team up with your peers in a game-based environment to tackle LSAT questions – it is never too early to start studying!
2. Alumni seminars and career panels– Meet with UMass Dartmouth alumni who are working in the legal field and meet professionals who are engaged in law work from legislative to judicial to private sector to develop your professional network and explore career pathways in law.
3. Mock Trial – Prep for an end of the semester showdown over a topic in a mock trial, students will work with their faculty and Pre-Law Society peer mentors to prep for the trial with everyone playing a role to develop legal skills including research and presentation
4. Movie nights – Watch seminal law films

Tips on Choosing a Law School

There are several factors you should consider when choosing a Law School including:

1. Location
2. Acceptance Rates
3. Average LSAT and GPA requirements
4. Costs, fees and scholarships
5. Full time and part time study opportunities
6. Clinic opportunities
7. JD, LLM, Masters, Certificate and other options
8. Specializations
9. ABA certification
10. Career support
11. Graduate employment outcomes and careers

Tools such as the LSAC Law Hub can help you narrow down your search by your key criteria.

Regional Law Schools Overview *(sample, please refer to schools for any updates on data)*

School	State	Median GPA*	Median LSAT*	Applicants: Enrolled*	Acceptance Rate*
Boston College Law School	MA	3.74	166	5094:255	31.84%
Boston University Law School	MA	3.84	170	8221:318	18.33%
Harvard Law School	MA	3.92	174	9933:562	6.90%
Northeastern University Law School	MA	3.70	163	2798:209	35.56%
Suffolk Law School	MA	3.48	154	1975:409	69.37%
UMass Law	MA	3.47	152	1122:143	56.06%
Western New England School of Law	MA	3.10	147	618:131	60.19%
Roger Williams University School of Law	RI	3.13	148	1006:184	64.87%
UConn School of Law	CT	3.64	160	1206:168	45.11%
Quinnipiac University School of Law	CT	3.55	152	879:136	60.18%
Yale Law School	CT	3.94	175	5194:201	4.12%
University of Maine School of Law	ME	3.51	156	658:91	46.28%
University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law	NH	3.46	156	817:182	56.92%
Vermont Law School	VT	3.36	154	733:134	64.53%

* Media GPA and Median LSAT 2022 data, Source LSAC and ABA

*Enrolled and acceptance Class of 2023 (2020 admissions data)

UMass Dartmouth Law School Locator 2022/23
 (Adapted from the Boston College Law School Locator)

The Law School locator is a tool developed by NAPLA in partnership with Boston College with the last available edition of 2016-17.

The UMass Dartmouth Pre-Law program engaged in an update to support our undergraduate students and alumni pursuing law school.

The LSAT and GPA are two of four primary indicators which are evaluated in the law school admissions process, which for the most part is a holistic process.

UMass Dartmouth believes that students in choosing law schools should consider several factors in addition to the GPA and LSAT of their target law schools:

1. Location
2. Acceptance Rates
3. Average LSAT and GPA requirements
4. Costs, fees and scholarships
5. Full time and part time study opportunities
6. Clinic opportunities
7. JD, LLM, Masters, Certificate and other options
8. Specializations
9. ABA certification
10. Career support
11. Graduate employment outcomes and careers

The data included are the most recent data available by school and include primary Fall 2022 class data. Please note that the matrix is intact from the previous iterations, however, there are new phenomenon in the LSAT and GPA rates including law schools with GPAs higher than expected for the LSAT range. These are denoted by the new categories of G and O+. The schools in each category are on the following pages and include the median LSAT and GPA scores for easy reference.

LOCATOR MATRIX

			G	C	A
3.8			E	D	B
3.6	O+	L	J	F	
3.4	O	M	K		
3.2	P	N			
	150	155	160	165	170
MEDIAN GPA	MEDIAN LSAT SCORE				

Group A: 170+ 3.8+

Boston University
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Duke University
 Georgetown University
 Harvard University
 New York University
 Northwestern University (Pritzker)
 Stanford University
 University of California--Berkeley
 University of California--Los Angeles
 University of Chicago
 UI - Chicago (John Marshall)
 University of Michigan--Ann Arbor
 University of Pennsylvania (Carey)
 University of Texas--Austin
 University of Virginia
 Vanderbilt University
 Washington University in St. Louis
 Yale University

Group B: 170+ 3.6-3.79**Group C 165-169 3.8+**

Arizona State University (O'Connor)
 Brigham Young University (Clark)
 Emory University
 Florida State University
 George Mason University
 George Washington University
 University of Alabama
 University of Florida (Levin)
 University of Georgia
 University of Minnesota
 University of Notre Dame
 USC (Gould)

Group D 165-169 3.6-3.79

University of California--Irvine
 UI -Urbana-Champaign
 Boston College
 UNC Chapel Hill
 University of California--Davis
 Wake Forest University
 William & Mary Law School

Group E 160-164 3.6-3.79

American University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Chapman University (Fowler)
 Georgia State University
 Loyola Marymount University
 Northeastern University
 Southern Methodist U (Dedman)
 St. John's University
 Temple University (Beasley)

Tulane University
 University of Arizona (Rogers)
 University of Colorado--Boulder
 University of Connecticut
 University of Denver (Sturm)
 University of Houston Law Center
 University of Iowa
 University of Maryland (Carey)
 University of Miami
 University of Missouri
 University of Nevada--Las Vegas
 University of Richmond
 University of San Diego
 University of Tennessee--Knoxville
 University of Washington
 Villanova University
 Washington and Lee University
 Yeshiva University (Cardozo)

Group F 160-164 3.4-3.59

Baylor University
 Brooklyn Law School
 Fordham University
 Lewis & Clark College (Northwestern)
 Penn State University Dickinson Law
 University of California (Hastings)
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Wisconsin--Madison

Group G 160-164 3.8+

IU Bloomington (Maurer)
 Pepperdine University (Caruso)
 Ohio State University (Moritz)
 University of Utah (Quinney)
 Texas A&M University

Group H 155-159 3.6-3.79

Drexel University (Kline)
 Florida International University
 Illinois Institute of Tech. Chicago-Kent
 LSU Baton Rouge (Hebert)
 Marquette University
 Seton Hall University
 Texas Tech University
 The Catholic University of America
 University at Buffalo--SUNY
 University of Cincinnati
 University of Kansas
 University of Louisville (Brandeis)
 University of Nebraska--Lincoln
 University of South Carolina
 University of St. Thomas

Group J 155-159 3.4-3.59

Albany Law School
 DePaul University
 Duquesne University
 Hofstra University (Deane)

Loyola University Chicago
 Michigan State University
 New York Law School
 Rutgers University
 Saint Louis University
 Seattle University
 Stetson University
 Syracuse University
 University of Hawaii (Richardson)
 University of Kentucky
 University of Maine
 University of Mississippi
 University of Missouri--Kansas City
 University of New Hampshire
 University of New Mexico
 University of Oklahoma
 University of Oregon
 University of San Francisco
 University of the Pacific (McGeorge)
 Wayne State University

Group K 155-159 3.2-3.39

Santa Clara University

Group L 150-154 3.4-3.59

Belmont University
 Charleston School of Law
 Cleveland State (Cleveland-Marshall)
 Drake University
 Howard University
 IU -Indianapolis (McKinney)
 Liberty University
 Lincoln Memorial University
 Mercer University
 Quinnipiac University
 Suffolk University
 University of Akron
 UA - Little Rock (Bowen)
 University of Baltimore
 University of Dayton
 UMass Dartmouth UMass Law
 University of South Dakota (Knudson)

Group M 150-154 3.2-3.39

California Western School of Law
 Campbell University
 Capital University
 Creighton University
 CUNY
 Gonzaga University
 Mitchell Hamline School of Law
 Northern Illinois University
 Pace University (Haub)
 Regent University
 Samford University (Cumberland)
 Southwestern Law School
 St. Mary's University

University of Arkansas--
 Fayetteville
 University of Memphis
 (Humphreys)
 University of Montana
 University of Toledo
 University of Tulsa
 University of Wyoming
 Vermont Law School
 Washburn University
 Western State College of Law
 Westcliff University
 Willamette University College of
 Law

Group N 150-154 <3.2

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
 Loyola University New Orleans
 South Texas College of Law Houston
 University of Detroit Mercy
 University of Idaho
 University of Northern Texas
 University of the DC (Clarke)
 West Virginia University

Group O+ <150 3.4+

Ohio Northern University (Pettit)
 Oklahoma City University
 University of Puerto Rico

Group O <150 3.2-3.39

Faulkner University (Jones)
 Inter American University of PR
 North Carolina Central University
 Pontifical Catholic University (PR)
 University of North Dakota
 Widener University (Commonwealth)

Group P <150 <3.2

Appalachian School of Law
 Ave Maria
 Barry University
 Elon University
 Florida A&M University
 Golden Gate University
 Mississippi College
 New England Law Boston
 Northern Kentucky University (Chase)
 Nova Southeastern University (Broad)
 Roger Williams University
 Southern Illinois University--Carbondale
 Southern University Law Center
 St. Thomas University
 Texas Southern University (Marshall)
 Touro College (Fuchsberg)
 Western New England University
 Widener University--Delaware

UMass Dartmouth and UMass Law have established a **3+3 joint degree program** to offer an accelerated pathway to an undergraduate and law degree.

The fast track program enables qualifying students to substitute the first year of law school for the final year of their undergraduate program, thereby earning both a bachelor's degree from UMass Dartmouth and a Juris Doctor from UMass Law in six rather than seven years.

3+3 UMassD + UMassLaw Advantages

The program leads to the award of a bachelor's degree by your undergraduate institution, UMass Dartmouth, and a Juris Doctor degree by UMass Law.

3+3 Advantages

- Earn your undergraduate and graduate law degree in 6 rather than 7 years
- Provides a fast track to a law degree and legal career
- Saves one full year of tuition and living expenses
- Provides a smooth transition from your undergraduate education to law school
- Program students enjoy library privileges throughout their enrollment at either institution
- Eliminates the process and cost of applying to multiple law schools
- Stay right here on the South Coast for your education

Eligibility for UMassLaw Admissions

Juniors who meet the following requirements are eligible for admission to UMass Law via the 3+3 program under the following terms and should consult with their major degree program advisor to ensure eligibility:

- Successful completion of the work acceptable for a bachelor's degree at UMass Dartmouth by the end of the junior year (i.e., no less than 90 credits). At least 30 credits must be earned at UMass Dartmouth in the undergraduate major.
- Successful completion of all university, college, and major requirements for the bachelor's degree, other than free electives and requirements for which a first-year law school course may serve as an acceptable substitute.
- Fulfillment of all admissions requirements normally imposed by the law school, including an acceptable performance on the LSAT.
- A cumulative grade point average of a 3.0 or better.
- At least two semesters of pre-law advisement.
- Acknowledgement of good standing from your pre-law advisor.

Pre-Law Advising at UMass Dartmouth

The Pre-Law program prepares students for admission into a quality law school. Students will work with our Pre-Law Advisor and will select recommended courses that will help them prepare for the academic rigor of law school and the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). The program assists students in being well positioned to succeed in their legal education and career.

Pre-Law students are encouraged to choose a major of interest that will help them develop their reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students may choose any major across the university when planning to pursue admittance to law school. Some of the most popular options include **Political Science: Pre-Law** concentration, **Philosophy**, and **Crime & Justice Studies**.

Pre-Law students are not automatically part of the **3+3 Program** but should consider the program if it fits in their program of study. Students should meet with their primary major advisor to ensure the 3+3 is the correct choice for their degree path.

Application to UMassLaw

The application deadline for UMass Law is June 30. Students planning to enroll in the 3+3 program must complete their eligibility requirements, take the LSAT, and apply before this deadline in the spring/summer before their undergraduate senior year. Participation in the 3+3 program is not a guarantee of admission to law school.

The University Senior Year/Law School First Year

3+3 students are admitted as full-time students at UMass Law and will follow the usual course of study for full-time, first-year law students. Upon successful completion of the first year of law school, the credits earned will be transferred to your undergraduate degree as free electives or appropriate credit towards your undergraduate program/university graduation requirements. Students will thereby have graduated with a bachelor's degree from UMass Dartmouth, and will be eligible to walk at commencement.

SCAN ME



Scan for more information on the UMassD + UMassLaw Fast Track

The College of Arts & Sciences offers a number of programs to prepare students to pursue majors and careers including **Pre-Law**.

These programs are advising pathways designed to prepared students for majors in specific fields of interest. We help students determine their desired path and meet any needed requirements to be admitted into the related major of choice, or to prepare for admission into law school or other professional programs.

Pre-Law at UMass Dartmouth

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Pre-Law students may also consider the **3+3 Program** with UMass School of Law, which provides a fast track to a law degree in six rather than seven years. The program leads to a bachelor's degree at UMassD and a Juris Doctor degree with UMass School of Law.

Choosing your related Pre-Law major

The law provides several opportunities for specialization from entertainment to environmental to criminal law. Students may matriculate into any UMass Dartmouth major and elect the pre-law advising option.

Students will work with their advisor to design their program of study to include relevant course work which can include ethics, courses in environmental law, employment law, constitutional law, international law, and women and law.

Popular options for Pre-Law students include the Political Science BA with a pre-law concentration. Students may also elect to add the Legal Studies minor to their major program of study.

Students may also elect the fast-track 3+3 option, taking their first year of law classes in their fourth year of undergraduate study.

Additional Option: 3+3 UMassD + UMassLaw

The UMassD and UMass Law's 3+3 joint degree program offers an accelerated pathway to an undergraduate and law degree. The 3+3 program enables qualifying students to substitute the first year of law school for the final year of their undergraduate program, earning both the bachelor's and juris doctor degrees in six rather than seven years. Participating students will save a full year of tuition and living expenses. The program leads to the award of a bachelor's degree by your undergraduate institution, UMass Dartmouth, and a Juris Doctor degree by UMass Law.

3+3 Advantages

- Provides a fast track to a law degree and legal career
- Saves one full year of tuition and living expenses
- Provides a smooth transition from your undergraduate education to law school
- Program students enjoy library privileges throughout their enrollment at either institution
- Eliminates the process and cost of applying to multiple law schools

Additional Option: Legal Studies Minor

The 18 credit Legal Studies minor offers students a unique opportunity to explore the legal system and the role of law in society from an interdisciplinary perspective. This minor is designed for students who are interested in learning about the law, the various facets of the legal system, the role of law in society, and how law shapes and is shaped by historical, political, economic, and social forces.

Additional Option: Pre-Law Living Learning Community

The Pre-Law Living Learning Community is open to all first year students in all majors who have an interest in the law. Students who live in and experience the Pre-Law LLC will be better prepared to enter law school and legal careers after graduation through development of relationships with pre-law advisors and faculty who are actively involved in teaching law-related courses and mentoring student organizations including the Pre-Law Society. Students have the opportunity to engage in fun learning activities from LSAT Game Night, to movie nights, and mock trial.

SCAN ME



Scan for more
information on
UMassD Pre-Law