



SMU

2014-2015

Pre-Law Scholars Program



ADMISSION INTO THE PRE-LAW SCHOLARS PROGRAM INCLUDES AUTOMATIC ADMISSION INTO SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW.



ABOUT THE SMU PRE-LAW SCHOLARS PROGRAM

SMU Pre-Law Scholars will be automatically admitted to SMU Dedman School of Law upon completion of their undergraduate degrees and satisfaction of other conditions. In addition, the Pre-Law Scholars will enjoy a variety of law-related services and invitations to special events.

ABOUT SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW

SMU Dedman School of Law, just a few miles away from downtown Dallas, is the premier law school in Dallas. With a small entering class, outstanding teaching faculty, and a world-class alumni base, SMU boasts a scholarly community whose students have fantastic opportunities both inside and beyond the classroom. We are proud to be home to a well-rounded, diverse student body from approximately 200 colleges and universities, 30 states, and 20 countries.

RANKED #1—Student Satisfaction Survey of Texas Law Schools

SMU Dedman School of Law was ranked #1 in a student satisfaction survey of Texas law schools in the Texas Lawyer's most recent Dear Dean Survey. The rankings were based on teaching quality, technology, faculty accessibility, preparation for practice, collegiality, and library services.

Alumni, faculty, law students, and Pre-Law Scholars are invited to join their friends and classmates for a tailgate party before each home football game.



SMU PRE-LAW SCHOLARS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ADMISSION TO THE PRE-LAW SCHOLARS PROGRAM

A limited number of students (approximately 40 per year) are selected to join the Pre-Law Scholars Program before their enrollment as undergraduates at SMU. Students participating in the Pre-Law Scholars Program who satisfy certain conditions will be guaranteed admission into SMU Dedman School of Law upon completion of their undergraduate degrees.

To be considered for the program, applicants must first be admitted to SMU as undergraduates and have marked Pre-Law as an area of interest on their admissions applications. Scholars will be selected based on the overall quality of their applications to SMU. No additional application or essay is required. Invitations to join the Pre-Law Scholars Program will be mailed after SMU's regular decision notification date.

On a space-available basis, continuing SMU undergraduate students with at least 12 hours may apply to join the program. The application for current SMU students is available at law.smu.edu.

TO GAIN AUTOMATIC ADMISSION INTO SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW, PRE-LAW SCHOLARS MUST EITHER:

- Earn at least a 3.75 cumulative undergraduate GPA* and score at least 153 on the LSAT; or
- Earn at least a 3.20 cumulative undergraduate GPA* and score at least 164 on the LSAT

** as calculated by the Law School Admission Council*

Additionally, Pre-Law Scholars must meet the following requirements to gain automatic admission into the law school:

- Successful completion of the Pre-Law Scholars class taught by the law school
- No significant character issues and no previous law school attendance
- Completion of their undergraduate degree from SMU within five years
- Application to the law school within 5 years of undergraduate matriculation

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRE-LAW SCHOLARS

PRE-LAW SCHOLARS CLASS

The Pre-Law Scholars class will include lectures on various legal fields. The class will be taught at the SMU Dedman School of Law by law faculty and administrators. Pre-Law Scholars will enroll in this class during their sophomore or junior years.



EVENTS AND SERVICES

Each Pre-Law Scholar will be invited to special law-related events including:

- Distinguished visiting speakers (judges, prominent attorneys, etc.)
- Conferences and symposia
- Presentations on career paths and preparation
- Law school class visitation
- Law alumni panels

Pre Law Scholars also have access to the Scholars' Den, a study and meeting space located in the lower level of Clements Hall. In the Scholars' Den you will have access to conference rooms, reduced cost printing, comfortable and private study space, free beverages, and much more.



LAW-RELATED SMU UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

PRE-LAW ADVISING SERVICES

SMU offers pre-law advising services including:

- Individual pre-law counseling
- A pre-law services office that is staffed full-time
- Communications with pre-law students regarding law-related campus events, speakers, and seminars
- Programs and workshops dealing with the application process, recommendation letters, and LSAT preparation
- Resources for researching 200+ law schools

MOCK TRIAL

Collegiate Mock Trial is an extracurricular activity that provides undergraduate students the opportunity to compete, via tournaments, on a national level against other universities.

Tournaments consist of trials between prosecution/plaintiff and defense teams. Each team consists of 6-8 members (as attorneys or witnesses). Each mock trial focuses on a single case that is distributed at the beginning of the school year. Cases are distributed by the American Mock Trial Association.

Students learn first-hand about the work of trial attorneys, learn more about the American judicial system, and develop strong critical thinking and communication skills.

DEBATE

SMU's forensic debate program provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to compete in a demanding, character-building exercise. Participants develop strong conflict resolution and advocacy skills. Their participation in forensic debate requires rigorous research, organization, presentation, and judgment, all of which are highly valued in the law school setting.

UNDERGRADUATE LAW-RELATED COURSES

Students who intend to study law must develop excellent speaking and writing skills as they are principal tools of the legal profession. While no specific undergraduate courses are required for entry into law school, students may find some of the following courses to be of particular interest:

LEGAL PERSPECTIVES
AND BUSINESS LAW
Business Law 3310

BUSINESS LAW
Business Law 3335

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW
Business Law 4300

ENVIRONMENTAL AND
HAZARDOUS WASTE LAW
Civil and Environmental
Engineering 5311

FREE SPEECH AND THE
FIRST AMENDMENT
Communication Studies 3300

FORENSICS WORKSHOP
Communication Studies 4323

COMPETITIVE MOCK TRIAL
Communication Studies 4324

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
Cultural Formations 3307

21ST CENTURY PROPERTY ISSUES
Cultural Formations 3348

LAW AND ECONOMICS
Economics 5353

LEGAL ISSUES IN
HIGHER EDUCATION
Education 6256

BUSINESS WRITING
English 2302

COMMUNICATION LAW
Journalism 4316

LAW AND ETHICS IN A
HIGH-TECH WORLD
Journalism 4370

INTRODUCTION TO
CRITICAL THINKING
Philosophy 1300

ELEMENTARY LOGIC
Philosophy 1301

PHILOSOPHY OF CRIMINAL LAW
Philosophy 3373

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
Philosophy 3374

INTRODUCTION TO
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Political Science 1380

LAW, POLITICS, AND THE
SUPREME COURT
Political Science 3330

POLITICS OF LITIGATION
Political Science 4332

CIVIL LIBERTIES: FIRST
AMENDMENT AND PRIVACY
Political Science 4336

CIVIL RIGHTS
Political Science 4337

CRIMINAL PROCESS RIGHTS
Political Science 4338

WOMEN AND THE LAW
Political Science 4339

PSYCHOLOGY OF
CONFLICT RESOLUTION
Psychology 4363

CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
Sociology 3363

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
Sociology 4363

CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS
Sociology 4364

For more information on the Pre-Law Scholars program, visit www.smu.edu/Admission/Academics/Pre-lawScholars.aspx or contact Allie Bures, Assistant Director of Admission, at aebures@smu.edu.

For more information on SMU Dedman School of Law, visit www.law.smu.edu.





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