Apply to the LSJ Major

Application Information

LSJ accepts applications during Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarters. Applications are always due by 4pm on the second Friday of the quarter (Spring Application is due April 12th at 4:00 pm). The application is in a Google Form - you must be logged into your UW email address to access the application.

Personal Statement Prompt (750 words): One of our goals in assessing each applicant to the LJS major is to understand precisely what motivates each applicant's interest in the major. Please use this essay to describe what intellectual questions or social issues underlie your interest in our courses. Explain how courses you have already taken have informed your interest, and how you expect future courses will enable you to explore that interest further.

Click Here to Apply - Due April 12 at 4pm

LSJ Major Application Workshops

- March 12th, 3:30-4:30, Smith M261
- March 18th, 2:30-3:30, Smith M261
- April 3rd, 11:30-12:30, Smith M261

Learn more about LSJ requirements, course offerings, admissions prerequisites, and the application process. The second half of the session will provide tips for writing the personal statement portion of the application (including time to brainstorm ideas for your statement!), as well as a Q&A session with the LSJ Advisers. This workshop is meant to help you submit a strong and successful personal statement! All are welcome.

If you cannot make it to an application workshop, you can view the presentation [here](#).

Prerequisites for the Law, Societies, and Justice major

To be eligible to apply to the Law, Societies, and Justice major (LSJ), students must meet the following prerequisite criteria, including minimum grades and the successful completion of prerequisite coursework.

1. A minimum cumulative UW GPA of no less than 2.50.
2. One course from the UW English Composition list (5 credits). This course is a prerequisite because the ability to write well-reasoned and well-supported research papers is of great value for success in the LSJ major. ENGL 198 and ENGL 298 are recommended because they focus specifically on writing in the social sciences, but any course that fulfills the UW English Composition requirement will complete this requirement.

3. Two courses from two different LSJ Core Categories (10 credits), although more courses are encouraged. LSJ Core courses lay the foundations for understanding how law interacts with human society and institutions on a local, national and global level. Because of the uniqueness of the LSJ major, taking two of these core classes is a vital tool for helping students understand the educational goals of this major before applying.

These LSJ Core classes should all be considered “introductory.”

**Category 1:**

- LSJ 200 (Introduction to Law, Societies, and Justice) OR LSJ/POL S 363 (Law in Society)

**Category 2:**

- LSJ 320/POL S 368 (The Politics & Law of International Human Rights) OR LSJ 321/ANTH 323 (Human Rights Law in Culture and Practice) OR LSJ 322/JJSIS A 324 (Human Rights in Latin America)

**Category 3:**

- LSJ/JJSIS B 366 (Comparative Law and Legal Cultures) OR LSJ/POL S 367 (Comparative Law and Courts)

**Category 4:**

- LSJ 375/SOC 372 (Crime, Politics, and Justice)

**Note:** Students must have all prerequisite requirements completed and graded in order to be considered for admission.

The LSJ Admissions Committee considers the following criteria when making admissions decisions:

- The personal statement representing the student's interest in and commitment to study of Law, Societies, and Justice as an academic field
- Evidence of writing, analytical thinking and academic skills suitable to success in upper-level classes in the department
- Evidence of ability to communicate intelligently about material covered in LSJ courses taken by the time of application
- GPA, with emphasis on grades received in courses required for admission, in other LSJ courses, and in social science courses in general

All applicants will receive email notification of their admission decision by the Friday of the 5th week of the quarter in which they apply. Students admitted to the major will attend the LSJ New Major Workshop, during which the necessary paperwork to formally declare the major will be completed. Your acceptance to the major cannot be formalized unless these forms are filled out, signed, and turned in to the Registrar's Office. Students who cannot attend the workshop are encouraged to make an appointment as soon as possible after receiving the email indicating their acceptance to the major in order to facilitate registration for the following quarter.