

Law, Societies & Justice Admissions Info Session

What is LSJ?

- > Bachelor of Arts Major and Minor**
- > 220 majors, 100 minors**
- > Major themes explored:**
 - Contemporary phenomenon**
 - Law on the books vs law in action – the grey area**
 - The role of legal institutions in responding to concerns about crime and disorder**
 - The diversity of legal institutions across different national and international contexts**
 - The significance of human rights in shaping contemporary legal discourse and institutions**



What makes LSJ unique?

- > Small class sizes
- > Required internship
- > Interdisciplinary
- > Individual research opportunities
- > Study abroad opportunities
- > Faculty who prioritize teaching
- > Innovative teaching approaches
- > Connected alumni



What LSJ is Not

- > A pre-law program
 - You can major in anything and go to law school!
- > A criminal justice program
- > A professional program



Applying to the LSJ Major

- > Capacity Constrained Admission**
- > Application accepted Autumn, Winter, and Spring**
- > Deadline is always the 2nd Friday of the quarter**
- > Prerequisites to apply**
 - Two LSJ core classes**
 - English composition course**
 - Cumulative GPA of 2.5**



Application

- > **Google form located on our website**
 - General information (name, email, etc.)
 - Academic Information (which prereqs did you take, are you in another major, etc.)
 - Personal Statement (upload as PDF)
 - Transcripts (upload as PDF)
- > **Must be submitted by 4pm on the due date**



The Personal Statement

> 750 word essay (double spaced)

> Prompt

- One of our goals in assessing each applicant is to understand precisely what motivates their 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.



Example Essay Topics from AUT 2017

> Intellectual Questions

- How do societal norms and rules function to express the values held by groups in power?**
- What could the criminal justice system look like if it was less focused on convictions?**
- How can law gain legitimacy when a population does not respect it's outcomes?**

> Social Issues

- Policing, Life without Parole Sentences, Immigration, Confinement, Racial Profiling, Incarceration, Human Rights, etc.**



Personal Statement Tips

- > Describe your intellectual question or social issues and then tie them to specific course readings, lectures, discussions, etc. This should be 80—90% of your essay.
- > You don't need to suggest or know the answer to your question- that's why you're pursuing the major – to learn more!
- > After reading your essay, it should be obvious to the committee why you are pursuing LSJ.
- > Provide analysis and draw connections – avoid the kitchen sink approach.
- > Write an essay only you could have written. It's fine to share some pieces of your life story if applicable.
- > Do not use this essay to talk about your career goals. LSJ is about learning and growing, not preparing you for a specific career.
- > Focus on LSJ coursework, not other classes.
- > Answer the whole prompt – don't forget to talk about what you're looking forward to.



What the Admissions Committee is Looking For

- > Students who demonstrate true passion for, and an intellectual curiosity in, the LSJ curriculum.**
- > Students who display a clear understanding of what LSJ is.**
- > Students who are capable of succeeding in LSJ coursework, as demonstrated by their academic record.**
- > Evidence of excellent writing and critical thinking skills.**
- > Students who bring diverse perspectives and life experiences to the classroom environment.**



Advising

> Drop in

- Monday 9am-noon
- Wednesday 1:30-4:30pm
- Friday 9am-noon

> Appointments

- Schedule an appointment online with either Kyla or Qanani



- > We are happy to brainstorm ideas, but do not read personal statements.

