

Law, Societies & Justice Admissions Workshop

Agenda

- > An Overview**
 - > Prerequisites**
 - > Application Details**
- > How to Prepare**
- > What We're Looking For**
- > The Admissions Decision**



An Overview



About Admissions

- > **Capacity Constrained Admission**
- > **Roughly 50% admission rate**
 - 35 - 40 students accepted per quarter (AUT, WIN, SPR)
 - Can apply twice
 - Admission based on GPA and Essay
 - > Average UW GPA: 3.5
 - > Average LSJ GPA: 3.6



Prerequisites

To be eligible to apply:

- > Two completed and graded LSJ core classes (cannot be taken prior to starting at UW) - *different categories*
- > English composition course
- > Cumulative GPA of 2.5



Application Details

- > **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 (second Friday of the quarter)**



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.**



How to Prepare

Brainstorming

- > What first brought you to LSJ?
- > Classes taken - lecture notes, course descriptions and readings, syllabi, etc.
- > Researching faculty, fields of interest, and publications
- > New and old perspectives, highlighted issues, problematized policies or laws, etc.
- > We are happy to brainstorm ideas, but do not read personal statements.



A Note about Pre-Law

- > “Pre-Law” is not a major**
- > Law school requires no prerequisite courses nor do they prefer any particular majors**
- > Explore majors that interest you**
- > Take courses that involve a lot of reading, writing, and research**
- > Try a legal internship**
- > Assess your values**



Major Themes Explored

- > **Contemporary phenomenon**
- > **Law on the books vs law in action**
- > **Criminal Justice - The role of legal institutions in responding to concerns about crime and disorder**
- > **Courts & Legal Institutions - The diversity of legal institutions across different national and international contexts**
- > **Human Rights - The significance of human rights in shaping contemporary legal discourse and institutions**



Example Essay Topics

> 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 its outcomes?**

> Social Issues

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



Writing Help

- > JSIS/POLS/LSJ Writing Center, Gowen 111**
 - Drop-in**
 - > Monday through Wednesday 3 - 4:30pm**
 - By appointment**
- > CLUE Writing Center, Mary Gates Hall**
 - First come, first served**
 - 45-minute 1:1 sessions available at any stage in your writing!**
- > Instructional Center (IC)**
 - Drop-in and Workshops available!**



What We're Looking For

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
- > Write an essay only you could have written. It's fine to share some pieces of your life story if applicable.
- > Focus on LSJ coursework, not other classes.
- > Answer the whole prompt - don't forget to talk about what you're looking forward to.
- > Do not use this essay to talk about your career goals. LSJ is about learning and growing, not preparing you for a specific career.



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.



The Admission Decision

If You Are Accepted

- > New Majors Orientations are held during the middle of the quarter**
- > You will be able to register for LSJ major only courses for the following quarter**



If You Are Not Accepted

- > Appointments are available two (2) weeks following admissions decision date with an LSJ Adviser**
- > You can apply up to two times, but should be pursuing a back up major in the meantime**
- > If you declare another major, you can declare an LSJ minor**



Further Advising

- > Drop in (Academic year)**
 - Monday 9am-noon
 - Wednesday 1-3pm
 - Friday 9am-noon

- > Appointments**
 - Schedule an appointment online



Questions?

