Law, Societies & Justice
Admissions Workshop
Agenda

> An Overview

  > Prerequisites

  > Application Details

> How to Prepare

> The Admissions Decision
An Overview
Admissions is Holistic

> The LSJ Admissions Committee may consider any or all of the following when reviewing your application:

– Understanding of LSJ Department as a whole
– Ability to explain how intellectual interests intersect with LSJ curriculum
– Ability to contribute to diversity and wide-ranging and dynamic discussions in LSJ classes
Admissions is Holistic, cont.

> Overall GPA, with particular emphasis on LSJ and other social science courses
  
  - Average UW GPA: 3.5
  - Average LSJ GPA: 3.6

> Applicants overall trajectory

> Time to completion and progress toward degree
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.
About Admissions Process

> Capacity Constrained Major
> Accept applications every quarter (except summer)
  - second Friday of the quarter by 4pm via Google Form
> Roughly 40% admission rate
  - 35 - 40 students accepted per quarter (AUT, WIN, SPR)
> Can apply twice
Prerequisites

To be eligible to apply:

> A minimum of 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)
The Personal Statement

> 750 word essay (double spaced)
> Prompt
>
> The Law, Societies & Justice Department offer undergraduate students a dynamic and engaged interdisciplinary liberal arts education focused on law, rights, and justice. LSJ courses analyze the meaning of justice, the methods used in efforts to realize it, the politics of rights, and the complex roles that law and legal institutions play in structuring social life. One of our goals in assessing each applicant to the LSJ major is to understand precisely what motivates each applicant’s interest in the major. In 750 words or less please describe what intellectual questions or social issues underlie your interest in our major. 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.
Hardship Statement

> Statement is optional (250 words)

> Prompt

- Describe any personal or economic hardships or barriers and explain how they directly affected your ability to be successful in college, as reflected in your transcript. As hardships may occur throughout your life, be specific about when you encountered these hardships and how long they lasted.
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.
Describe your intellectual question or social issues and then tie them to specific course readings, lectures, discussions, etc.

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.
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
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!
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 parallel major in the meantime

> If you declare another major, you can declare an LSJ minor
Further Advising

> Drop in (Academic year)
  - Wednesday 10:30am-noon
  - Friday 1:30-3:30pm

> Appointments
  - Schedule an appointment online
Questions?