We would like to familiarize you with pre-health advising at Binghamton University. Here are some frequently asked questions.

What is pre-law advising?
The pre-law advisor and advising staff provide guidance on the law school admission process and legal careers.

Pre-Law Advising is located in Rockefeller Center Room 151.

The Program Provides Support and Assistance to Pre-Law Students in Several Ways:

- Pre-Law Scholarships and Internships
- Pre-Law Meetings and Workshops
- Individual Appointments
- Pre-Law Resource Library
- Annual Law Day- Law School Fair
- Pre-Law Student Groups

How do I become a pre-law student at Binghamton University?

First, subscribe to the pre-law listserv to receive e-mail announcements of pre-law events, deadlines, opportunities and issues.

Click to subscribe to [Prelaw-b](http://binghamton.edu/pre-law/listserv.html)

Second, all students interested in a legal career should meet with the pre-law advisor. In your first-year of attendance, stop by the office during pre-law walk-in hours or schedule an appointment. You can make an appointment to discuss choice of major(s), career interests, summer plans and other questions about law school and legal careers.

Is there a pre-law major or a pre-law school?

Binghamton has no specified pre-law major or curriculum for undergraduate students who want to go to law school.

The American Bar Association, the association that regulates the legal profession and legal education, does not recommend any particular major to prepare for law school.

Select your major based on your individual interests.
How can I prepare now for low school?

According to the American Bar Association, there are important skills, values, knowledge, and experience that you can acquire prior to law school. These will provide a sound foundation for a legal education.

If you wish to prepare adequately for a legal education, and for a career in law or for other professional service that involves the use of legal skills, you should seek educational, extra-curricular, and life experiences that will assist you in developing those attributes.

The student who goes to law school lacking this foundation will face difficult challenges.

Problem Solving - Seek courses and other experiences that will engage you in critical thinking about important issues, challenge your beliefs and improve your tolerance for uncertainty and criticism. Your legal education will demand that you structure and evaluate arguments for and against propositions that are susceptible to reasoned debate.

Critical Reading – Preparation for legal education should include substantial experience at close reading and critical analysis of complex textual material. You can develop your critical reading ability in a wide range of experiences, including the close reading of complex material in literature, political or economic theory, philosophy, or history.

Writing and Editing - You should seek as many experiences as possible that will require rigorous and analytical writing, including preparing original pieces of substantial length and revising written work in response to constructive criticism.

Oral Communications and Listening – Before going to law school, you should seek to develop your basic speaking and listening skills, such as by engaging in debate, making formal presentations in class, or speaking before groups in school, the community, or the workplace.

Research – It would be to your advantage to go to law school having had the experience of undertaking a project that requires significant library research and the analysis of large amounts of information obtained from that research.

Organization and Time Management Skills - To study and practice law, you are going to need to be able to organize large amounts of information, identify objectives, and create a structure for applying that information in an efficient way in order to achieve desired results. Some of the requisite experience can be obtained through undertaking school projects that require substantial research and writing, or through the preparation of major reports for an employer, a school, or a civic organization.

Public Service and Promotion of Justice - If you are thinking of entering the legal profession, you should seek some significant experience, before going to law school, in which you may devote substantial effort toward assisting others. Participation in public service projects or similar efforts at achieving objectives established for common purposes can be particularly helpful.
Exposure to the Law - Take advantage of opportunities to shadow, network with, or be mentored by practicing lawyers. Seek credit-bearing or paid internships in law-related settings during college breaks and summers. Consider law-related employment between college and law school. While these experiences are not required for admission to law school, they can help you make informed decisions that lead to a successful law career.

Need more information? We’re here to help!

Harpur College advising associates are available between 2 and 8pm, 7 days a week by phone or email.

607-777-3700
harprsh@binghamton.edu
*Advising associates will not be available on the following dates: July 3, 4, 7, 10, 21, 24 and 28. You’ll have an opportunity to meet the advising associates at the orientation sessions.