

The Summer Institute for Pre-Legal Studies (Pre-Legal Program) at Seton Hall University School of Law

The Pre-Legal program was implemented in 1980 to prepare and educate undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter careers as attorneys and other professions within the legal field. Funded by the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF), Pre-Legal is an intensive five-week, skill-building, residential program that combines law school-styled classes with a mentoring environment that includes counseling components, tutorials, academic support, and professional development. The primary purpose of Pre-Legal is to provide students with a realistic expectation of the demands of law school from a totality of perspectives: intellectual, academic, emotional and social.



Participants receive instruction in two substantive law school courses traditionally taught in the first-year curriculum, as well as legal writing, writing composition and oral advocacy. These courses are taught by a Federal Judge, practicing attorneys, and law school professors. Participants are also required to prepare an appellate brief and orally argue their position before panels of judges from the New Jersey Superior Court, the Office of Administrative Law, and the federal and municipal benches. Classes are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Additional class sessions in time and stress management as well as study skills, and career orientation workshops are scheduled in the evenings and on weekends. In addition, the Pre-Legal Program provides information on the law school application process including instructional seminars and practice tests for the LSAT and admissions and financial aid workshops. Class attendance is mandatory. Like law school, Pre-Legal is a full-time commitment.



Directed by civil rights pioneer Professor Brenda Saunders Hampden, the Pre-Legal Program is designed for college students who are receiving EOF grants or are EOF eligible. Pre-Legal replicates the academic challenges of the first year of law school while teaching valuable skills to students that they can utilize when returning to college to complete their undergraduate studies. Pre-Legal recently celebrated its 35th anniversary at Seton Hall Law and boasts scores of graduates over the years who are enjoying successful careers both in and outside of the legal profession.



The Pre-Legal Program is currently undergoing a rolling admissions process and applications are currently being accepted for participation in the 2016 summer program. Learn more about the Pre-Legal Program and apply at law.shu.edu/About/diversity/prelegal/apply.cfm.

An early application will yield an early admissions decision. However, the absolute deadline is **February 15, 2016**. The application process also requires submission of two letters of recommendation, an official transcript, participation in a personal interview, and attendance at three Mandatory Orientation sessions in the spring. **The tentative summer program dates for 2016 are May 28 - July 2**. Please note that students graduating in May 2016 are **NOT eligible** to participate in the Pre-Legal Program.

For further information, please contact:

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