

### PRE-LAW STUDIES

#### PROGRAM ADVISOR

Dr. David McLaughlin, (660) 562-1697  
Department of History, Humanities,  
Philosophy, and Political Science  
dmcl@nwmissouri.edu

*"With smaller class sizes, the professors at Northwest were able to prepare me for success in law school, and I feel as though I came to law school one step ahead. Northwest was a great place to get my education and was a great place to grow as a person."*

Rebecca Holdiman  
graduate, attended University of Iowa  
College of Law

### THE PROGRAM

Northwest's Pre-Law program prepares students for future study in law, with a focus on oral and written communication and hands-on experience in a courtroom atmosphere.

### CHOOSING A MAJOR

No particular undergraduate major is required by the majority of law schools. Any substantive major in a recognized field will be considered. It matters less whether a student studies a particular major than it does that he or she does well in that major. However, the basic tools of law logic and the ability to write and speak with clarity and force are essential. Any major that develops these skills will naturally serve to help a student gain admission and do well in law school.

Law schools require at least a 3.00 grade point average and a score on the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test) in the top 50 percent. The LSAT emphasizes reading, writing and analytical skills.

### OUR TRACK RECORD

Northwest has a solid record of students gaining admittance into law schools. In one year, for example, out of 17 students who applied, 11 (65 percent) were accepted into a law school. Among those 17 students, there were 35 applications to law schools, and 25 (71 percent) of those were accepted.

### COURSES

#### COURSES PROVIDING A LEGAL FOUNDATION

- Accounting II
- Argumentation and Debate
- Business Law I
- Business Law II
- Civil Liberties
- Communication Law
- Comparative Government
- Constitutional History of the United States
- Constitutional Law
- Courts and Rights of the Accused
- Delinquency
- Deviant Behavior
- English Grammars
- Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations
- General Economics I
- General Economics II
- General Statistics
- Insurance and Risk
- Introduction to Classical Rhetoric
- Introduction to Ethics
- Introduction to Logic
- Law and Politics
- Modern Western Political Thought
- Money, Credit and Banking
- Persuasive Communications
- Public Speaking
- Real Estate Management
- Rhetorical Writing
- Tax Accounting I
- Tax Accounting II
- U.S. Economic System

## ACTIVITIES & ORGANIZATIONS

### Pre-Law Society

This group is open to anyone planning to attend law school. Members meet to socialize, discuss issues, study for the LSAT and visit various law schools in the area. Once a trimester, a practice LSAT is administered free of charge to our students.

### Mock Trial

Most years, Northwest's mock trial team enters the national collegiate mock trial competition. The case for these trials alternates between civil and criminal cases, and everyone receives the same case, facts and prescribed witnesses. Mock trial helps to build the necessary debate skills for a career in law. It also provides students with practical experience by simulating a courtroom atmosphere. Judges for these trials come from law school faculty, lawyers and state and local justices.

### Young Democrats

This organization offers opportunities for involvement and activities promoted by the Democratic Party.

### College Republicans

This organization offers opportunities for involvement and activities promoted by the Republican Party.

### Criminal Justice Club

This organization offers student opportunities to hear speakers on various careers in the American criminal justice system.

### Students for Political Awareness

This nonpartisan group provides an opportunity for conversation and debate, and occasionally sponsors formal debates and guest speakers.

- ▶ The average class size at Northwest is 27.
- ▶ Student to faculty ratio is 21 to 1.
- ▶ Approximately 80 undergraduates are enrolled in Pre-Law Studies, with majors primarily in business, history, psychology and political science.

## INTERNSHIPS

### STATE AND LOCAL

Interns are placed in a variety of national, state and local agencies throughout the area. Some places Northwest students have interned include:

- American Bar Association
- The Federal Reserve
- National Organization for Women
- Private law offices
- Public defenders' offices

### WASHINGTON CENTER

Through the Washington Center internship program, students can work in Washington, D.C., to gain experience interviewing witnesses, assisting attorneys during trials, conducting legal research, attending sentencing hearings, taking witness statements and drafting motions and briefs.

Interns have the opportunity to work in various agencies, including:

- Birch and Cronaur
- D.C. Corporation Counsel
- District of Columbia Probation Office
- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Georgetown Law Center
- Lewis and Trattner
- National Association for Public Interest Law
- National Criminal Justice Association
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Park Police

## LAW SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Recent Northwest graduates have attended law school at the following places:

- American University
- Baylor University
- California Western
- College of William and Mary\*
- Creighton University\*
- Drake University
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Hamline University
- Marquette University
- Pepperdine University\*
- Seton Hall University
- Southern Illinois University
- St. John's University\*
- St. Louis University
- Thomas Cooley
- University of Alabama
- University of California–Berkeley
- University of Iowa
- University of Kansas\*
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri–Columbia
- University of Missouri–Kansas City\*
- University of Nebraska
- University of Nevada–Las Vegas
- University of North Carolina
- University of Tulsa
- University of Wyoming
- Washburn University\*
- Washington University\*

\*full or at least 50% tuition/scholarships received by one or more students

### OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

Northwest Missouri State University  
800 University Drive  
Maryville, MO 64468-6001

1.800.633.1175  
admissions@nwmissouri.edu

[www.nwmissouri.edu](http://www.nwmissouri.edu)