INTERESTED IN LAW SCHOOL?

Besides the undergraduate transcript, most law school applications require several other segments that should be noted:

The first is a personal statement explaining why the applicant wishes to attend law school. As law school admissions personnel read these essays with some care, they should be written in the same manner.

Second are at least one to three recommendations from faculty, or employers, or individuals who can provide insights into the applicant as an individual. Students should give serious thought to who they select as their letter writers. If at all possible, the faculty member should know the applicant well enough as a student to be able to assess, candidly, his or her intellectual potential for the study of law. Simply giving an A in a large course with virtually no personal contact between the professor and student is not a sufficient basis for a recommendation.

The third part of the application is the required Law School Admissions Test, or LSAT. A standardized test, it is the *sine qua non* for all law school applicants, and along with the undergraduate transcript, constitutes the most important part of the application. Most law schools decline to state which is more important in terms of admission—the academic GPA, or the LSAT score. However, it would appear that an outstanding GPA will help to offset a mediocre LSAT score, while an outstanding LSAT score will not offset an unimpressive GPA.

For additional advisement in the Minor in Legal Studies at Rutgers University—Newark
contact:

Dr. Benjamin Hutchens
heb24@andromeda.rutgers.edu

OR

Dean Sofia F. Pinto-Figueroa
sopinto@rutgers.edu

http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/applying-law-school
LEGAL STUDIES MINOR

The newly created **18-credit minor** in legal studies, offered by the Department of History, is designed to provide students with an introduction to the law. It is **interdisciplinary**, allowing students to take courses across several schools and departments. The curriculum offers preparation for a law-related graduate program and/or career.

The Legal Studies minor consists of 6-credits of required courses and 12-credits of electives. No more than six credits from any one department will be accepted toward the minor. With an array of courses to choose from, students can craft a **highly personalized minor** that best suits their interests.

**Newark** is a hub of legal education. Home to two law schools, the busiest trial court in New Jersey (pictured below) and a United States District Court, Newark is among the best places to begin the study of law and social justice.

DECLARING A LEGAL STUDIES MINOR

To declare the Legal Studies minor, students must complete the declaration of minor form, which can be obtained from the Department of History Office, Conklin Hall, Room 323. A grade of **C or higher is required** in all Legal Studies courses credited toward the minor. Students must take two (2) required courses and four (4) elective courses to complete the minor. No more than two courses taken in the same department will count for credit toward the Legal Studies minor.

**Note:** Course requirements are listed on the next page. To inquire about a specific course, consult with the Legal Studies program advisors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LEGAL STUDIES MINOR, LEGAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PREPARING FOR LAW SCHOOL PLEASE VISIT:

http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/oas/pre-law

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

**Required Courses (6 credits):**
Choose ANY TWO courses from the list below.

- 21:512:265 American Legal History I
- 21:512:266 American Legal History II
- 43:600:101 Introduction to American Law

**Electives (12 credits):**
No more than 6 credits in one department will be accepted

- **Criminal Justice**
  - 47:202:221 Case Processing: The Law & The Courts
  - 47:202:222 Constitutional Issues in Criminal Justice
  - 47:202:225 Ethical and Philosophical Foundations

- **History**
  - 21:512:265 American Legal History I*
  - 21:512:266 American Legal History II*

- **NJIT History Courses:**
  - HIST 362: Sex, Gender & Law in American History
  - HIST 367: International Law & Diplomacy in History
  - HIST 369: Law & Society in History
  - HIST 370: Legal Issues in the History of Media
  - HIST 375: Legal Issues in Environmental History
  - HIST 378: Medicine and Health Law in Modern America

- **Philosophy**
  - 21:730:107 Critical Thinking
  - 21:730:201 Intro to Logic
  - 21:730:212 Intro to Ethics
  - 21:730:345 Philosophy of Law

- **Political Science**
  - 21:790:304 Introduction to Law & Legal Research
  - 21:790:359 Government & Politics of New Jersey
  - 21:790:376 American Political Theory
  - 21:790:401 American Constitutional Development
  - 21:790:409 Law & Public Policy
  - 21:790:441 Civil Liberties

- **Sociology**
  - 21:920:349 Law and Society

- **Writing**
  - 21:355:433 Writing in the Professions: Law

Rutgers School of Law-Newark

- 43:600:101 Introduction to American Law*
- 43:600:102 Survey of American Business Law
- 43:600:104 Constitutional Criminal Procedure

*May use as elective if not used for required course