

# PRE-LAW AT UVM

## PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### **Information and Suggestions for Juniors, Seniors, and Those Beginning the Application Process**

By the beginning of your Junior year, you are about halfway done with your undergraduate education, and it is time to get serious about preparing for what's ahead. If you want to apply to law schools, you should have learned lots about law schools and their curricula and understand lots about the law as a profession. You should be committed to the law as a career for you.

The last two years as an undergraduate should be carefully planned. Each of the years has its own challenges. If you plan on attending law school immediately after graduation, your Junior year is your last opportunity to improve your academic record and to strengthen your community service record or to become involved in other significant outside activities. If you have enrolled in honors programs, internships, or other activities, there is a need for care to ensure that all the pieces of your program come together. Your Senior year focuses on completing application forms and then anxiously waiting for the mail to bring acceptances or rejections.

You should plan your objectives for the last two years semester-by-semester. If you prepare properly, you will improve your chances of being accepted by the law school of your choice.

**NOTE: You may decide to delay applying to law school until you have worked for a couple of years.** There is nothing wrong with this approach. In fact, some leading law schools actually prefer applicants who have work experience and are more mature.

Remember, the law schools are parceling out a limited number of slots in their entering classes, and the last thing that they want is for people to drop out (and take their tuition money with them). They see students who have been out of college for a year or several years as better bets – they tend to think, “this is a student who has been out in the world, and is coming because they definitely want to be a lawyer ... this isn't someone who didn't know what to do after college and decided to give law school a shot.” Consequently, waiting for a couple of years may well make you a **more attractive candidate** ... provided you spend that time working in a job that will help you decide whether or not law school is a good destination.

However, if you decide to go directly to law school, we have provided recommended timetables for your junior year and for your senior year which may be useful as you make your plans.