

## JURISPRUDENCE AND PRE-LAW INITIATIVES

**Rapoport Legal Scholars** is a competitive scholarship opportunity available annually to several third-year students in the Jurisprudence major or Pre-Law Studies minor, to assist them financially as they prepare to apply to law school.

Montclair State University's **articulation agreement** with New York Law School waives LSAT requirements for high-performing students, facilitating admission to law school.

The Montclair State University "**Alumni in Law**" mentoring network provides opportunities for aspiring law students to speak or meet with Montclair State attorney alumni.

Instruction in **computer-assisted legal research** is an integral part of the Jurisprudence and Pre-Law courses of study.

**New Jersey Law Admissions Day** is an event that brings together law schools from across the nation with hundreds of prospective law students.

## SUCCESS STORIES

With its years of experience, Montclair State has had great success both in the numbers of students accepted and the variety of schools to which students have been admitted. These schools include:

Rutgers Newark	Cornell	Georgetown
Rutgers Camden	Columbia	New York
Seton Hall	Harvard	Duke
Cardozo	Hofstra	Brooklyn
Widener	New York University	

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## About Montclair State University

Montclair State is New Jersey's second-largest university. It offers the advantages of a large university — a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum with a global focus, a broad variety of superior graduate programs through the doctoral level, and a diverse faculty and student body — combined with a small college's attention to students.

  
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STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
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# Interested in Law School?

Jurisprudence Major

Pre-Law Studies Minor

...your gateway to the study of law.

  
**MONTCLAIR  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

## Interested in Law School?

The **Jurisprudence major** and the **Pre-Law Studies minor** at Montclair State University prepare students for law school as well as for a variety of other professional careers in both the public and private sectors. Both Jurisprudence and Pre-Law Studies were developed in cooperation with law schools. These programs focus on the analytical, conceptual and communications skills and knowledge essential for success in both the study and practice of law.

### JURISPRUDENCE MAJOR

Jurisprudence provides an excellent educational gateway to a career in law. It is an interdisciplinary major focused on law within a liberal arts framework. Jurisprudence students are prepared with an essential understanding of legal ideas and philosophy as they affect institutions and social processes. Students examine the relationships between law and the societal forces that generate statutes, case law, and regulations. Through this intellectually challenging major, students will develop and enhance their abilities to think critically, reason analytically, articulate effective positions, conduct scholarly research and write with clarity and precision.

Many law schools have expressed strong support for the approach provided by this major, in particular the year-long capstone Senior Research and Writing Seminar in Jurisprudence. The American Bar Association National Directory of Law-Related Programs lists fewer than a dozen comparable Law-Related Liberal Arts majors nationwide. In offering this major, Montclair State joins such schools as Amherst College and the Universities of Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Baltimore and California at Berkeley.

Beyond the general criteria for admission into the University, all students must apply to, and be admitted into, the Jurisprudence major. For entry into the program, students must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Top twenty percent of high school class or comparable GPA/SAT criteria.
2. Overall minimum GPA of 3.0 at the completion of at least 24 credits at MSU or transfer institution.
3. Overall minimum GPA of 3.0 in first three courses in the Jurisprudence major.

### PRE-LAW STUDIES MINOR

The Pre-Law Studies minor is an alternative to the Jurisprudence major, offered by Montclair State for students who wish to enhance their preparation by combining law-related study with other majors. The minor's interdisciplinary approach is designed to enhance the preparation of students who plan to seek admission to law school. Many students combine the Pre-Law Studies minor with a Political Science major, which, together, provide excellent preparation for law school.

In designing both Jurisprudence and Pre-Law Studies, Montclair State faculty have developed a unique interdisciplinary approach that is responsive to the complexities of the practice of law in today's global environment. Jurisprudence and Pre-Law program faculty include attorneys, judges, and legal scholars who are recognized experts in their fields.

### PRE-LAW ADVISEMENT

Pre-Law advisement is essential in preparing for and applying to law school, because of the intense competition for an extremely limited number of first-year seats. Montclair State University offers the added advantage of a seasoned Pre-Law advisement faculty. The University Pre-Law Advisor and additional department faculty members are available to provide information and counseling to Pre-Law students. The Department also offers a wide variety of information for students on the practical, "how to", aspects of writing a personal statement, obtaining letters of recommendation and preparing for the LSAT.

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

**Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International** provides a forum for students interested in the legal profession to meet and exchange ideas.

The **Political Science and Law Club** focuses upon controversial contemporary issues of law and politics, and helps organize events that complement academic offerings.

## RELATED PROGRAMS

### Undergraduate Level:

**The Political Science major** is the most frequently selected major for entering law students, according to the American Bar Association and the American Political Science Association. It encompasses the study of government, public policies and political behavior. This major may be combined with the Pre-Law minor.

**The Political Science minor** provides an opportunity to combine the Jurisprudence major with the study of Political Science.

**The Public Administration minor** provides an excellent background for students planning to seek employment in state or local government. It can be combined with the Political Science major, the Jurisprudence major or the Pre-Law minor.

### Graduate Level:

**The Master of Arts in Legal Studies** is a graduate degree for career enhancement and one of only a handful of graduate Legal Studies programs not affiliated with a law school. It serves the needs of a broad range of students in law-related fields such as human resources, governance and compliance, intellectual property, conflict management and education.

## RESOURCES

**Sprague Library** has an outstanding collection of legal materials, which are an essential part of Legal Research and other law-related course offerings.

**The Career Services Office** at Montclair State University provides students with a career library, individual and group career counseling and seminars.

**The Educational Opportunity Legal Studies Program** offers expanded career opportunities in the legal field for educationally and financially disadvantaged and minority students. This program provides a novel honors approach promoting academic excellence and the development of leadership skills through supportive services.