

Law Scholars Program

Requirements

2021

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SLU Law Scholars Program

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I. Law Scholars Program: Description and Connection to SLU Mission

The SLU Law Scholar (PLS) Program offers an exclusive opportunity for SLU undergraduate freshman students who are considering pursuing the legal profession. Students accepted into this highly selective program are placed on a guaranteed admittance track to Saint Louis University School of Law.

The PLS Program is motivated by the missions of Saint Louis University and SLU LAW. Guided by the Jesuit tradition of academic excellence, freedom of inquiry and respect for individual differences, the PLS Program prepares students to succeed in their law school classes. The Office of Pre-Health and Pre-Law (PHPL) Studies, together with SLU LAW, assists students throughout their four years at SLU to meet this goal. Law Scholars can choose any undergraduate major and minor to pursue their interests; there is no prerequisite coursework required to go to Law School. Our PLS program is designed to accompany all major/minor areas of study at SLU to develop students' skills to be successful in law school classes.

The PLS Program is composed of four integrated courses:

Law Scholars take four courses (listed in section V) in a specific order. Each course in the sequence develops competencies and knowledge necessary for the subsequent course, culminating with a practical experience in a professional setting where students expand and apply their knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom in previous courses.

The required courses develop a range of academic competencies; they do so by using common themes motivated by SLU Jesuit mission. Courses are aimed at character-building through fostering discussions leading to promoting racial, religious and ethnic equality, discussion of diversity issues, social and environmental justice or other contemporary issues (such as Voter ID laws during election years etc.).

II. SLU Law Scholar Program Advantage

- a. Mentorship and interactions with Law School faculty and practicing lawyers
- b. Mentorship from SLU Law School students
- c. Small and diverse classes
- d. Strong sense of community
- e. Experiential learning outside of classroom
- f. Workshops organized through the PHPL office
- g. One dedicated SLU LAW 1843 full tuition scholarship will be offered to a certified Law Scholar during the application process to SLU LAW.

- h. Individualized/Personalized advising from PHPL office
- i. Assistance/Guidance during application process to Law School
- j. Early/Guaranteed admission to Law School.
- k. Access to SLU LAW library
- l. Access to SLU LAW Admissions Office
- m. Invitations to PLS only events at the law school

III. Applying to Law Scholar Program

Qualified applicants should have a minimum GPA of 3.25, weighted or unweighted, or be placed into the top 40% of their high school class. Special attention is paid to experiences regarding leadership and community service. In addition, students will submit required essays, two letters of recommendation and complete the separate online application by February 1.

IV. Objectives of the Law Scholars Program

The goal of the SLU Law Scholars program is to provide substantive knowledge about the law and society, and to equip students with skills for success in rigorous law school classes. To meet these goals, the PLS students will:

1. complete 12 credit hours of pre-law course work.
2. receive instructions in legal studies by highly trained specialists in the field of law.
3. complete Internship in a legal environment overseen by specialized staff or faculty from the SLU LAW.

Upon completion of the PLS program, successful students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the three branches of the US federal and state governments, including the court system and legal processes.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the important role that lawyers play in the rule of law, achieving social justice, and the good of society.
3. Demonstrate substantial knowledge of different fields of law (criminal, constitutional, human rights, alternative dispute resolution, international).
4. Demonstrate proficient verbal and written communication.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills applied to pertinent legal issues, court decisions and case studies.
6. Demonstrate contextualization of law based on student academic, inter-cultural and service learning experiences.
7. Gain experience through engagement in community and ethical advocacy.
8. Demonstrate the ability to work in a professional environment.

V. Program Requirements

- a. **Freedom of Declaring a Major:** SLU Law and the American Bar Association (ABA) recommend that students consider a broad range of options to prepare for a legal education. Scholars should choose to major in an area of study that is both interesting and challenging.
- b. **Academic Performance:** Scholars must maintain a minimum cumulative **GPA of 3.6** at the end of **the freshman year**; a minimum cumulative **GPA of 3.7** by the end of the **fall semester junior year**, as well as cumulative **GPA of 3.7 at the time of graduation**.
- c. **Required coursework:** Pre-Law Scholars are required to complete a series of four integrated courses by the end of junior year:

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Year Taken
PLS 1000	Introduction to Law	3	First year Fall
PLS 2000	Introduction to Legal Research and Writing	3	Fall or Spring Sophomore year
PLS 4965	Foundation of Law (course taught by Law School faculty)	3	Spring Junior year
PLS 4910	4910 Legal Internship (directed by Law School)	3	Spring of Junior Yr/ Fall Senior Yr

- d. **Case Study and meeting with the Dean of Law School:** This event is the first opportunity for first year Scholars to interact with the SLU LAW community. They will have the opportunity to participate in a mock law school class taught by the Dean in the law school. This will allow the students to get a feel for the law school environment and to become connected to the SLU LAW community. The first meeting provides first year students the opportunity to feel welcomed and the law school and honored to be a part of this prestigious program. They will leave knowing that SLU LAW is here to assist them on their journey to becoming successful law students.
- e. **Attending two events/year:** Law Scholars attend two events approved by the Office of PHPL Studies and the School of Law, and must submit reflections from these events on the Law Scholar Program Canvas site.

- f. **Certification by PHPL Director:** Successful Scholars are certified by the Director of PHPL at the end of the junior year. Certification confirms that Scholars have met the requirements of the program up to that point and are eligible for the conditional admission to the School of Law. (Elements that must be completed are outlined above). Certified Scholars will be conditionally admitted to the School of Law via letter in the fall semester of their senior year. Scholars are still required to complete the internship course (PLS 4910) and apply to the School of Law during the fall of their senior year. Admission to the School of Law is conditioned on the following:
- i. Completion of the LSAT prior to enrollment at the School of Law
 - ii. Maintenance of a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.7 or better
 - iii. Completion of a Bachelor's degree
 - iv. Satisfactory responses to the Character and Fitness section of the application for admission.
- g. **LSAT:** SLU Law requires Law Scholars to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and recommends it is taken in summer following students' junior year, or in early fall of the senior year.
- h. **Character and Fitness:** Upon applying to the School of Law, certified Scholars must also provide satisfactory responses to the Character and Fitness portion of the SLU LAW application. Students will become aware of Character and Fitness Issues that they may experience in the future as a law school applicant and future BAR applicants. Students will have this understanding several years prior to the application process. The SLU LAW application Character and Fitness language and questions follow in the appendix.

VI. Advising and Student Support

- a. Law Scholars are supported by the Office of PHPL Studies throughout their undergraduate years. Advisors in the PHPL Office help students gain exposure to the law and the legal profession, select a course of study, and assist in the law school application process. Law Scholars should contact the staff in the PHPL Office if they have questions or concerns about their progress in the program. The Director serves as the liaison to the SLU Law School. In addition, the Scholars are supported by the SLU Law Admissions Office for general guidance and campus events.
- b. Each year, at least one full-tuition scholarship to Saint Louis University School of Law will be awarded to one student completing the Law Scholar Program. All Law Scholars will be eligible to compete for the award. All remaining Scholars will be eligible for additional scholarship opportunities.
- c. Students have the opportunity to complete an Internship Preparation Course, taught by the SLU Law Career Services Office, with a guaranteed internship their Junior/Senior year. This is a huge bonus for the PLS students and an integral component of the program.
- d. Throughout their undergraduate years, Scholars have the distinct opportunity for mentorship with SLU Law School students.
- e. SLU Law and the Office of Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies, also strongly encourages students to participate in Mock Trial. Students who participate in these activities are encouraged to incorporate their experiences in their reflections.
- f. Law Scholars have direct access to the PHPL Office that offers resources for support throughout the undergraduate experience.

VII. Law Scholar Program Timeline:

<p>Freshman Year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PLS 1000 Introduction to Law; - Attend the Law Scholar Reception (includes a Case Discussion) - Attend a Fall Welcome meeting to learn about PLS resources and requirements; meet PHPL staff - Submit signed Acknowledgment Form - Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.6 at the end of freshman year (fall and spring semesters only)
<p>Sophomore Year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PLS 2000 Introduction to Legal Research and Writing; - No GPA requirement Sophomore year
<p>Junior Year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend Internship Info Session(Fall) and submit Internship Form - PLS 4965 Foundation of Law (Spring) - PLS 4910 Legal Internship (Spring Junior or Fall Senior) - Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7 at the end of the fall
<p>Senior Year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take the LSAT (summer prior to senior year) - Attend law school admissions process workshop, resume writing for law school admissions workshop, and personal statement workshop - Apply to SLU Law via LSAC

VIII. Addendum

Character and Fitness Language from SLU LAW application.

You have an obligation to report any conduct that would require you to answer yes to any of the following questions from the Character and Fitness section of your application. The obligation to report conduct pertaining to the Character and Fitness questions below continues up to and through your graduation from law school and application to the state bar of your choice.

1. Have you ever been charged with or subject to academic or disciplinary action (probation, suspension, dismissal or other disciplinary action, hearing or investigation of any type) at any institution of higher education?
2. Have you ever pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found guilty of, any felony, whether sentence was imposed or not?
3. Have you ever been issued a summon, charged, arrested, or cited for driving under the influence (DUI), driving while intoxicated (DWI), minor in possession (MIP), public intoxication, or for any other alcohol or controlled substance-related offense?
4. Have you ever been convicted, cited, arrested, charged, summoned or taken into custody for the violation of any law? (Please exclude incidents listed in 2 & 3 above and also exclude minor traffic or parking violations wherein the fine did not exceed \$250.)
5. Have you ever been a party to any criminal, civil or administrative proceeding? (Please exclude incidents listed in 1, 2, & 3 above.)
6. Have you ever been disbarred, suspended, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disqualified as a member of another profession or as a holder of public office?
7. Have you defaulted on any student loan obligations?