

# Pre-Law Scholars Program (3 + 3 Bachelor's to J.D.)

Updated March 2024

Effective for students entering August 2024 or after

The Pre-Law Scholars (3 + 3 Bachelor's to J.D.) Program allows you to reduce the total time needed to complete your bachelor's and Juris Doctor degrees from seven years to six years. Admission to this program and successful completion of the requirements for 3 + 3 students (as laid out here) are required to guarantee your place.

A typical bachelor's degree program at Marquette consists of: the Marquette Core Curriculum (MCC), undergraduate college curricular requirements, major requirements, and electives. In your first three years of the program, you will complete the Marquette Core Curriculum (MCC), undergraduate college curricular requirements, and your major requirements. You will save the majority of your electives until your fourth year, when you begin your studies in the Law School.

The courses you take in the first year of law school serve as the final elective courses of your bachelor's degree and the required first-year courses for your Juris Doctor degree. You are essentially applying the credits for the courses you take in your first year of law school twice. Your bachelor's degree must be conferred at the conclusion of the first year of law school. Please be aware that though you may celebrate graduation at the May ceremony, your diploma will be issued in August due to the Law School's exam grading schedule.

## Application to the Program

Incoming freshmen in the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Communication, or Health Sciences may apply if they meet the following criteria: Top 25% of high school class (when applicable). SAT combined 1280 or ACT composite 27 (*Applicants applying under the test-optional policy are eligible to apply and will be given equal consideration*). The average cumulative unweighted high school GPA for semi-finalists was a 3.75.

Continuing Marquette students may apply to the program after they have completed at least one semester at Marquette (i.e. at least 15 credits). While it is anticipated that students will apply at the conclusion of the freshman year, students may apply after just one semester. Students who hold sophomore standing may be eligible to apply. To be eligible to join the program after enrollment at Marquette, a student must meet requirements 1 and 2 listed on the next page.

## Undergraduate Majors

Any undergraduate major can offer appropriate academic preparation to enter law school. Students are not limited to particular majors. It may be difficult to complete program prerequisites for some majors by the third year of the six-year program. A student may extend their program to the traditional seven-year program. Students should consult regularly with their pre-law and academic advisers to ensure they remain on track to complete undergraduate degree requirements.

## Advising

A key to success is a sound advising system. We realize that we are asking you to make a significant academic and life decision relatively early in your college education. We intend to work with you every step of the way to ensure that you are confident in and happy with your decision to be in this program and to attend law school. Through regular discussions with your pre-law adviser and/or the Law School's admissions staff, we can help you to ask questions of yourself, to reflect upon your academic and social experiences, to continue to evaluate your progress in the program and to help you identify and consider options available to you such as study abroad and internships.

College of Arts & Sciences | Patrick Sobkowski | Wehr Physics, Room 419 | 414/288-6842 | [patrick.sobkowski@marquette.edu](mailto:patrick.sobkowski@marquette.edu)

College of Business Administration | Beth Krey | O'Brien Hall, Room 111J | 414/288-6386 | [beth.krey@marquette.edu](mailto:beth.krey@marquette.edu)

College of Communication | Erik Ugland | Johnston Hall, Room 404C | 414/288-3494 | [erik.ugland@marquette.edu](mailto:erik.ugland@marquette.edu)

College of Health Sciences | Autumn Swanson | Schroeder Complex, Room 220D | 414/288-7329 | [autumn.swanson@marquette.edu](mailto:autumn.swanson@marquette.edu)

Law School | Stephanie Nikolay | Eckstein Hall, Room 132 | 414/288-8062 | [stephanie.nikolay@marquette.edu](mailto:stephanie.nikolay@marquette.edu)

# Requirements for Pre-Law Scholars Program (3 + 3 Bachelor's to J.D.) Law Entry

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Your admission to this program guarantees you a place in Marquette Law School's first-year class after you complete your third year of undergraduate studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business Administration, College of Communication, or the College of Health Sciences, provided that you fulfill the following requirements:

1. Have a cumulative 3.650 grade point average OR a grade point average that is equal to or greater than the median GPA of the preceding year's entering class (whichever is lesser) by the time of application/entrance to Marquette Law School. This includes all college course work whether taken at Marquette University or at another institution. Note: this encompasses all transfer course work from other institutions whether summer sessions, concurrent course work, or college credit obtained via a dual enrollment program while in high school. Specific questions regarding this standard should be directed to the Law School Office of Admissions.
2. Be on track to complete undergraduate degree requirements, such that no greater than 29 total elective credits remain to complete the undergraduate degree upon law school entry in the fourth year. Students must complete the Marquette Core Curriculum (MCC), undergraduate college curriculum, and all major requirements prior to their matriculation in the Law School. Students must work with their academic and pre-law advisers toward assuring fulfillment of their undergraduate coursework and graduation requirements.
3. Earn a score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) of 156 OR one that is equal to or greater than the median score of the preceding year's entering class to the Law School (i.e., the currently enrolled first-year class during the year that you apply to the Law School), whichever is lesser. The LSAT must be taken no later than February of the year that you will apply to the Law School. The Law School's Admissions Committee will consider the highest score you receive. Your pre-law adviser and/ or the Law School Office of Admissions can provide you with information on the nature of this exam, the score required, and the dates on which it is offered. Some students may find that they need to take the LSAT more than once.
4. Meet the Law School's standards for character and fitness. Behaviors and/or activities that lead to university discipline or probation may result in removal from the program and impact admission to the Marquette University Law School. Such activities include academic dishonesty or ANY activity deemed inappropriate, unethical, or illegal. This includes activities outside of the reach of the University's Standards of Conduct.
5. Apply to the Law School. Prior to enrolling in the Law School, formal completion of the application for law school admission is required, including meeting appropriate deadlines for application, tuition deposits, etc. This process necessarily includes joining the Law School Admission Council's Credential Assembly Service. Early entry applicants will be required to submit certification of eligibility to apply for early entry to the Law School from their undergraduate college. Further, and as necessary, they will be asked to provide updated undergraduate transcripts during the application and/or enrollment processes.

Note: Students who are on track to fulfill the MCC, undergraduate curriculum and major requirements, and other criteria as listed above, but do not meet the above academic standards for GPA and/or LSAT, may elect to apply to the Law School and be considered for early admission as part of the general applicant pool. In such instances, admission to the Law School is not guaranteed. If such students are not admitted to the Law School, they may complete their senior year to fulfill remaining graduation requirements, and they may reapply to the Law School in a subsequent admissions cycle.

Withdrawal from this program, whether voluntary or otherwise, does not necessarily compromise a student's ability to apply to the Marquette Law School through normal application procedures.