

EXPLORE.
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HOOD
COLLEGE

The Hood College

Pre-Law

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PRE-LAW STUDIES AT HOOD

Students who pursue a law degree are qualified for a number of jobs outside the traditional attorney position, such as FBI Agent, mediator, paralegal, law librarian, legal editor, professor, financial advisor, labor negotiator, international trade, and lobbyist.

If you are considering law school or a career in law, the best undergraduate curriculum is one that provides you with a strong foundation in the liberal arts. Hood will prepare you well for law school with a broad-based and intellectual foundation.

Pre-law preparation at Hood will provide you with the freedom to choose from a wide array of undergraduate courses and majors. It's equally important for you to develop strong analytical and critical thinking skills and to hone your written and oral communication skills. The ability to write coherently, to analyze accurately, to reason logically, and to speak effectively and articulately will give you the edge you need to successfully complete the rigors of law school.

Overview of the Law and Criminal Justice Major

When declaring a major in law and criminal justice, all students are required

to take five basic courses before they are offered two concentrations of study with separate objectives and goals. The law concentration prepares students for law school and related careers. The criminal justice concentration prepares students for professional careers within the criminal justice system, the courts, and various law enforcement and community agencies. The two areas of study are flexible enough for students to change their concentration within the major if they choose to do so.

Unique Features of Hood's Pre-Law Curriculum

Law professors have commented that our students are well-prepared for law school. Our program focuses on teaching legal analysis and obtaining strong oral and written advocacy skills. By the time our students attend law school, they have written more than 15 case briefs and at least one appellate brief. During his first year of law school, Jake Howells '19 commented: "there are students in law school who don't know how to brief cases; something I've been doing since I was a freshman."



Hood is committed to helping students who are interested in going onto law school after graduation by providing the following resources:

- professors with expertise in constitutional law and political science, as well as a scholar-practitioner trial attorney with extensive experience in criminal and civil law
- law school application assistance and personal statement writing sessions
- intensive legal writing and oral advocacy assignments (both trial and appellate)
- all courses entail at least one high impact practice and experiential learning
- impressive field placements in various legal agencies in and around Maryland

A first of its kind, Hood has a Pre-Law Clinic (PLC) that provides students with hands-on experience with actual clients and their cases in a realistic practice setting. Eligible seniors investigate cases, interview witnesses, prepare cases for trial,

and conduct legal research. The PLC is comprised of 3-credit seminar that meets twice a week and includes a minimum of 120 experiential learning hours. Students work with a partner on each case and will have shared responsibilities for the investigations, pre-trial workups, and other tasks for the client.

In addition, Hood College has a moot courtroom, a unique space on campus where students can take part in simulated mock trial and moot court proceedings for both trial and appellate advocacy. Each year, Hood students taking law and criminal justice classes participate in various roles in the legal system: judge, juror, attorney, or witness. For instance, PSCI 405 Civil Liberties class participates in a semester-long hypothetical Supreme Court case that culminates in students acting as the Justices, appellate attorneys, and amicus curiae (friend of the court).

Virtually all law schools require the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) for admission. Student intending to go to law school directly after graduation should visit the pre-law advisors for assistance with program planning and the law school application process.

HOOD BY THE NUMBERS

32

**BACHELOR'S
DEGREES**

19

**MASTER'S
DEGREES**

11

**POST-BACCALAUREATE
CERTIFICATES**

2

**DOCTORAL
PROGRAMS**

8 MASTER'S PROGRAMS THAT CAN BE ACCELERATED AS PART OF THE 4PLUS PROGRAM

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE 15

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO 11:1

2,037

**TOTAL
ENROLLMENT**

1,182

**NUMBER OF
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS**

30&14

STATES COUNTRIES

**OF ORIGIN FOR
UNDERGRAD
STUDENTS**

40%

**UNDERGRADUATE
DIVERSITY**

855 GRADUATE STUDENTS

97

**FULL-TIME
PROFESSORS**

95%

**OF FULL-TIME
FACULTY HOLD A
TERMINAL DEGREE
IN THEIR FIELD**

136

**PART-TIME AND
ADJUNCT FACULTY
COMPLEMENT THE
FACULTY WITH
THEIR EXPERTISE**

26%

**DIVERSITY OF
FULL-TIME
FACULTY**



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