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The Hood College

Pre-Law Studies at Hood

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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 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. A first-year law student and recent Hood graduate, Jake Howells, 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 or friends of the courts.

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.



About Hood

Founded in 1893 in Frederick, Maryland, Hood College is a coeducational, independent, liberal arts college, which offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees and post-baccalaureate certificates. Home to approximately 1,100 undergraduate students from 25 states and 15 countries, Hood offers 28 majors, more than 45 minors, and pre-professional preparation in medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, dentistry and law. Hood students experience small class sizes, where they receive individual attention from supportive faculty. With its proximity to Washington, D.C., Baltimore and the I-270 biotech corridor, Hood gives its students access to countless internships and research opportunities.

At Hood, we are challenging students to improve their critical thinking, communication and collaborative skills and preparing them not just for their first jobs, but for their careers. For high-achieving students, we offer a four-year honors program with a living and learning setting expanding the curriculum with an emphasis on interdisciplinary education through discussion-based seminars, collaborative projects and experiential learning opportunities. Eighty-five percent of first-year students live on campus; more than 40 campus clubs and organizations as well as 22 NCAA Division III athletic teams and two club-level athletic teams create an active and vibrant campus environment.

Hood, in addition to its exceptional undergraduate programs, also offers 19 master's degrees, 10 certificate programs and two doctoral programs. Our graduate programs are designed to work in tandem with our bachelor's degrees so that students can take advantage of dual-degree programs. Hood is located in a fantastic college town; students are within walking distance of shops, galleries and restaurants and a vibrant downtown. A tremendous alumni network offers students and graduates mentoring, connections, guidance and advice. The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and many other publications have recognized Hood as an affordable top-tier institution.

Janis Judson,
Professor of Political Science
Professor of Law and Criminal Justice
Chair, Department of Law and Criminal Justice
jjudson@hood.edu • 301-696-3721

Teresa Bean, Esquire
Assistant Professor of Law and Criminal Justice
LSAC Pre-Law Advisor
beant@hood.edu • 301-696-3698

Hood College
401 Rosemont Avenue
Frederick, MD 21701-8575

Apply: www.hood.edu/apply
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