LAW
What can I do with this graduate degree?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>INFORMATION/STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIVATE PRACTICE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Acquire excellent research and writing skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsel</td>
<td>Large multi-office firms</td>
<td>Obtain clerkships or internships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Medium-size firms</td>
<td>Large and medium-size firms frequently emphasize grades and class rank and value law review and moot court experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Librarianship</td>
<td>Small firms</td>
<td>Those in administration handle office management (e.g. work flow), business development, clerk and attorney recruitment, clerkship programs, finances, and human resources.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sole practitioners</td>
<td>Expect to exhibit management and marketing expertise and practice profitably.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Legal clinics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other private legal services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CORPORATE LAW</strong></td>
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<td>Acquire excellent research and writing skills.</td>
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<td>In-House Counsel:</td>
<td>Any large corporation (largest number of attorneys are at corporate headquarters)</td>
<td>Obtain clerkships or internships.</td>
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<td>Transactional</td>
<td>Law firms with corporate law and related business practice areas</td>
<td>Large and medium-size firms frequently emphasize grades and class rank and value law review and moot court experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Litigatory</td>
<td></td>
<td>Those in administration handle office management (e.g. work flow), business development, clerk and attorney recruitment, clerkship programs, finances, and human resources.</td>
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<td>Private Practice</td>
<td></td>
<td>Expect to exhibit management and marketing expertise and practice profitably.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC INTEREST LAW</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Acquire excellent research and writing skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counsel</td>
<td>Legal Services Corporation</td>
<td>Obtain clerkships or internships.</td>
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<td>Legal Aid Services</td>
<td>Legal aid societies</td>
<td>Large and medium-size firms frequently emphasize grades and class rank and value law review and moot court experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Defense</td>
<td>Federal, state, and local government</td>
<td>Those in administration handle office management (e.g. work flow), business development, clerk and attorney recruitment, clerkship programs, finances, and human resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Rights Law</td>
<td>Public defender offices</td>
<td>Expect to exhibit management and marketing expertise and practice profitably.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Private groups</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nonprofit and public interest organizations, e.g.</td>
<td>Expect to exhibit management and marketing expertise and practice profitably.</td>
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<td>ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense Fund</td>
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<td>Law firms practicing public interest law</td>
<td>Expect to exhibit management and marketing expertise and practice profitably.</td>
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Gain supervised work experience in an area through summer internships. Demonstrate a desire to help the economically disadvantaged and show an interest in law as a means of change. Volunteer for non-profit organizations that serve a wide range of people. Learn to communicate and interact with a diverse clientele.
### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**Counsel**
Most government branches have legal counsel; some of the largest employers of lawyers are:
- Department of Justice
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Federal Trade Commission
- Internal Revenue Service
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for all branches of the military

**Judicial Clerkships**
Federal courts of appeal and district court (trial) judges and magistrates
Bankruptcy and administrative law judges
State courts of appeal and trial level judges
Federal and state court clerkships for collective judges in a court

**Information/Strategies**
Complete an internship program with the federal government to get a foot in the door.
Many lawyers start as an Assistant U.S. Attorney.
New lawyers frequently go to court and litigate sooner; experience gained here can be valuable to private firms later.
Government work offers a variety of practice opportunities from criminal to contracts.
High academic achievement is emphasized by State and Federal judges; Federal judges usually require top 10% or 15% class rank.
Clerkships can be a stepping-stone to other legal areas and provide many benefits for future career opportunities.
For U.S. Supreme Court, applicants must be top law graduates with one to two years clerking at lower Federal Court.
Moot Court participation in regional and national competitions is helpful.
Law review membership, as an indication of writing ability, is highly valued and emphasized at all court levels.

### STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Criminal Prosecution**
- District Attorney's Office
- Attorney General's Office
- State agencies, commissions, boards, executive and legislative office staff
- Local agencies and commissions
- City and county law offices

**Civil Law**
- Law review membership, as an indication of writing ability, is highly valued and emphasized at all court levels.

**Public Defense**
- Moot Court participation in regional and national competitions is helpful.
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<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>Law schools including departments of: Career Services Admissions Student Services Law libraries Business schools Undergraduate departments of History and Political Science Paralegal schools Universities and colleges including: Judicial Affairs Office Dean of Students Human Resources</td>
<td>For teaching: Obtain several years of experience in private practice or government agency. The LLM degree and an outstanding academic record are required for law school teaching. Teaching allows for more flexibility of time and Some lawyers teach on an adjunct basis. For administration and student affairs, consider earning a master's degree in College Student Affairs, Higher Education Administration, or related area. As an undergraduate, participate on campus in leadership roles. In law school, secure a graduate assistantship in an office of interest, such as judicial affairs. For librarianships, a master's in library or information science, in addition to the law degree, is often required.</td>
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**PATENT, COPYRIGHT, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW**

Law firms (specialized) Corporations U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

This highly specialized area usually requires technical, science, or engineering degrees at the undergraduate or graduate level. These lawyers help protect clients' claims to copyrights, inventions, software, etc.

**FINANCIAL PLANNING, ESTATE PLANNING, INVESTMENT BANKING**

Bank trust departments Brokerage firms Insurance companies Development offices for preparatory schools, hospitals, and universities

Insurance "Estate Planning" positions require interest and ability in sales. Bank trust department positions are good for those who do not want to litigate or be confrontational. An undergraduate major in accounting or finance may be helpful.
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| **ENERGY LAW, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW** | Law firms  
Corporations  
Federal agencies, especially Department of Energy  
Environmental compliance services companies  
State agencies  
Regulatory commissions  
Advocacy organizations | This area involves rights to resources including those in the earth and dangers in production of energy as well as transportation, taxation, patents, and government regulation. An undergraduate major in environmental science, agriculture, engineering, or science may be good preparation. |
| **FAMILY AND JUVENILE LAW** | Private practice  
Government agencies  
Nonprofit organizations | Work with families and individuals on matters such as divorce, adoption, and juvenile justice. |
| **HEALTH LAW** | Law firms  
Insurance companies  
Health Maintenance Organizations  
Hospitals  
Government agencies | Represent all parties in healthcare such as hospitals, physician groups, health maintenance organizations, individual doctors, insurance companies, and individual patients. |
| **INTERNATIONAL LAW** | Governments  
International organizations  
United Nations  
World Bank  
Private firms  
Large corporations | Fluency in another language and familiarity with other cultures will help prepare one for this field. Seek international experience by studying, volunteering, or working abroad. Intern with a firm or organization that deals with international law. |
Students interested in attending law school may choose any major of interest. Some undergraduate majors can help prepare students for a particular area of law, e.g., a B.S. in environmental science for a career in environmental law.

- Develop strong research and writing skills. Enhance communication skills through public speaking courses, debate team, or Toast Masters (a public speaking organization).
- Maintain a high grade point average to increase chances of gaining admission to law school.
- Join Phi Alpha Delta professional association.
- Prepare for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test) which is required by all law schools.
- Secure strong personal recommendations from professors.
- Find part-time jobs or internships in law firms or government agencies to reality test your interest in law and to gain relevant experience.
- Participate in mock trial, student government, student judiciary boards, and other related organizations.
- Completing the law degree, Juris Doctor or JD, typically takes three years of full-time coursework. After completion, one must pass a state bar examine in order to practice law.
- Many specialties exist in the practice of law such as real estate, entertainment law, tax law, education law, sport law. New specialties are always emerging. Consider your interests and skills when choosing an area of practice.