



## **Pre-Law Program, Legal Studies Minor, and Legal Skills Minor FAQs**

### **1. What is the Pre-Law Program?**

The Pre-Law Program is a set of curricular and co-curricular opportunities students may pursue to put themselves on a path for success in law school or a law-adjacent career. St. Thomas offers two minors focusing on law that students may pursue in addition to their majors. We offer a Legal Studies minor that focuses on legal texts and practices, while our Legal Skills minor is a course of study aimed at building the skillset needed to be successful in future legal work. We also have an active and highly successful mock trial team that competes regionally and nationally while honing their skills of legal advocacy. Students thinking about law school often join a student club called the Pre-Law Society that hosts frequent events on campus directed at helping students understand the legal field and prepare for the law school admission process.

### **2. Do I need to pick a particular major or minor to go to law school?**

No. Students from a variety of majors and minors go to law school every year, including the natural sciences and engineering. To prepare fully for law school, you should pursue coursework that involves significant reading, writing, and logical reasoning. Common majors include Political Science, International Studies, Criminal Justice, Philosophy, Economics, Business, and Theology.

### **3. Where do St. Thomas students go to law school?**

Most St. Thomas students go to one of the three law schools in the Twin Cities: the University of St. Thomas, the University of Minnesota, and Mitchell Hamline School of Law. All three are accredited law schools with solid track records of preparing lawyers for practice. Students also attend law schools further afield, which last year included Stanford and Cornell.

### **4. What is the Legal Studies minor, and what is the Legal Skills minor?**

The Legal Studies minor is a course of study that students complete in addition to their majors that is focused on legal topics. It is composed of five classes chosen by the student from an approved list. The purpose of the minor is to allow students to engage in a focused, interdisciplinary study of legal content.

The Legal Skills minor is designed to help students build the skills and techniques necessary for success in future legal study and practice. The skills it teaches are writing, formal and applied reasoning, textual analysis, and oral communication. Legal Skills emphasizes skill development, and it has less emphasis on legal content than Legal Studies.

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