Your decision to apply to law schools may seem daunting, but it doesn’t have to be. Deciding if a legal career is right for you, when to apply to law school, how to prepare to have the best options, and to which schools you should apply are big questions that will need to be answered. We, the faculty and staff members of the Legal Studies Advisory Group (LSAG) and Career Planning Center (CPC) at Bowdoin, are here to help you understand these questions and to offer professional, honest insights and information about law school and the legal profession.

**Preparation:** There isn’t a “pre law” major at Bowdoin, nor do law schools prefer students from this pre-professional background. *Bowdoin graduates who have successfully applied to and attended law school include (but are not limited to) former Sociology, Philosophy, Government and Legal Studies, English, Biology, French, Mathematics, Biochemistry, Anthropology and German majors.* You should work closely with your academic advisor to choose a major based on your primary interests and select courses that will develop the analytical, critical reading, writing, and research skills necessary to succeed in law school.

Plan to also get involved in extracurricular activities and student organizations as well as pursue internship opportunities to develop a strong, well-rounded profile for possible law school applications.

**Programs:** Each fall, we offer programs to introduce the wide array of resources, advisors, internships and services available to you. These programs include a Law School Alumni Panel in October and “Maybe Law School…” small group meetings for first and second year students in November. Review the CPC calendar on eBEAR for more information.

In the fall of your junior or senior year, attend the workshop, *Getting Ready for Law School.* It will walk you through the issues related to law school as well as the basics of the application process. The CPC and LSAG co-sponsor the Graduate and Professional School Fair in the late Fall, bringing to campus over 30 admissions representatives from law schools across the country.

**AILE:** Bowdoin participates with Columbia University in the *Accelerated Interdisciplinary Program in Legal Education.* If you have outstanding academic credentials, you can apply to begin the study of law after three years at Bowdoin. When you finish your J.D. at Columbia, you’ll also receive your A.B. from Bowdoin. For more information, contact Professor Richard Morgan.

**LSAG:** We are available to talk with you about targeting schools of interest, taking the LSAT, writing personal statements, obtaining letters of recommendation, securing financial aid, and making other important decisions involved in the pursuit of a legal education and career.

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**Legal Studies Advisory Group (LSAG)**

Sherry Fowler, Sailing Coach and former lawyer (x4332 or sfowler@bowdoin.edu)

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Internships and Work Experience: The best way to “test the legal waters” is to take part in one or more internships during summers, January breaks, or academic years. These opportunities include:

- Volunteering in Portland, ME with the Volunteer Lawyers Project
- Legislative and research internships with ACLU offices
- Working alongside a senior attorney at the Environmental Law Institute
- Participating in the summer fellows program at Harvard Law School
- Submitting your own proposal to work with underrepresented populations, and applying for funding from Bowdoin’s Public Interest Career Fund

After graduation, some seniors decide to gain experience in a law firm, legal aid society, government or other area before committing to three years of law school. The CPC staff can help you identify the best resources and alumni contacts for networking and other internship and job search processes. Be sure you complete/update your personal profile on eBEAR (through the CPC web page at www.bowoin.edu/cpc) so that we can let you know about pre-law programs and opportunities.

Associations: We stay current on trends in the admissions process and the legal profession through frequent contact with Bowdoin alumni, as well as our affiliation with the Northeast Association for Pre-Law Advisors (NAPLA).

The Stats: In a typical year, approximately 70 Bowdoin graduates apply to law school. About one-quarter are members of the senior class; the remainder are alumni who have been out of Bowdoin one year or more. Most typically, over 80% of applicants from Bowdoin College are admitted to one or more law schools. This compares with about 65% nationwide. (Source: Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Pre-law Advisor Action Reports, 1997-2005).

Graduates of Bowdoin are well represented among the ranks of law students nationwide. The following is a partial list of law schools where Bowdoin alumni have attended or are currently enrolled:

*American University
*Boston College
*Boston University
*Columbia University
*Cornell University
*Duke University
*Fordham University
*Georgetown University
*George Washington
*Harvard University
*Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
*New York University
*Northwestern
*Notre Dame
*Roger Williams University

*Suffolk University
*University of California - Berkeley
*University of Chicago
*University of Colorado
*University of Iowa
*University of Maine
*University of Miami
*University of Michigan
*University of Oregon
*University of Pennsylvania
*University of Virginia
*Villanova University
*Western New England College
*Vermont Law School
*Yale University

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