What is the Texas Tech University Pre-Law Academy?

The TTU Pre-Law Academy (PLA) is an intense summer program for selected undergraduate students who are interested in attending law school and pursuing a career in the legal field. The mission of the Pre-Law Academy is to prepare students for the competitive law school admissions process and the demands of law school, while also helping students create a vision for themselves as law students and lawyers.

What are the dates for the 2024 Pre-Law Academy?

The PLA classes are offered during the First Summer Term. According to the official academic calendar, First Summer Term 2024 classes will begin on Tuesday, May 28th and will end on Thursday, June 27th. A closing ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 27th. Friends and family will be invited to attend.

How do I apply for the Pre-Law Academy?

To complete the application process, please do the following:

1- Complete the online application that is located on the Pre-Law Academy webpage, which includes uploading your (a) resume and (b) TTU unofficial transcript.
2- Soon after you submit the online application (along with your resume and unofficial transcript), Associate Dean Wendy-Adele Humphrey will contact you to schedule a 20-minute, in-person interview. Interviews will be in Room 122D at the School of Law.
3- You must also submit a letter of recommendation. The letter of recommendation should be from a professor or an employer (previous or current), not from a family member or close family friend. Further, the letter should be dated and be specific to the Pre-Law Academy (not a generic recommendation letter). You, the applicant, may email the letter to Associate Dean Humphrey, or the recommender may email it directly to her. NOTE: You may be interviewed before your letter of recommendation is received, but you will not be admitted into the Academy until it is on file.

When will I find out if I am accepted into the Pre-Law Academy?

If you complete the application process before December 8th, you will be interviewed and notified of acceptance by December 15th (assuming your letter of recommendation has been received by then). If there are remaining spots in the program, applications will be considered on a rolling basis until March 8, 2023. NOTE: The Academy is limited to twenty students. So, it’s better to apply sooner than later.

Do I need a certain cumulative GPA to get accepted?

We prefer students who have completed at least 45 credit hours and who have a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA, but we will consider applicants with fewer hours and a lower GPA. We want all PLA students to succeed academically!

If accepted, will I register myself for the courses?

Yes, but because the three Pre-Law Academy courses are “by permission” only, you will receive information about how to register. The registration process typically does not occur until mid-April.
What classes will I be required to take if I get accepted into the Pre-Law Academy?

You will be required to take all three, in-person Pre-Law Academy courses: (1) PLAW 4301 Lawyering Skills: Legal Analysis & Advocacy, (2) PLAW 3101 Seminar in the Legal Profession, and (3) COMS 3314 Argumentation and Debate. By successfully completing these required courses, you will earn seven credit hours. The courses may count towards a minor in Legal Studies. In addition, if you are an Honors student, you may contract PLAW 4301 to receive three hours of general Honors course credit.

How do the Pre-Law Academy courses fit into my degree plan?

Please check with your academic advisor on main campus to determine how the three PLA courses will fit into your degree plan.

What can I do if I’ve already taken Argumentation and Debate?

You may take the course as an Independent Study. Please let Dr. Langford know if you need to take the course as an Independent Study.

What days of the week will I be in class?

During Summer I, the Lawyering Skills course taught by Associate Dean Humphrey typically meets in the morning, and the Argumentation and Debate course taught by Dr. Langford typically meets in the afternoon. The exact times/days will be determined, but you should plan to be in class every day. Additionally, the Seminar in the Legal Profession course meets at varying times because the course revolves around guest speakers, and many of them present during the noon hour. But the course includes other activities such as a practice LSAT.

Will I be required to take the practice LSAT if I’ve already taken a practice exam?

The practice LSAT is a required part of the seminar course, so you must take it even if you have taken it before.

Can I work when participating in the Pre-Law Academy?

You are strongly encouraged to focus on the Pre-Law Academy courses and not to work during the program. It’s rigorous!

Will there be books for all the courses?

Currently, we expect that the course materials will be provided either online or in a reading packet (subject to change).

What is the cost for tuition?

Texas Tech students will be charged standard undergraduate tuition, and students may apply for summer school financial aid. Currently, there are not any scholarships specifically for the PLA.

What is the attire for the Pre-Law Academy?

The attire is casual during regular class. Any other attire for special events/activities will be announced.

If I complete the Pre-Law Academy, will I automatically get into the Texas Tech University School of Law?

No, you will not automatically get accepted into law school. While the Pre-Law Academy may illustrate your potential in law school, you must meet other admission requirements. But we sure hope you will apply!