

# Pre-Law INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR AND CERTIFICATE

*Law schools are looking for students who have a broad education and the ability to think logically, argue persuasively, and write and speak cogently. The Pre-Law Program at St. Ambrose seeks to provide these qualities through its Interdisciplinary Minor in Pre-Law Studies, Pre-Law Club (PHi Alpha Delta) and Mock Trial Team.*

## Contact us

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 Department Web site at  
[www.sau.edu/politicalscience](http://www.sau.edu/politicalscience)  
 For general information about  
 St. Ambrose or how to apply:  
 Admissions Office  
 563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627  
 email: [admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu)  
[www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu)

## Certificate and required credit hours

To complete the Interdisciplinary Minor in Pre-Law Studies students must take 15 credit hours and of those, 9 credit hours must be of general education approved courses. Students may not count more than 9 credit hours of political science toward the minor.

## Program highlights and courses

St. Ambrose offers many advantages for students interested in pursuing a career in law. Participation in the Pre-Law Program bolsters a student's academic record, draws attention to law school admissions boards and helps students develop the proper intellectual skills for success in law school. Unlike faculty in many large state universities, St. Ambrose faculty are committed to advising students in every phase of preparing and applying for law school. Faculty work closely with students to help them design a course of study that meets their interests and addresses their weaknesses. When it comes time to apply to law school, the faculty helps students research law schools and develop a personal statement. Because the professors know their students so well, they are able to write detailed letters of recommendation for them.

The Interdisciplinary Minor in Pre-Law Studies curriculum is designed to encourage sustained reflection upon the relationship between law and human nature, give students a practical introduction to the basic elements of the American legal system, and provide students with the background and skills necessary for success in law school and in the field of law. Special attention is given to logical and critical thinking, persuasive argument and cogent speaking and writing. Courses include Law and Society, Legal Environment of Business, Law and Economics, Criminal Law and Procedure, Social/Political Philosophy, and Persuasive Writing.

See our course catalog at [www.sau.edu/catalog](http://www.sau.edu/catalog) for a full description of required and elective courses.

## Co-curricular activities and opportunities

The Pre-Law Club is intended not only for those who plan to attend law school but also for those who are interested in learning about legal issues and the political system. The club sponsors learning opportunities in other cities and also organizes a fall lecture on an aspect of the law.

Through the Student Government Association (SGA), students can become involved in the process for addressing matters of student interest and concern on campus. Student senators are elected and participate in the governing process as the SGA promotes matters of student interest and provides financial support to student clubs and organizations.

Our Mock Trial Team meets through the academic year and competes with schools from across the nation. Playing witnesses and lawyers, students work with attorney and faculty coaches and are judged in tournament by judges and lawyers. The experience is designed to acclimate students to a trial setting and build the skills necessary for legal and other careers.

## Financial awards and opportunities

Through a generous endowment the political science program receives additional financial support for its functions and activities with the Frank and Jane Folwell Chair in Political Science and Pre-Law. The endowed chair allows students to attend a law school forum and mock trials that promote greater learning experiences. Each year, one outstanding political science/pre-law student who is graduating receives the Frank and Jane Folwell Award in Political Science and Pre-Law at the annual Student Awards Ceremony.

A special pre-law center is available as a resource for students and contains a dedicated computer, law library and LSAT study materials.

## Alumni

St. Ambrose has a proven record of helping students gain admission into quality law schools.

In the past 10 years graduates have been accepted into such law schools as Drake University, University of Iowa, John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Georgetown University, Boston College, Harvard University, and DePaul University.

In addition to private practice and litigation, our graduates have held such positions as:

- House counsel for a fraternal insurance company. Graduated in 1991.
- Civil attorney for a legal aid society. Graduated in 1992.

## About the faculty

**L. Joseph Hebert** PhD, Assistant Professor and Director of Pre-Law Studies

HebertJosephL@sau.edu

Prof. Hebert's course list includes Constitutional Law, American Government and the History of Political Thought. He earned his PhD in political science from the University of Toronto. He is the newest member of the department, joining the faculty in 2005.

**John Norton** PhD, Professor Emeritus

NortonJohnC@sau.edu

Prof. Norton teaches International Politics and U.S. Foreign Policy. He earned his PhD in political science from the University of Illinois. Semi-retired since 1996, Prof. Norton joined the St. Ambrose faculty in 1957.

**William Parsons** PhD, Professor

ParsonsWilliamW@sau.edu

Prof. Parsons specializes in organizational leadership, public policy and public opinion and elections. He also oversees the Independent Study and Internships for third and fourth year political science majors. Prof. Parsons earned his PhD from the University of Arizona and has been with St. Ambrose since 1989.