

CAREERS IN

Law

The Amherst College Loeb Center for Career Exploration and Planning's **Careers In Law** program offers support, information and guidance for students who are considering careers in the public or private sectors of the legal profession, including environmental, immigration, criminal, and corporate law. Students will be advised on the law school process and exposed to a variety of professional development opportunities to help them launch successful careers.

A sampling of organizations at which Amherst College alumni have pursued careers in law includes *American Civil Liberties Union, Law Office of Cook County Public Defender, National Environmental Law Center, Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, Securities and Exchange Commission*, and the *U.S. Department of Justice*.

Amherst students have gone on to study at *Harvard Law School, New York University Law School*, and *Columbia Law School*, to name a few.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Loeb Center Careers In programs encourage you to develop a deep and sustained exploration of a particular field. Ways in which to explore a future in a law profession include:

INTERNSHIPS

Internships allow you to apply what you have learned in the classroom to the world of work. Internships are a great step towards clarifying interests, skills, and career goals.

Some of the companies that have hired Amherst College students for summer experiences include: United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts, the Legislative Office of Councilmember Carlina Rivera, Legal Outreach Inc., Georgetown University Law School: Investigative Internship Program.

BECOME INVOLVED

Join an Amherst College student organization such as Undergraduate Law Review, Amherst Debate Society and Mock Trial.

Learn more about different career paths or office environments by joining us for Food for Thought events, panels, and office

hours with employers and alumni that come to campus. All details such as date, time, location, and any deadlines for reserving your spot can be found in Handshake (amherst.joinhandshake.com/events).

Students often ask if there are specific courses or a particular course of study they should take in order to have a better chance of getting into law school. The answer, on the surface, is no. Law schools seek applicants across the full spectrum of majors. If you are intent on attending law school, choose courses which encourage you to be a reader, writer, and a thinker. Law schools accept students based on evidence of "being able to do well in law school," which is sometimes interpreted as "being capable of thinking like a lawyer."

One very important element of your law school application will be your resume, as an indication of the non-academic work and activities which, along with your coursework, make up who you are as a law school candidate. Become actively involved in what truly interests you. Avoid more casual "dabbling" in activities just to beef up your law school resume.

“It was through Careers In Law that I found the internship where I am currently working, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and so far it has been such an exciting experience to work with passionate attorneys on cases ranging from drug trafficking to child harassment to embezzlement and bribery. Careers In Law is a program I’d highly recommend to anyone interested in a legal career!”

Audrey Cheng '20, Economics

TIP! INTERNSHIP SEARCH

Undergraduate internships in the legal field can be hard to find. One strategy is to search for internships in different functional areas (communications, advocacy, business administration, etc.) that are offered through legal organizations. These internships can provide understanding of the legal work environment while nurturing critical skills to strengthen your resume.

RESOURCES AND NEXT STEPS

- **Handshake** (amherst.joinhandshake.com) is your one-stop shop for Loeb Center events, appointments and resources, and a wide variety of internship and job opportunities. Complete your Handshake profile! The more complete your profile is, the more effective and customized the platform becomes.
- Read the Loeb Center weekly newsletter, Career Columns.
- Like Careers In Law on Facebook: facebook.com/AmherstLoebCareersInLaw/
- Chat with a PCA. Peer Career Advisors (PCAs) are highly trained students who can relate to what it means to balance classes, time with friends, and planning steps to a career. PCAs can give you great resume advice and answer questions about Handshake, internships, interviewing, networking, self-assessment, and other Loeb Center resources.

CAREERS IN

The Loeb Center provides all students with opportunities to dive deeply into specific career areas of interest.

Our Careers In programs provide:

- expert advising from industry specialists
- tailored exploratory programs and skills workshops
- insight into recruiting processes, internship and job search strategies, and interview preparation
- access to alumni in the field

You may participate in any Careers In program at any time as your interests develop, deepen, change, or multiply.

There are seven different Careers In programs:

- Arts and Communication
- Business and Finance
- Education Professions
- Government and Nonprofit
- Health Professions
- Law
- Science and Technology

The Loeb Center also offers general advising and exploration opportunities for students who are curious about a broad range of career options or who are just beginning to reflect on their interests, values, and skills.