

## San Jose City College Pathway to Law Program Application and Information

San Jose City College has been selected by the *State Bar of California* to participate in the Community Colleges Pathway to Law School Initiative (CCPLSI), which provides a transfer-pathway for students to at least one of six (6) participating law schools in California:

- University of Southern California
- University of San Francisco
- UC Davis
- UC Irvine
- Santa Clara University
- Loyola Marymount

This initiative is sponsored by the State Bar of California's Council on Access and Fairness (COAF). Students in the program will follow a sequence of required and elective courses (refer to the enclosed program pathway for specific courses), which combines seven (7) required courses (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum - IGETC). Credits accumulated throughout this pathway are assured for transfer.

### **Pre-law Pathway Course of Study covers major and AA/CSU/IGETC general education courses**

- ENGL 001A: English Composition (3.0 units)
- ENGL 001C: Critical Thinking/Composition (3.0 units)
- POLSC 001: Politics and Govt in America (3.0 units)
- HIST 017B: History of the United States (3.0 units) OR HIST 1 Survey of American History
- MATH 063: Elementary Statistics (3.0 units)
- COMS 040: Introduction to Argumentation (3.0 units)
- AJ 016: Street Law (4.0 units)

### **Suggested Courses**

- AJ 010: Introduction to Administration of Justice (3.0 units)
- AJ 11: Criminal Law (3.0 units)
- GUIDE 130: College and Life Success (3.0 units)

### **Students interested in applying for SJCC's Pre-Law pathway must:**

Submit a completed Pre-Law Application form and Student Contract to:

*Rachel Hagan, Pathway to Law Coordinator*  
[rachel.hagan@sjcc.edu](mailto:rachel.hagan@sjcc.edu)

### **For acceptance and continuation in the Pathway to Law program, students must:**

- Work with the SJCC Counselor and Coordinator, Rachel Hagan, designated to Counsel Pre-Law Scholars; and obtain an education plan
- Follow the designated sequence of courses; 4 of which must be completed at SJCC
- Maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Participate in related Pre-Law program activities
- Agree and adhere to the Student Rights and Responsibilities (herein, 'student contract') enclosed in this application.

### **Student Support Services:**

Pre-Law scholars will receive a variety of services, which may include:

- Pre-law activities
- Student advising and mentoring
- Debate or Mock Trial competitions
- Statewide Law Day conference
- Pre-law club
- Law school visits
- Advisement from law schools
- Service learning opportunities
- Internships
- Exposure to legal profession
- LSAT prep
- Assistance in the law school admission process
- Waive application fee to participating law schools
- Additional related law school activities

### **RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES of STUDENTS (PRE-LAW/COAF SCHOLARS)**

- A. Upon graduating from SJCC, and having fulfilled the academic expectations for SJCC's Pre-Law program, students will achieve, and be qualified for, COAF Scholar status. Students may then identify themselves as "COAF Scholars" when applying to law school.
  - B. Counseling. Student must attend an orientation on the Community Colleges Pathway to Law School Initiative. Student must work with a designated Pathway Initiative Counselor. Student must establish a Student Educational Plan.
  - C. Information-Sharing. Student must self-identify as a "COAF Scholar" participant in the Initiative to the State Coordinator, and agree to consent to the Coordinator's release of information to Parties to the extent necessary for Student to progress through the Initiative and consent to maintenance of general data necessary to assess the program.
  - D. Courses. Student must successfully complete the required coursework delineated by San Jose City College, which is based on a defined set of "success factors" of effective lawyers. The intention of this Initiative is to align criteria from the "success factors" with California Community College courses currently approved in corresponding Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) areas in order to prepare students for law school and the legal profession prior to transfer. Advanced Placement (AP) credit for Statistics and English may be granted pursuant to the local community college's policy.
    - i. Deferral of Courses to 4-Year University. Students transferring to Santa Clara University or the University of Southern California may elect to defer up to four of these courses until transfer to the four-year undergraduate program, where they must then complete these equivalents. Advanced Placement (AP) test credit may be applied to four-year undergraduate requirements pursuant to Santa Clara University's or Univ. of Southern California's respective policies.
- Santa Clara University:
    - (1) Political Science 1, Introduction to U.S. Politics, in lieu of Introduction to American Government
    - (2) History 96A or 96B, Intro History of the U.S. I or II, in lieu of U.S. History

- (3) English 177, Argumentation, in lieu of Argumentation and Debate or Persuasion
- (4) Any course approved for the Core Experiential Learning for Social Justice requirement in lieu of Service/Civic Learning

- University of Southern California:

- (1) Communication 141, Applied Debate, in lieu of Argumentation and Debate
- (2) Political Science 100, Theory and Practice of American Democracy, or Political Science 120, Comparative Politics, in lieu of American Government
- (3) History 100gm, The American Experience, or a score of 4 or 5 on the AP U.S. History exam, in lieu of U.S. History
- (4) Math 208x, Elementary Probability and Statistics, or a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Statistics exam, in lieu of Statistics

E. Service/Civic Learning / College Success. It is recommended that students complete the service/civic learning and college success course. In addition or alternatively, students may work with the instructional faculty champion for placement into law-related civic/service learning internships.

F. Extracurricular Activities. Students are encouraged to participate in various law-related activities and events sponsored at the community college level, such as debate competitions, statewide Law Day conference, pre-law club, law school visits, legal writing competitions, local county and affinity bars' events, judges' events, screening of video "When You Dream ... Community College Pathway to Law School", and California Supreme Court oral argument hearings. All students at participating community colleges are encouraged to participate in these activities, whether or not students are qualified as "COAF Scholars".

G. Transfer and Admission to Undergraduate Institution. While knowledge of which courses will transfer to an institution is valuable, policies at each university (or even schools and majors within a university) may impose additional admission requirements. In addition to completing the specified courses under the Initiative for admission to the participating law schools, students must complete all pre-requisites for his/her major as required by a participating undergraduate institution and must transfer successfully. Students are encouraged to meet with transfer counselors and visit admissions and transfer websites for the participating undergraduate institutions.

H. Good Standing. Students must at all times be in good academic standing as defined by each educational institution that the student attends; must never be on academic probation or suspension or in violation of student conduct codes; and must at no time fall below the standards of ethics or behavior that would bar admission to the State Bar of California. Students should contact the State Bar of California, and/or the equivalent licensing organizations in the jurisdiction(s) in which the student intends to practice, to determine the applicable character, fitness, and other qualifications necessary for licensure. In addition to the above, students may at any point be removed from consideration under this Initiative by any or all of the participating law schools for any of the following behaviors as determined by those participating law schools;

1. Academic misconduct
2. Unlawful misconduct
3. Employment misconduct
4. Financial misconduct
5. Any other reasons determined by a law school that would indicate that Student does not appear capable of satisfactorily completing its educational program and being admitted to the bar.

- I. Application and Matriculation at Law School. Student must complete the course work at the community college level during and enroll in participating law school no later than Fall 2024. Students are required to complete the law school application. Students must register with the Law School Admission Council and submit official transcripts through the Candidate Assembly Service (CAS).
  
- J. No Obligation. Any Student who does not meet the requirements for consideration as a “COAF Scholar” or who is removed from the Initiative is not otherwise barred from seeking direct admission to any law school, including all participating law schools. Likewise, students who meet all the requirements under this MOU are not obligated to attend any of the participating law schools and may seek admission to other law schools or may decide not to pursue a legal career.

For acceptance and continuation in San Jose City College’s Pre-Law program (Pathway to Law), I agree to participate in required Pre-Law activities. I also understand that by participating in this program, I will not have guaranteed admission to the universities or the law schools mentioned. However, I will be entering into a special agreement designed to prepare students for admissions into the aforementioned law schools.

**Contact Information:** Rachel Hagan, Coordinator

rachel.hagan@sjcc.edu

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.sjcc.edu/academics/academic-programs/pathway-to-law-school-program>

<http://www.discoverlaw.org/>

# Pathway to Law Contract

## Signature Page

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge receipt and understanding of the student rights and responsibilities associated with the Pre-Law Scholars program at San Jose City College. Further, I agree to abide by and adhere to the standards listed herein. I understand that failure to comply with these expectations may result in my immediate dismissal and revocation from this program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Student Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Pathway to Law Coordinator*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Please submit your application to Rachel Hagan – Student Center SC-201

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SJCC Student ID#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

What is your major? \_\_\_\_\_

When do you anticipate graduating from SJCC? Semester \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_