

Career Exploration and Planning



& Pre-Professional Advising

LAFAYETTE

▶ GATEWAY & CAREER PLANNING

Lafayette prepares you for leadership and success

The broad-based academic programs and opportunities for undergraduate research, study abroad, internships, and other experiential learning develop essential skills as you begin a career or move on to graduate or professional school. Graduates enter a wide variety of fields, including business, life sciences, engineering, communications, education, the arts, public service, research, and more.

As students select a major and explore a career, they partner with the Gateway Career Center through a four-year career planning program called Gateway. This one-on-one program enables you to work with your Gateway counselor developing a personal route that incorporates your specific interests, values, and goals.

Throughout your four years at Lafayette, you will work together on this individualized road map to maximize the benefits of the program. Whether you know your career destination or arrive on campus wanting to explore your path, Gateway can help you achieve your career goals. You only need a commitment to self-discovery and a willingness to explore opportunities.

SOME OF OUR SIGNATURE PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Individual career counseling, along with graduate/professional school advising
- Workshops focused on job and internship search skills, as well as career and industry knowledge
- Experiential learning: externships (job shadowing), Career Tracks, and internships
- Internship and job postings and virtual and on-campus interviewing with recruiters from a variety of industries
- Email alerts: internships, research opportunities, full-time jobs, virtual and on-campus recruiter visits, all targeted to your self-selected career interests
- Networking opportunities with alumni and parents, virtually and on and off campus
- Comprehensive online career resources, such as Handshake, GatewayLink and Candid Career



Experiential Learning

Experiential learning complements personal development and career exploration. Through externships, Career Tracks, internships, and employer visits, you explore interests, develop marketable skills, establish career/industry knowledge, and build your professional network.



EXTERNSHIPS

Externships are designed to expose sophomores, juniors, and seniors to a specific career, industry, or graduate school program. Students shadow alumni or other professionals in the workplace or postsecondary educational settings in-person or remotely for two to five days during the January break.

CAREER TRACKS

Open to all class years, Career Tracks give students valuable behind-the-scenes views of specific industries in targeted locations during the January break. Students have the opportunity to build connections with alumni, parents, and friends of the College.

INTERNSHIPS

Internships complement classroom learning with an emphasis on gaining professional experience in a field of interest, building skills, learning an industry, and making connections. These experiences can be paid, volunteer, or for academic credit. Summer funding is available through a competitive application process, thanks to the generosity of many individual alumni, alumni classes, and parents.

FINDING A JOB

The Gateway Career Center offers guidance and support with successful employment searches.

We use these programs and resources:

- Writing workshops, online tutorials and one-on-one support for resumes, cover letters, and LinkedIn profiles
- Interviewing strategies, guidance and practice
- Mock interviews: in-person, in the field, virtually, and by phone
- Annual career fairs: virtually and on and off campus
- Alumni and parent networking programs: virtually and on and off campus

SOME RECENT INTERNSHIPS HAVE BEEN OFFERED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Financial Services
- Human Resources
- Engineering
- Government
- Media and Arts
- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Nonprofit
- Law
- Health Care
- Manufacturing
- Advertising



ON-CAMPUS & VIRTUAL INTERVIEWING

Employers connect virtually and in-person to interview students for internships and full-time positions. Lafayette students are highly sought after and attract a variety of employers and organizations to campus for interviews through our on-campus recruiting program. Students of all majors and class years are eligible to participate.

Some of the industries represented include:

- Consulting
- Government
- Media
- Health care
- Engineering
- Insurance
- Technology
- Manufacturing
- Education
- Environmental/construction management
- Banking/financial services
- Communications
- Nonprofits
- Pharmaceuticals

INTERNSHIP & JOB POSTINGS

Students can access postings through a password-protected account which allows them to:

- Review postings and apply for internship, research, fellowship, and full-time employment opportunities
- Create and update an online profile identifying their career interests
- Publish their résumé online
- RSVP for employer events
- Receive notifications about positions, employers, and industries of interest
- Apply for on-campus interviews, receive notifications of selection, and sign up for interviews



▶ PRE-PROFESSIONAL ADVISING

Guidance, resources, and workshops enable students to explore their interest in the **health and legal professions**. As part of our advising programs, we help students assess their chances of admission, offer advice on how to enhance their application portfolio, and help them prepare for their application submission.

Health Professions

Careers in the health professions are rewarding, but admission is competitive and requires careful planning by students with helpful assessment by our Health Professions Advising staff.

ADVISING ASSISTANCE

Our Health Professions Advising Office provides co-curricular support for students at the onset of their academic career at the College by:

1. Providing programs, activities, and workshops to help students discern their health professions interests, goals, and capabilities
2. Offering group and individual advising appointments that complement input from their academic adviser
3. Connecting students to working health professionals interested in mentoring
4. Partnering with academic programs and Gateway to expand resources to aspiring health professions students

HEALTH PROFESSIONS PROGRAM COMPONENTS INCLUDE:

- Onboarding incoming students with timelines and tools they can use to develop their competencies and enhance their application portfolios
- Presentations by health professions experts and health professional school admissions personnel
- Individual and group advising opportunities to assess preparation and readiness at each step along the application timeline
- Comprehensive advice for applicants to gauge their competitive standing for entry into health professions schools, including a holistic review of their application portfolios, academic records, admissions test scores (MCAT, DAT, OAT, GRE) when available, co-curricular activities, and health professions-related experience
- Targeted small-group information sessions on topics such as health professional school application procedures, workshops for reflective essay writing, how to match your vision to the mission of a professional school, school selection process, summer opportunities, and more



Health Professions Advising partners with the Gateway Career Center to provide opportunities for students to secure meaningful health care experiences (externships and internships) and for interview preparation and practice. Our students also benefit from the assistance of our dedicated alumni, who mentor them and contribute to their professional development and aspirations.

WELL-ROUNDED CANDIDATES

As the age of those matriculating to health professions school continues to rise, more and varied experiences impact the admissions process for our students and alumni. As such, it is no longer sufficient nor advisable for applicants to believe that merely maintaining a high GPA and obtaining a strong admissions test score will result in acceptance to a health professions school. Schools seek candidates with evidence of dedicated community engagement, clinical research, cultural sensitivity, and interpersonal and intrapersonal competencies.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK

The Health Professions Advising Office provides guidance for students to plan their coursework to augment completion of their major. It is critical that students applying to health professions discuss course selection options with their academic adviser.

MINIMUM CORE REQUIREMENTS

As health profession schools vary in required coursework, students are urged to investigate individual schools for specific requirements. A listing of recommended coursework can be found at healthprofessions.lafayette.edu.

The targeted requirements include:

- Two college-level biology courses with laboratories
- Two introductory chemistry courses with laboratories
- Two physics courses with laboratories
- One or two organic chemistry courses with laboratories
- Mathematics, including calculus and/or statistics
- Biochemistry
- English composition and writing
- Increasingly, courses in psychology, sociology, and ethics

While AP credit for some introductory classes is admirable, health professional schools prefer to see undergraduates handle the rigor of college-level technical coursework with laboratory in the context of a normal semester load. Therefore, we advise use of AP credit toward non-core requirements. When applied toward health professions core requirements, AP credit should be used as prerequisites for students to elect more advanced-level coursework and thereby demonstrate their commitment to the profession.

PROBABILITY OF ACCEPTANCE

Nationally, despite the recent modest increase in the number of accredited medical, dental, veterinary, and optometry schools along with a slight expansion of incoming class sizes at some schools, admission to health professions schools continues to be highly competitive.

ALLOPATHIC MEDICAL (MD) SCHOOLS

FALL 2021

Applicant Pool	Accepted Students	Means	Percent
52,963	22,197	3.73 GPA 511.5 MCAT	42%

LAFAYETTE ACCEPTANCE RATES

MEDICAL SCHOOL

GPA	Applied	Accepted	Percent
3.60 and above	58	43	74%
3.20-3.59	21	9	43%
Lower than 3.20	4	1	25%

Data are for all students (first-time applicants as well as re-applicants) applying for admission to medical schools (MD, DO) in 2018-21.

The incoming medical school class for fall 2021 saw **67 PERCENT** of our 15 Lafayette applicants accepted into either an allopathic or osteopathic medical school.

DENTAL SCHOOL

Applied	Accepted	Percent
7	7	100%

VETERINARY SCHOOL

Applied	Accepted	Percent
2	2	100%

OPTOMETRY SCHOOL

Applied	Accepted	Percent
2	2	100%

Data include first-time applicants as well as re-applicants (2018-2021).



TO LEARN MORE

Visit our website at healthprofessions.lafayette.edu.

Legal Professions

Lafayette's curriculum provides rich opportunities to enjoy the sort of education that fully prepares students to study law. The small classes at Lafayette make it possible for faculty to know their students well and therefore contribute strong letters of recommendation to a student's law school application.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

No particular courses are required for admission to law school, so the range of acceptable college majors is very broad. The American Bar Association states that "...what counts is the intensity and depth of your undergraduate program and your capacity to perform well at an academically rigorous level."

Essential to undergraduate coursework:

- Critical analysis
- Logical reasoning
- Written and oral expression

ACCEPTANCE RATES

100%

CLASS OF 2019, 2020
& 2021

TOP LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Lafayette graduates attend a wide range of law schools after carefully considering professional goals, qualifications, and financial incentives sometimes offered by law schools. Over the past three years (2019-2021), Lafayette graduates were accepted to 14 of the top 20 schools. Listed below in their 2021 rank order, the schools with an asterisk indicate where a Lafayette graduate is currently attending.

Harvard*	U. Virginia*	Georgetown
U. Chicago	Northwestern	U. Texas
Columbia*	UC Berkeley	Vanderbilt
NYU	Duke*	Boston University*
U. Penn*	Cornell	

Applicant Groups	Admitted	Average Acceptances per	Applicants Matriculated
Seniors	38	4.3	36
1-3 years post	46	3.1	43
>3 years post	15	2.2	14



ADVISING ASSISTANCE

In order to receive full benefits from the advising process, students are encouraged to engage with program resources early. Components and related opportunities include:

- Individual student advising provided by faculty and professional staff to explore personal/intellectual interests, develop candidacy strengths, decide if/when to pursue a legal education, and execute the most beneficial application strategies followed by the law school selection decision
- Sessions featuring guests such as alumni in legal professions and law school admissions representatives
- Four-year collaboration with the Gateway Career Center to explore and secure meaningful externship, internship, and employment experiences
- Mock Trial team
- Forensics team
- Local and regional law school forums

▶ GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Lafayette students receive the full benefit of a liberal arts education while preparing for graduate study in a specific field. With the successful completion of the well-balanced Common Course of Study that is required of all students, Lafayette graduates become excellent candidates for advanced study. The College has established an outstanding reputation among graduate and professional institutions.

CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION

About one in every five Lafayette graduates goes directly to graduate or professional school.

SELECTING A GRADUATE SCHOOL

We offer individual graduate school counseling as well as workshops and programs about the application process. An extensive selection of print and online graduate school materials are available in the Gateway Career Center, Dean of Advising and Co-Curricular Programs Office, and Skillman Library. Lafayette faculty are also valuable sources of information.

TAKING ADMISSION EXAMS

Students are provided with information about graduate school exams, including preparation advice and resources.

- The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is offered online.
- The subject test of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is offered at Lafayette each semester.
- The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and business school Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) are offered in the Lehigh Valley.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

GATEWAY CAREER CENTER

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LEGAL PROFESSIONS

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HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

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