

# UTSA Pre-Law Insights Newsletter Summer 2024 Issue 5, Volume III

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# UTSA PRE-LAW INSIGHTS NEWSLETTER

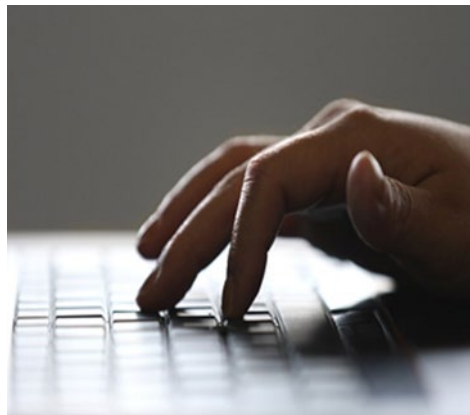
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Welcome to this fifth issue of UTSA Pre-Law Insights newsletter! We are happy to share prelaw advising news that will keep you informed to make better decisions for law school preparation and admission.

## The LSAT Writing Section Changes

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All Law School Admissions Test takers should take the LSAT *Argumentative Writing* section to receive their score. If test takers do not have an approved writing sample on file, neither test takers nor law schools will receive the LSAT score, hindering the review of law school applications.



Beginning July 30, 2024, the LSAT Writing section is changing to a new format, according to the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). The LSAT Writing section now includes a 15-minute prewriting analysis period, in addition to the existing 35 minutes allotted for essay writing. During the prewriting phase, test takers will engage in guided analysis and note-taking using digital tools provided in the test environment to organize their thoughts effectively.

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**Test takers are tasked with crafting an argumentative essay where they stake out a position on the issue while also engaging with and responding to arguments and viewpoint put forth by the other perspectives**

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In the Argumentative Writing Section, test takers will encounter a debatable topic accompanied by three or four perspectives that offer further insight into the issue. These perspectives, each succinctly expressed, embody distinct systems of beliefs or values. Collectively, they exemplify contrasting ideologies and viewpoints on the topic at hand. Subsequently, test takers are tasked with crafting an argumentative essay where they stake out a position on the issue while also engaging with and responding to arguments and viewpoints put forth by the other perspectives.

The LSAC notes that for the 2024-2025 testing cycle, LSAT Writing remains unscored and will be administered in an online proctored, on-demand environment using secure proctoring software that is installed on the test taker's computer. The LSAC plans to collect and analyze data from the new LSAT Writing prompt to evaluate its validity and reliability. Ultimately, LSAC aims to introduce a scored LSAT writing assessment in the future, which law schools may integrate into their holistic admissions processes.

You may take a writing sample prompt at <https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/about/lSAT-argumentative-writing>. Keep in mind that you don't need to register for the LSAT Argumentative Writing section. It is included in your first LSAT registration and will be accessible via your LSAC JD Account starting eight days prior to your test date.

## HOW TO GET LEGAL INTERNSHIPS

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A legal internship offers invaluable exposure to the realities of legal work, providing opportunities to sharpen analytical, research, and writing skills before entering law school. Through hands-on assignments, interns gain practical experience while also gathering insights into their future legal careers. Additionally, internships facilitate networking and the establishment of meaningful relationships within the legal community, fostering mentorship opportunities. Although having an internship does not equate to law school admission, it will help to figure out whether the legal career is for you.



If you've been searching for a legal internship, you may have noticed that many are geared towards law school students. However, there are still opportunities available for college students. Don't be discouraged; instead, be prepared to pursue these opportunities diligently. Regardless of your major, ensure you have completed advanced 3000 or 4000 level courses that will assist to qualify you for a legal internship, gain practical experience in a legal office, and enable you to assist attorneys effectively. Examples of such courses include Legal Research and Writing, as well as various law courses.

Keep in mind that securing legal internships involves several key steps to increase your chances of success. Begin by researching law firms, corporate legal departments, or government agencies that align with your career goals. Tailor your resume and cover letter to highlight relevant coursework, skills, and experiences. Networking with the legal community and attending UTSA prelaw events can also provide valuable insights and opportunities. Additionally, consider using

internship databases to actively search for openings. Finally, prepare thoroughly for interviews by practicing common interview questions.

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**If you are a COLFA student, your course may be either pol 4933 internship in political science or pal 4933 internship in politics and law. If you are not a COLFA student, you should enroll in UCS 4933 internship in prelaw studies, as an elective course, though.**

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If you are interested in a legal internship, first, determine whether you want it to count for academic credit. If so, the course to enroll into may be either PAL 4933 Internship in Politics and Law, POL 4933 Internship in Political Science, or UCS 4933 Internship in Prelaw Studies. However, the availability of internship courses will vary depending on your academic college.

As a student in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts (COLFA), regardless of your major, you should consider enrolling in either PAL 4933 or POL 4933. Either course will provide 3 credits. Visit the COLFA Student Success Center (SSC) webpage and follow the guidelines. Secure the internship agency (legal firm, courtroom, and others) and have your employer (attorney) fill out and submit the COLFA Employer Partner Form. The COLFA SSC will review your information and inform you and the academic department that you are eligible for evaluation and potential registration in POL 4933 or PAL 4933.

Alternatively, UCS 4933 (3 credits) is available to all students, regardless of their major or academic department or college. If interested in UCS 4933, contact me. There's a list of legal internship placements available to you.

## UTSA FALL 2024 PRE-LAW EVENTS

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Save the dates! Below are the Institute for Law and Public Affairs Fall 2024 Events.

- August 28, 4-6pm. Summer Law School Preparation Academy Graduation Ceremony. TBD
- November 4, 9:15-10:15am. TX Law School Admissions Panel. Room TBD.
- November 4, 10:30-1:30pm. Law School Fair. Student Union 2.01.28 – Student Union Denman and Denman Galleria.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

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It is my honor to serve as the UTSA official prelaw advisor (recognized by the LSAC), Professor, Certificate in Legal Studies Program Advisor, and Program Manager of the Institute for Law and Public Affairs. Currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Southwest Association of Prewlaw Advisors (SWAPLA) and in the AccessLex Prewlaw Advisory Committee, I am happy to guide you for law school preparation and law school application – and admission! My contact information is [ana.alvarez@utsa.edu](mailto:ana.alvarez@utsa.edu). I am looking forward to hearing your feedback on this newsletter and learn what you would like to read in the next issue. Thank you!

Ana Alvarez, Ed. D.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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