

Building a Foundation for a Career in Law



A HAMILTON EDUCATION is designed to prepare you for a lifetime of personal and professional achievement and satisfaction. Through your coursework and activities, you will develop a broad base of knowledge and skills to prepare you for a variety of career opportunities. However, you will need to take initiative to explore career options and develop career-specific skills. Obtaining an internship is one of the best ways to build a foundation for your career.

Most formal internships are competitive; you should view your first two years at Hamilton as a time to gain career-related experiences to make yourself marketable for a competitive internship following your junior year. Career-related experiences can take place during the academic year as well as during the summer. Your initial summer opportunities will most likely be unpaid, located close to your home, and with a small to medium-size organization. The following are types of organizations and departments you might consider contacting:

- ▶ County, state or federal government office (i.e., legal, mayor's office, taxation, codes, PR, solicitor general, treasury, fraud)
- ▶ Court/judge/public defender/district attorney
- ▶ Estate planning/accounting firms/tax service
- ▶ Government relations department at a corporate headquarters
- ▶ Legal or human resources department at a corporation
- ▶ Local law office
- ▶ Not-for-profit agency, including legal, government relations, lobbying or programming department
- ▶ Real estate closings department at a bank/savings & loan/credit union

Hamilton

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The chart on the right identifies tasks in each of three educational areas. They are progressive, and we strongly recommend that you begin this process during your first two years at Hamilton.

Career-Planning Tasks

The Career Center offers personalized and comprehensive services to help you with the career-planning process.

Career-Related Experience

It is important that you be actively involved on campus as well as use your summers to develop career-related skills and experience.

Academic Preparation

Select courses, a concentration and electives that help you develop creative, critical thinking, writing and speaking skills as well as skills specific to a career in law.

Photos from left: Mason Ashe '85, president of Ashe Sports and Entertainment Consulting, who serves as agent and attorney for professional athletes and entertainers; Emily Powell '09 interning at Safe Horizons, a victim assistance agency in New York City; Alex Kaufman '06 and Adam Gordon '06, founders of Hamilton's Mock Trial Team.

	Career Planning Tasks	Career-Related Experience	Academic Preparation
1	<p>Meet with a career counselor.</p> <p>Write a résumé.</p> <p>Attend career information sessions.</p> <p>Identify potential career-related experiences.</p>	<p>Become active on campus (i.e., Student Assembly, Mock Trial, Honor Court, Judicial Board, Debate Club, <i>The Spectator</i>).</p> <p>Volunteer/intern during the summer in your home area (see options on reverse side).</p>	<p>Explore a variety of academic courses.</p>
2	<p>Learn about specific career options in law using resources such as pre-law information meetings, <i>Vault Guide to Corporate Law Careers</i>, <i>Vault Guide to Litigation Law Careers</i> and informal meetings with district attorneys, judges and attorneys.</p> <p>Update résumé.</p> <p>Develop a prospect list of potential sites for gaining career-related experience during the summer.</p>	<p>Continue your involvement with campus organizations, assuming leadership roles.</p> <p>Obtain a career-related experience during the summer in your home area.</p>	<p>Choose a concentration and elective courses that enhance law-related skills and knowledge, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing-intensive courses ▶ Public speaking ▶ Symbolic Logic ▶ Constitutional Law ▶ Persuasion & Argumentation
3	Secure a competitive career-related experience during the summer of your junior year.		