Teaching Social Justice & The Law Scholars Program

September 9, 2020

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“WHEN YOU DREAM—
COMMUNITY COLLEGE PATHWAY TO LAW SCHOOL”

https://sites.google.com/site/calbardream

http://www.discoverlaw.org/preparing/community-college.asp
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Erin Vines
Vice President of Student Services

Dr. Jill Zimmerman
Dean of Student Life

Diane Walker, JD
AVUHSD Dir. Industry Liaison & Post-Secondary Partnerships

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Administrative Assistant of Student Life
FACULTY & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Administration of Justice

John Vento
Political Science

Frederick Hemker
Political Science
FACULTY & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rosa Fuller
Counselor

Towana Catley
Counselor

Bahareh Beheshti
Counselor
Starting Spring 2021
The Community College Pathways to Law School initiative is an unprecedented effort within California higher education to enhance opportunities and advancement in the legal profession for diverse populations.

“This project will put talented and promising community college students on a trajectory to enter some of the finest law schools in the nation, and receive the support they need to succeed, and make the legal profession more diverse and the justice system more reflective of our state.”

- Brice W. Harris, Chancellor of the California Community Colleges
PREFERRED ADMISSIONS at our Partnered Law Schools

Program will include individual advisement and mentoring from law school advisors, waived application fees for admissions, and/or preferred admission status upon acceptance
This Bar Brief draws from data collected to date from over 125,000 California attorneys.

Source: State Bar of California Attorney Demographics
https://members.calbar.ca.gov/search/demographics.aspx
Diversity in the legal profession and judiciary supports the public’s trust and confidence, and enhances perceptions of fairness in the legal system.

Lawyers occupy critical leadership positions, and engage in policymaking impacting our communities.
Recruitment has typically taken place at 4-year universities.

Students who start at 2-year colleges tend to succeed in law school as well as students who start at 4-year universities. The challenge is get them to apply successfully.

New Law Scholars Program started in 2014. AVC is 1 of 29 community colleges partnered with 6 California law schools to help smooth the pathway to a law degree.
Develop skills to do well on LSAT standardized test and get through law school

Learn about the application process

Understand the law profession and areas of specialization

Keep a strong academic record

To improve the likelihood of law school admission by developing logical and analytical reasoning skills and reading comprehension.
4 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Complete 7 required courses
- Actively participate in Pre-Law Club
- Service Learning
- Be transfer ready (see your counselor!)
7 REQUIRED COURSES

- ENGL101
- ENGL102 or 103 or PHIL201*
- MATH115
- POLS101
- POLS203 or BUS201
- HIST107 or 108
- COMM115
Complete general education coursework for transfer and fulfill your transfer major prep requirements (assist.org)

An Associate’s Degree is NOT required to transfer nor to go to law school, but recommended

Popular Associate’s Degrees include:

- Political Science AA-T
- Administration of Justice AS-T
- Communications AA-T
- Philosophy AA-T
- Liberal Arts & Sciences, Social Behavioral AA

You are not limited to the above, but other majors may require additional coursework and extend your time at AVC. Plan accordingly and see the advisor/counselor.
WHERE WILL YOU TRANSFER TO?

“Opt in” to the Transfer Center canvas shell to get information on transfer workshops, application help, and other important transfer assistance.
Q: WHERE DO I START?
A: GET AN EDUCATIONAL PLAN

- Focus on English and Math EARLY
- Meet with program Advisor/Counselor for updated student educational plan & get help with the transfer process
- Book a counseling appointment via online at https://www.avc.edu/studentservices/counseling
Antelope Valley College (Graduated June 2018):
- Associates Degree in Administration of Justice
- Law Scholars graduate w/ Honors
- President of Pre-Law Club
- Law Scholars Award
- Subject Area Award: Administration of Justice
- Alpha Iota Permanent Member

University of California Berkeley (Graduated May 2020):
- Bachelor’s Degree in Legal Studies
- Assistant Director for ASUC Student Legal Clinic
- Conducted legal research for clients in the Berkeley community
- VITA certified to assist with filing tax returns
- Currently working at law firm in L.A. specializing in employment law
Community College Pathway to Law

Also known as The Law Scholars Program

Interested In Attending Law School?

The Antelope Valley College Law Scholars program is designed to prepare community college students for admission to law school in California. Program benefits include financial aid counseling, academic advising, LSAT prep, exposure to the legal profession and other steps designed to increase the interest of community college students in law school. Consider the AVC to CSU transfer pathway for quicker completion to transfer to a CSU. Make your appointment with our counselors for proper planning.

**Fall 2020 Orientation**

"Teaching social justice & The Law Scholars Program" orientation will be held on September 9, 2020 at 4pm. Everyone is welcome! Join us as we introduce the program requirements, benefits, and our faculty and student champions. Note: Faculty can claim FPD standard 2 credit. Current Law Scholars can claim the hours toward their service learning requirement.

Zoom meeting ID: 96005288680  Password: 973730

Upon request five business days before the event, reasonable accommodation will be provided to facilitate the participation of covered individuals with disabilities. Call 661-722-8360 (voice/relay).

Partnered Law Schools

HTTPS://WWW.AVC.EDU/ACADEMICS/LAWSCHOLAR/
To Do ASAP

■ Create your LSAC account ASAP!
   www.lsac.org  Apply as a “JD applicant”
   • Explore law fields and much more in the “DiscoverLAW” tab
   • Explore Summer PLUS Programs

■ Explore specialty areas and student support services/resources each school offers

■ Take advantage of internships, student pre law conferences and webinars

To Do while at AVC

■ See AVC Career Counselor and/or explore through your AVC major courses

■ Take advantage of Law Scholars trips to law schools and pre-law conferences

■ Challenge yourself academically and strive for excellence

■ ALL of your undergraduate grades will be considered with your LSAT scores (median GPA 3.6 at UCI, UCD, USC, Loyola)

Maintain a high GPA and avoid withdrawing from classes with a “W” (some law schools calculate Ws as Fs)
Law schools will look closely at any offenses you’ve committed either before, during, or after college (drugs, money, relationship, alcohol, vandalism, plagiarism, stalking, violence, lying on applications, cheating, etc.).

The state bar association will also question any type of record of sanction or questionable behavior you commit.

Always be candid and honest when asked!
# POPULAR MAJORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Number of Applicants</th>
<th>Average LSAT Score</th>
<th>% of Applicants Admitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>11,947</td>
<td>153.6</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>4,537</td>
<td>148.4</td>
<td>64%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>3,736</td>
<td>152.5</td>
<td>77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3,629</td>
<td>145.9</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3,151</td>
<td>154.8</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>3,138</td>
<td>156.3</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>2,757</td>
<td>159.0</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>2,238</td>
<td>157.2</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
<td>1,947</td>
<td>154.0</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>1,870</td>
<td>150.6</td>
<td>71%</td>
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</table>
WHAT COLLEGE COURSES STRENGTHEN LEGAL SKILLS?

1. FORMAL LOGIC (PHIL110)

II. CRITICAL THINKING (PHIL201)
FOCUS ON CRITICAL THINKING

• AVC Course Description: PHIL201 CRITICAL THINKING

• 3 units
3 hours weekly
Prerequisite: Completion of ENGL 101/ENGL 101SL.
An introduction to the logical analysis and critical evaluation of arguments and the basic strategies of rhetoric. Different forms of writing are distinguished and examined. A strong emphasis is on formal instruction in argumentative writing that utilizes the critical thinking skills developed in the course. (CSU, UC, AVC)
PREVIEW OF THE COURSE I: CRITICAL THINKING AND LOGIC ANALYZED

Description from, *The Elements of Arguments: An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Logic*:

We will concentrate on and emphasize the elements of arguments in the indicated order:

**Chapter II**: propositions

**Chapter III**: constructing complex propositions from simple propositions;

**Chapter IV**: sets of propositions; logical relations between propositions;

**Chapter V**: the support relation, forms of arguments, and methods for evaluating the support relation claimed by arguments;

**Chapters VI**: arguments in ordinary language.
PREVIEW OF COURSE II: LEGAL LANGUAGE ANALYZED

This is a model of clarity. By the use of a performative utterance in the opening sentence, Kyl makes it clear that he opposes the measure. Then by twice using the argument marker “because,” he gives his two main reasons for opposing it. It is expensive and it is unnecessary. We must now see if he makes good on each of these claims.

The next paragraph begins the argument for the claim that the measure is expensive:

1. Do not intend to belabor this first contention. We have been presented a budget of about $82 billion. We have had recommended to us a whole series of additional programs or extensions of programs for printing the pump, for depressed areas, for the needy, for the unemployed, for river pollution projects, and recreational projects, aid to education, and many more. All are listed as Savings Activities. These activities are not within the budget. Furthermore, if business conditions are as deplorable as the newspapers indicate, the Government’s income will not be as high as anticipated. It is not

2. We are now spending so much now, a new will not hurt. What we spend, we either have to recover in taxes, or add to the stagagng national debt.

A: “I do not intend to belabor this first contention.” This is an example of wavering. The conversational implication is that the point is so obvious this little has to be said in its support. Yet there is something strange going on here. Having said that he will not belabor the claim that the bill is expensive, Kyl actually goes on to say quite a bit on the subject. It is a good idea to look closely when someone says that he or she is not going to do something, for often just the opposite is happening. For example, saying “I am not suggesting that Smith is dishonest” is one way of suggesting that Smith is dishonest. If no such suggestion is being made, why raise the issue at all?

It is also useful to specify whether each argument marker marks a reason or a conclusion (and what the argument is), which stronger term is replaced by each guarding term marked “A,” and which objection is discounted whenever you mark a discounting term with “D.”

This simple process of labeling brings out features of an argument that could pass by unnoticed. It also directs us to ask sharp critical questions. To servit this, we can look at each part of the argument in detail.

I leave out conditional premises, and we have seen how important conditional propositions are. Lasting conditional propositions out result to make us think claims untrue or conditional or merely lists of unconnected “opinions” when the arguments given are really unnecessary.

In the following example, condensing the argument is clearly not the best way to reconstruct the missing premises, since there is a much simpler way of providing the enthymeme with a valid form.

Example step: If Natasha is in good shape, then she exercises regularly. It follows that she must not be in a good shape.

This argument has the invalid form:

P: Natasha is in good shape.
Q: Natasha exercises regularly.
R: P → Q
C: (R) → P

It is much too complicated and unnecessary to reconstruct a valid form for this argument by condensing the argument. That would lead us to add the unnecessarily complicated premise “If Natasha is in good shape, then she exercises regularly; then Natasha is not in good shape.” Instead, we should add the much simpler premise “Natasha does not exercise regularly.” Adding this premise completes the valid argument form of Modus Tollens. The premise is easier to understand and, because of its simplicity, it is easier to assess its truth value. So while many arguments can be given a valid argument form by adding a conditional as a premise of a certain form, this method of supplying missing premises should be used only in last resort.

When drawing the diagram of an argument with an unstated premise, we use capital letters to mark the unstated premises. So the diagram for this example will look as follows.

(1) A

(2) P

Where (A) stands for the unstated premise “Natasha does not exercise regularly.”
SOCIAL AWARENESS / CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

“Sharing & Learning Together”
LA Sheriff Department Spanish Community Academy
SOCIAL AWARENESS / CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY ACADEMY GRADUATION – AV FAIRGROUNDS
SOCIAL AWARENESS / EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Pre-Law Club Requirements

Service Learning Requirements (SLR)

Required Extracurricular Activities

This component should include non-profit or public interest organization partners, as well as work related to law, policy or government. This component is different than an unfocused volunteer program. It goes a step further by incorporating some type of legal or legally-related experience.

Hours Effective 2019-2020

- Law Scholars will be required to accumulate 5 hours per semester

Acceptable Club Activities

- The club will offer a number of activities each semester. A chart of activities and earned points will be available at the start of each school year from the club. It may change from year to year.
- The hours must be signed off by club officers and verified by club advisors

Hours Effective 2019-2020

- Law Scholars graduating by December will be required to accumulate 5 hours per semester
- 10 hours max per year

Acceptable Service Learning Activities

- Shadow a person in a prior approved position (e.g. judge, lawyer, etc)*
- Organized/school sponsored debate
- Attend city council meeting
- Attend LSAC law forum
- Attend a summer program or pre-law program, with prior approval from the committee*
- Work experience (Intern or position at law firm or other approved profession)
- Workshop or campus event, with prior approval from the committee
- Assist Presiding Judge at Teen Court*
- Site visits*
- Coordination of Pre-Law Club events*
- Other pre-approved service learning
- Each SLR must be verified by pre-law club advisors
- Students keep track of their SLR on their tally sheet

* These events may qualify for both Service Learning Activities and Pre-Law Club Hour Requirements

Updated 5.2020
Interested in a job with a federal agency?

Curious to navigate jobs in the government sector?

Want to hear directly from federal judges, the FBI, CIA, and much more?
Experiential Learning

Pre-Law Club

Every Thursday  @4-5 via Zoom

Community Service ♦ Trips ♦ Guest Speakers

Email Sarahy for zoom details
smejia10@avc.edu

14 Law Scholars Graduates, June 2018
Create your LSAC account as a “JD applicant” today!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhLibDtZ4Ms&feature=youtu.be

https://www.lsac.org/lawschoolforums
QUESTIONS?