The Law and Society major offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of law and legal institutions, their impact on society, and society's impact on them. The major is organized around the central theme of understanding law as an instrument of political and social change, questions of how law and law-like systems of rules empower and constrain individuals, groups, organizations and communities; and how the structures and values in social institutions shape and are shaped by law."

Skills, Abilities and Objectives for Law and Society Majors:
- Examine the various ways law operates and is constructed and reshaped within society
- Understand the intersections between law, legal advocacy, and justice
- Engage in high-quality critical analysis of the role of law in society
- Read and understand legal texts, decisions, and theory
- Understand how factors such as race, gender, or finances create barriers to justice through law
- Examine how different forms and levels of law relate to one another
- Critically examine and assess the role of judges, lawyers, and other legal actors in society
- Directly observe and analyze the role of law in their own lives
- Effectively apply theoretical perspectives on law and society to their own work or interests in justice
- Develop exceptional research, and writing, and oral communication skills

Transferring Skills to Careers:
The skills above prepare Law and Society majors for a range of professional degrees and career options. The list below does not include all possible professional paths available to students who major in Law and Society but gives a sample of careers graduates have chosen to pursue. The writing and persuasive skills developed by Law and Society majors are applicable to position such as:

- Judge
- Crime Statistician
- Policy Analyst
- Attorney
- Social Worker
- Foreign Service Officer
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Politician
- Investigator
- Lobbyist
- Professor/Teacher
- Program Director
- Probation Officer
- Judicial Administrator
- Fingerprint Examiner
- Arbitrator
- Legal Advocate

Strategies for Professional Development:
- Explore minors such as: Africana Studies, Anthropology, Human Services, Criminology, International Criminal Justice, Human Rights, Political Science and Sociology.

- Look for law-related internship/volunteer experiences with various social and governmental agencies.

- Create a LinkedIn account to connect with individuals and organizations in fields of interest.

- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields of interest.

- Develop and emphasize your transferable skills such as:
  - Communication
  - Research
  - Leadership/Teamwork
  - Critical Thinking

- Get involved in student organizations such as the Debate Team, United Nations Student Association, Diverse Cultures United and the Law Society.

- Consider pursuing a master’s degree in a related career field.
**Professional Associations/Organizations:**
A professional association is an organization formed to promote and support the development, growth and work efforts of individuals in a particular career field. Membership benefits include networking, continuing education, mentoring programs, meetings/conferences and exclusive access to information regarding career opportunities.

There is often a fee for joining professional organizations; however, most associations offer discounts to students, including graduate school students, recent graduates, and young professionals. All or a portion of associations’ fees are tax deductible. To learn more about professional associations, see the *National Trade and Professional Associations Directory*, the *American Society of Association Executives* or the *Encyclopedia of Associations: Volume I-National Organizations of the U.S.* The latter publication is available in the Reference section of John Jay College’s Lloyd Sealy Library.

- **The Law and Society Association**  
  [http://www.lawandsociety.org](http://www.lawandsociety.org)

- **American Criminal Justice Association**  
  [http://www.acjalac.org](http://www.acjalac.org)

- **Federal Law Enforcement Association**  
  [http://www.fleao.org](http://www.fleao.org)

**Additional Resources:**
- **HG legal Directory**  
  [http://www.hg.org](http://www.hg.org)

- **Martindale.com**  

For more information on this major please visit:
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