

GeoLAWgy - Geology as an Undergraduate Degree for Law



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CWM TALKS: EXPLORING CAREER OPTIONS IN GEOSCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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Outline of Presentation

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- ❖ Advantages of Lawyers with Technical Backgrounds
- ❖ Why Geologists Make Great Lawyers
- ❖ Geology and Law Practice
- ❖ Benefits and Drawbacks of Being a Lawyer
- ❖ Conclusion



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Preparing for Law School

- ❖ Financing law school
- ❖ Pre-law advisor
- ❖ Selecting a law school



Selecting a Law School

- Law school ranking
- Bar passing statistics
- Enrollment information
- Employment statistics

Law Schools that Produced the Highest Number of Bar Topnotchers

Meanwhile, according to the website of the Supreme Court, the Philippine law schools that have produced the most passers in the Bar Exam are these schools:

- University of the Philippines, College Law – 52
- Ateneo de Manila Law School – 19
- Philippine Law School – 7
- San Beda College of Law – 7
- University Manila – 6
- Far Eastern University Institute of Law – 3
- University of Santo Tomas, Faculty of Civil Law – 3
- University of the Cordilleras (formerly Baguio Colleges Foundation) – 2
- Manila Law College Foundation (formerly Escuela de Derecho de Manila) – 1
- Manuel L. Quezon University, College of Law – 1
- Divine Word College – 1
- San Sebastian College, Institute of Law – 1

Top Performing Law Schools

In 2016, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) ranked the best performing law schools in the Philippines in the last 10 years based on the following rates of their graduates passing bar exam:

- University of the Philippines (73.71%)
- Ateneo de Manila University (67.55%)
- San Beda College-Manila (67.13%)
- University of San Carlos (58.00%)
- Ateneo de Davao University (53.02%)
- University of Santo Tomas (43.98%)
- University of Cebu (41.49%)
- San Beda College-Alabang (39.10%)
- Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (35.80%)
- Xavier University (32.20%)

Core Skills for Law School

❖ Excellent Communication Skills

- Writing and Editing Skills

- Oral Communication and Listening Abilities



Core Skills for Law School

- ❖ Task Organization and Management Skills
- ❖ Dedication and Perseverance
- ❖ Independent Learning
- ❖ Team Work



Helpful Background Knowledge

- ❖ A broad understanding of history, including social, political, economic, and cultural factors
- ❖ A fundamental understanding of political thought and of the contemporary political system
- ❖ Some basic mathematical and financial skills, such as an understanding of basic pre-calculus mathematics and an ability to analyze financial data
- ❖ A basic understanding of human behavior and social interaction
- ❖ An understanding of diverse cultures, international institutions and issues, world events, and the increasing interdependence of the nations and communities
- ❖ Exposure to the law

Skills That You Will Develop in Law School

- ❖ The Ability to Work Under Pressure
- ❖ An Understanding of the Law
- ❖ Thinking Outside the Box
- ❖ Presentation Skills
- ❖ Analysis



Skills That You Will Develop in Law School

- ❖ Conflict Resolution
- ❖ Negotiation Skills
- ❖ Commercial Awareness
- ❖ Attention to Detail
- ❖ Specialized Knowledge



Advantages of Lawyers with Technical Backgrounds

- ❖ From virtual working environments to artificial intelligence, more and more companies are adopting new technologies and adjusting their businesses accordingly.
- ❖ Many clients are adopting the latest technology in their businesses, which, in turn, introduces a variety of accompanying legal issues.
- ❖ A fundamental understanding of the client's business and an ability to 'speak their language' can help.
- ❖ COVID-19 has proved the need and vitality of certain technical changes in the legal industry.

Why Geologists Make Great Lawyers

- ❖ Geologists are problem-solvers—so are lawyers
- ❖ Geologists use language and logic—so do lawyers



Geology and Law Practice

- ❖ Geologist lawyers are the number one source for the knowledgeable crossover between law, policy, business, and the earth sciences.
- ❖ Lawyers with a strong geological background are uniquely positioned to understand the legal and geological complexities of disputes involving minerals, petroleum, mining, environmental effects, and law-of-the-sea.

Practice Areas Where Geologists Can Excel

❖ Mining



❖ Energy



❖ Indigenous People's Rights

❖ Litigation



❖ Environmental Law

❖ Corporate and Transaction Services



Benefits of Being a Lawyer

- ❖ Variety and diversification of career options
- ❖ Lucrative career
- ❖ Prestige
- ❖ Intellectual Simulation
- ❖ Flexibility
- ❖ Adaptable skills
- ❖ Community service
- ❖ Ability to help others



Drawbacks of Being a Lawyer

- ❖ Expensive education
- ❖ High-stress situations
 - Long hours
 - Difficult clients
- ❖ Negative stigma



Conclusion

- ❖ There is no single path that will prepare you for a legal education. Students who are successful in law school, and who become accomplished professionals, come from many walks of life and educational backgrounds.
- ❖ For progress, growth, and success in the future, every lawyer should prepare themselves and learn to adopt technology and become future-ready.



For further career advice and a copy of the presentation materials,
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