

Preparing for law school: Applications, strategy, and career pathways

Centre for Career Development

Vanya Gnaniah (she/her)

Alicia Flatt (she/her)



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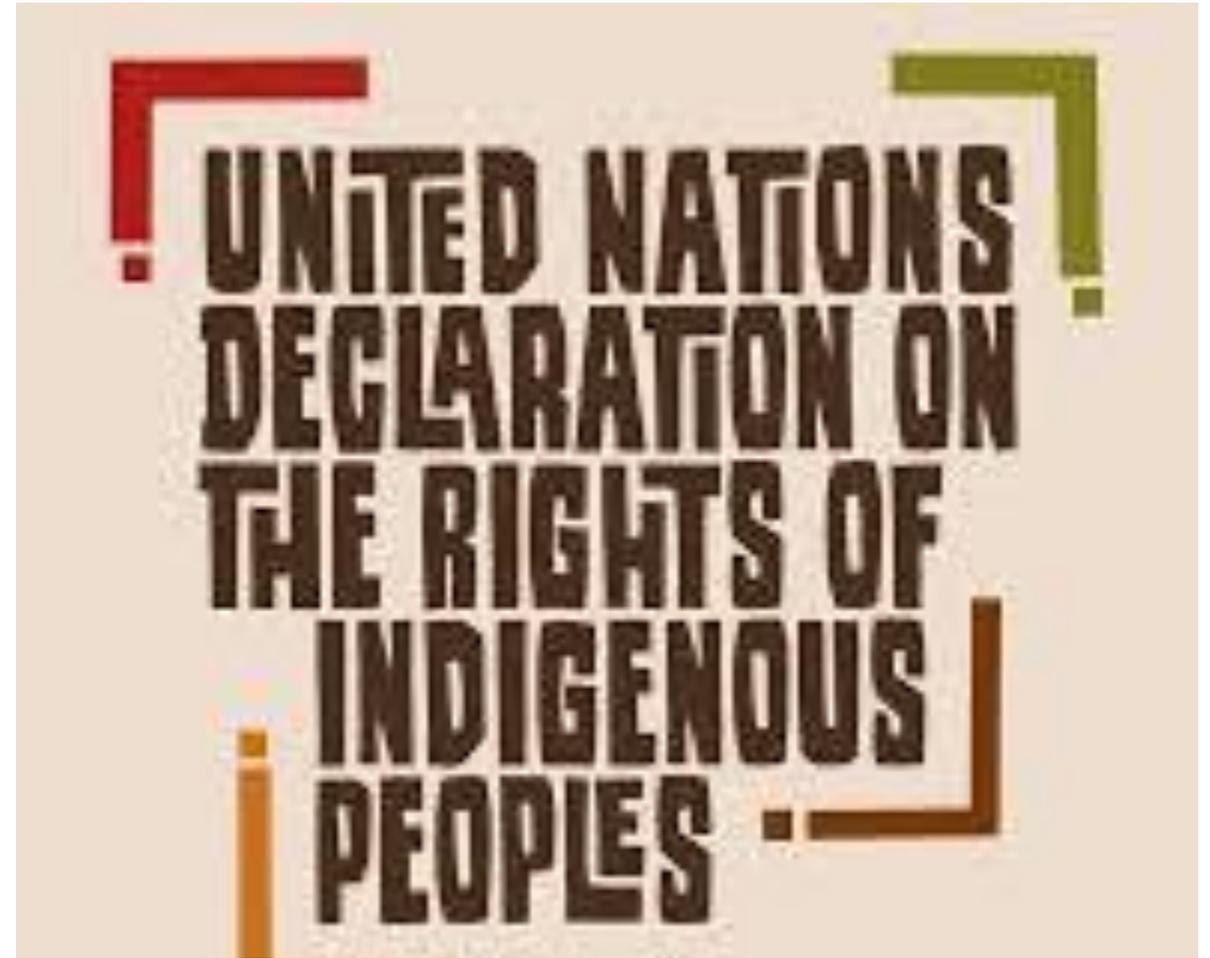


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Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is coordinated within the Office of Indigenous Relations.





**WHAT DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
ABOUT?**



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What are we talking about today

- Discover what steps are necessary to become a lawyer
- Outline what law school entails and what is required for admission
- Review LSAT information and learn how to prepare
- Discuss options outside of law school for Arts students



STEPS TO BECOMING A LAWYER

- Graduate from a 4-year bachelor's degree
- Write the Law School Admission Test
- Apply to law schools
- Article with a law firm
- Write the bar exam



▪ <https://uwaterloo.ca/future-students/missing-manual/careers/how-become-lawyer-canada#article>

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BLURT OUT THE ANSWER

What are fields of law students could pursue?

FIELDS OF LAW

- Animal law
- Admiralty law
- Bankruptcy law
- Banking and finance law
- Civil rights law
- Constitutional law
- Corporate law
- Criminal law
- Educational law
- Entertainment law
- Employment law
- Environmental and Natural Resource law
- Family law
- Health law
- Immigration Law
- Indigenous law
- International law
- Intellectual Property law
- Military law
- Personal Injury law
- Real Estate law
- Tax law

<https://www.collegesoflaw.edu/blog/2018/11/06/different-fields-of-law-explained/>

LIFE AS A LAWYER (ACCORDING TO JOB BANK)

- Median wage in Canada is \$57.69/hour
- The career prospects in Ontario is 4/5 stars, or Good
- AI is posed to affect law firms – but not threaten them



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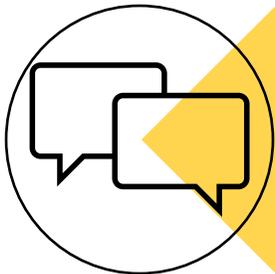
How do I find a program? What about one that matches what I want?



Try an internet search or review the OLSAS website



Investigate the program page



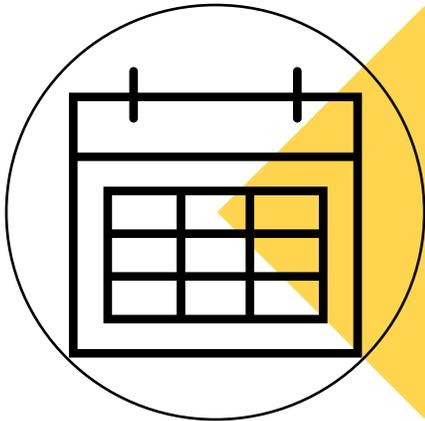
Connect with the program or school directly



How do I apply? And when do I apply?



Completing an online application found on individual program websites or OLSAS



Beginning of November for ON JD programs and up until March for Canadian JD Programs



How much will it cost me to apply?



Application fees



Supplementary application fees



Official transcript fees and maybe a transcript evaluation fee



Sometimes a deposit to hold your spot



LSAT fees



What will JD programs look at?



Grades



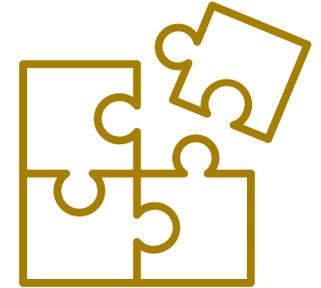
LSAT score



Sketch



References



Personal Statement



Grades and transcripts

Strong grades are important for law school admissions – JD programs in Canada are competitive.

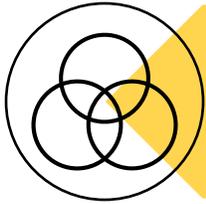
- A competitive average for law school application is 85% or higher
- Lower averages could be admitted with a high LSAT score or strong overall application



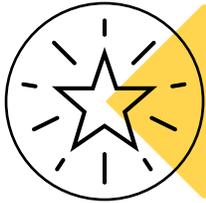
What will I have to write about for my personal statement?



Motivation



Fit



Skills



Other



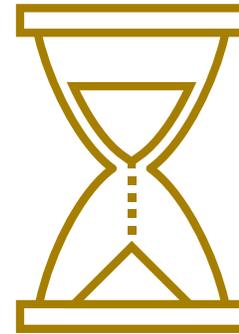
What about references?



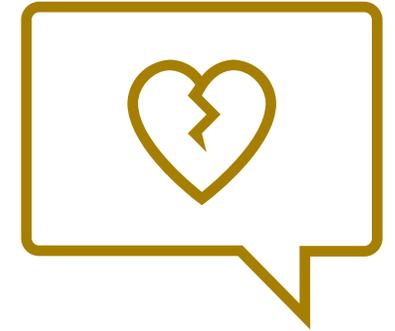
Who do I ask?



How do I ask?



When do I ask?



What happens if they say no?



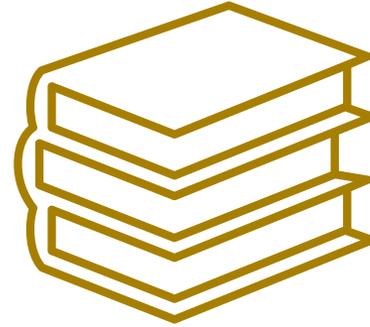
I want to study abroad but practice law in Canada



Degree



Assessment



Supplemental
education



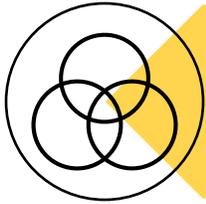
Bar licensing



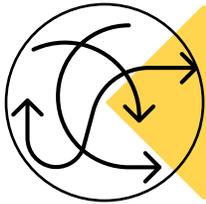
What happens if I don't get it?



This happens and it can bring up emotions. That's okay.



You might not know why you weren't accepted.



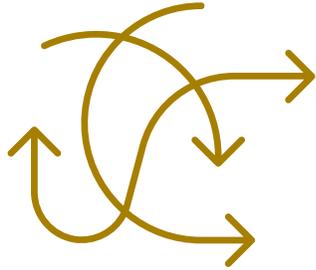
What do you want to do if you don't get it?



Further Education Support



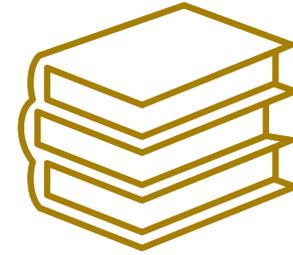
Who does the FE team support and what kinds of support do you offer?



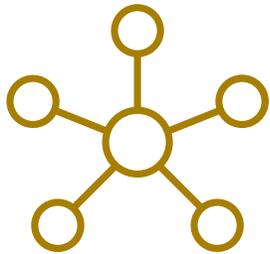
Thinking about /
planning / actively
applying to programs



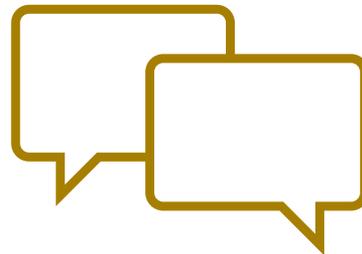
Test & interview
support



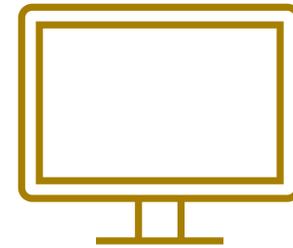
Navigating Policy 70



Resources



1-on-1 appointments



Workshops & AMAs



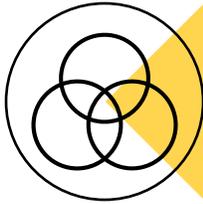
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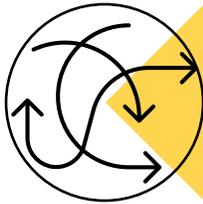
What is the LSAT?



online, live-proctored, timed, standardized exam



content time is 3 hours with an optional break



1 writing section and 4 multiple choice sections



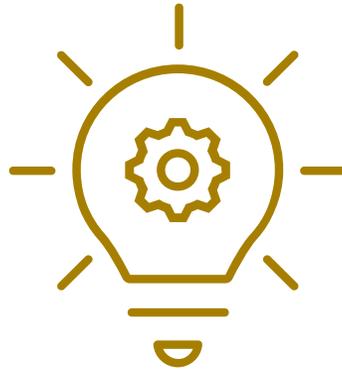
1 unscored experimental section



What's on the LSAT?



LSAT Writing



Reading
Comprehension



Logical
Reasoning



Analytical
Reasoning





IF NOT LAW SCHOOL - THEN WHAT?



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IF NOT LAW SCHOOL – THEN WHAT?



What Students Often Hear

- If I don't go to law school, I have wasted my degree
- Becoming a Lawyer is the only marker of success

But that's not true!

- It is possible to have a meaningful and impactful career that continues to align with your interests and values



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Why did you want to become a lawyer in the first place?



LET'S PLAY 'WOULD YOU RATHER'

- You will be given two choices for 20 seconds each. Take a pen/paper or your laptop and note down your choice.
- Are you ready?

WOULD YOU RATHER HELP

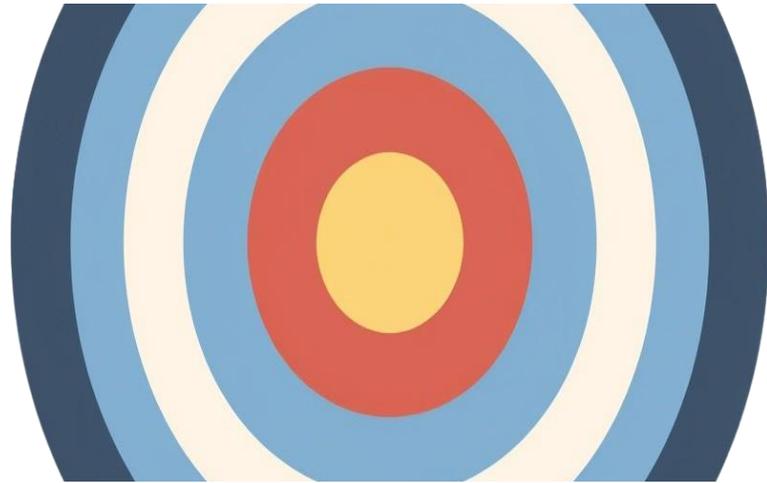


People who are treated unfairly by systems



People who struggle because solutions haven't been discovered yet

WOULD YOU RATHER TACKLE ISSUES WHERE SUCCESS MEANS...



Immediate, practical
outcomes

OR



Long-term discoveries and
contributions

Would you rather be someone who...



Intervenes directly in real-world conflicts

OR



Develops knowledge that informs how others act

WOULD YOU RATHER CREATE CHANGE BY...



OR



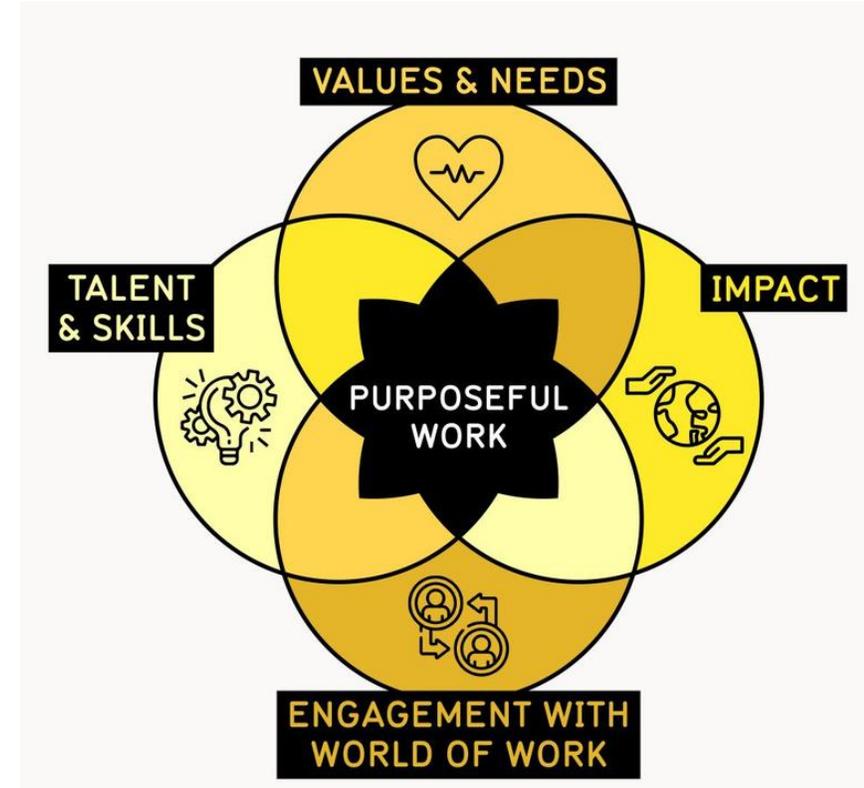
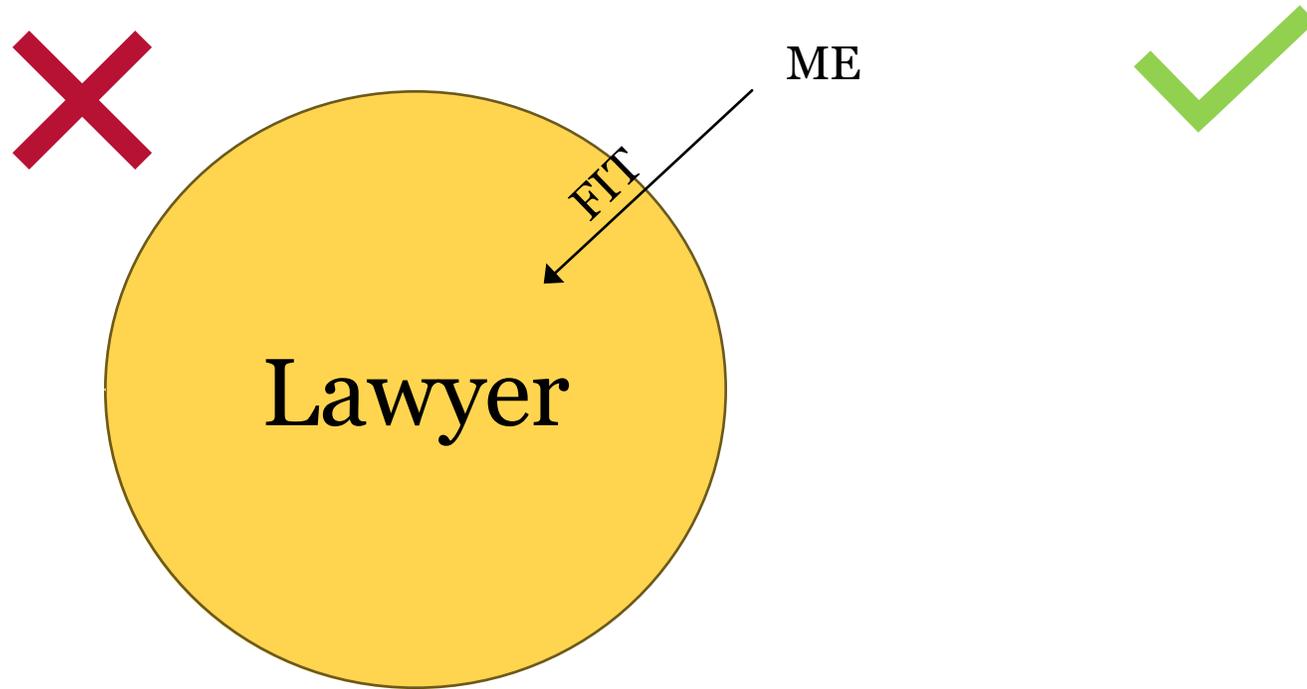
Influencing rules and governance

Building programs that directly serve people

What were we doing here?

Talk to us about Career Planning!

- You were exploring different career purposes/ challenges that you are drawn toward!



The Framework

Values & Needs:

- *What do I value and need? What interests me? What am I curious about?*
- Nice to have values and must haves (needs)

Impact:

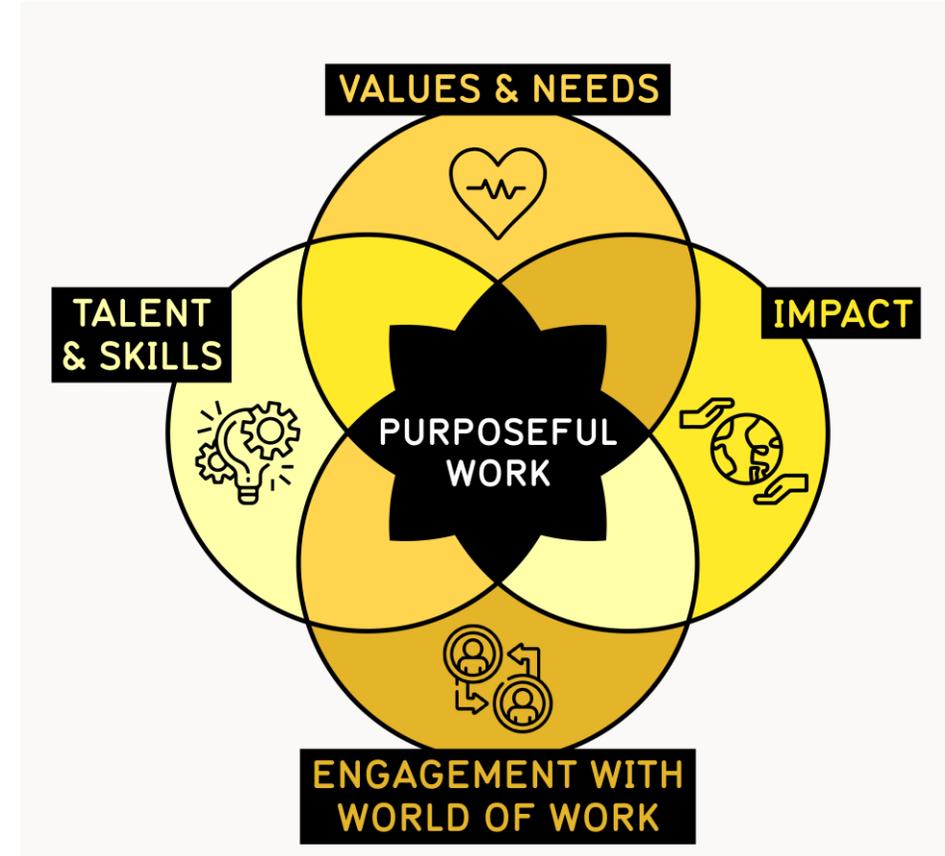
- *What impact could I have? What impact have I had?*
- More specific, concrete articulation of the impact we would like to have (personal, interpersonal, community, systems/societal)

Engagement with World of Work:

- *How have I, and how will I engage with the world of work?*
- How we would like to make our intended impacts possible

Talent & Skills:

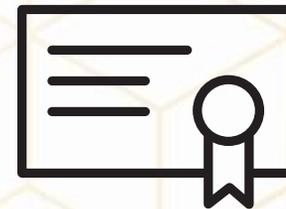
- *What am I good at? What skills could I develop?*
- How you put into action your engagement with the world of work



TRADITIONAL PATH



Alex reflects on their interest in justice & policy which leads to considering law school.



BA in Legal Studies

PATH 1 – POLICY AND GOVERNMENT



**Policy analyst
(Provincial or Federal)**



**Senior policy advisor/
Legislative analyst**

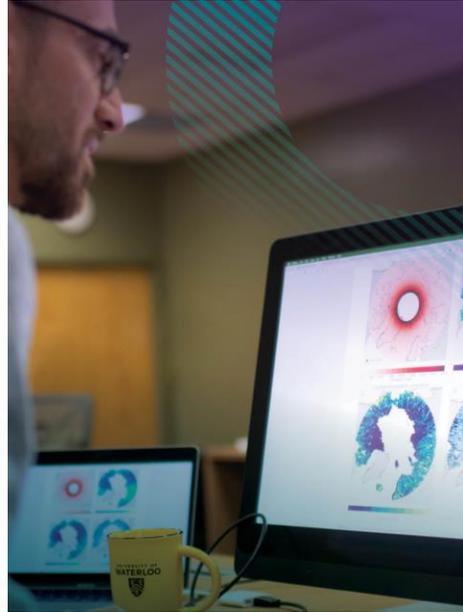


**Influence public systems
without practicing law**

PATH 2 – CORPORATE/REGULATORY



Risk analyst



Regulatory affairs



**Ethical corporate
decision-making**

PATH 3 – COMMUNITY AND ADVOCACY



**Program coordinator
(NGO/non-profit)**



**Advocacy director/
community organizer**



**Advance equity and
social justice**

CARFFR ADVISING SUPPORTS

SUPPORT	HOW TO ACCESS	TOPICS
1:1 appointments	Book online here	Career Exploration Law School Application support
Workshop or Event	Register on WaterlooWorks	Work Search Interview prep and more!
CareerHub Online	Login using WatIAM to access resources and templates	



QUESTIONS?



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