Although definitions may vary, a traditional law career is generally defined as one that requires a Juris Doctor degree and bar certification. Obviously, this definition covers only a small number of jobs—thousands of jobs fall under the “nontraditional” or “nonlegal” career umbrellas. A nontraditional job deals with legal or quasi-legal issues on a regular basis. For example, although a politician is not actually practicing law and does not need bar certification to work, a law degree helps him or her draft clear, effective legislation.

A nonlegal job, on the other hand, does not involve the practice of law. In these jobs, the skills learned in law school are an asset to both the employee and employer, but knowledge of the law itself does not help or hinder the employee. For example, a high school English teacher may benefit from the skills developed in law school but will not be advantaged or disadvantaged directly because of his or her knowledge of the law.

Today, many students begin law school planning never to practice law. Others, in the course of their law school studies, decide to combine law with another discipline, such as management or business. Many career opportunities exist for the attorney who does not want to enter into a traditional law practice. However, before deciding not to practice law, students should consider the pros and cons of the choice, understand their personal motivations, and assess long-term career goals. Law students should be cautious not to make this decision out of frustration with the trials and stress of law school. It is easier for a practicing attorney to later move to a nontraditional career than for a person who begins a nontraditional career directly after law school to go back to the practice of law.

Before selecting a nontraditional career, students should evaluate the time and monetary investments of a legal education and research to see whether or not the desired nontraditional opportunities are available and will meet their career goals. However, many nontraditional careers exist for students who do not wish to be practicing attorneys. For such students these career choices may offer more job satisfaction in the long run, and there are many types of nontraditional jobs to choose from.

A nontraditional job search is very similar to a legal job search: you need to decide what you want, and market yourself accordingly.
EXAMPLES OF NONTRADITIONAL CAREERS

Because the law touches every aspect of life, legal training is useful in virtually all careers. However, in nontraditional fields a law graduate has a distinct edge over other applicants.

Keep in mind, however, that this list is not exhaustive; a law degree may be used in an endless array of job settings. Positions in these fields might require specific experience and education beyond law school. Students considering a nontraditional job should plan to devote some time to meet with a career counselor and thoroughly research each field of interest before making a definite career choice.

300 Jobs you can do with a Law Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative Dispute Resolution</th>
<th>Court Administration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arbitration Administrator</td>
<td>Assistant Circuit/District Executive for Legal Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arbitrator/Mediator</td>
<td>Bankruptcy Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dispute Resolution Professional</td>
<td>Bankruptcy Appeals Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Resolution Specialist</td>
<td>Bankruptcy Case Administration Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearing Officer</td>
<td>Bankruptcy Examiner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ombudsman</td>
<td>Circuit/District Court Executive</td>
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<td>Clerk of Court</td>
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<td>Court Administrator/Analyst</td>
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<td>Court Operations Specialist</td>
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<td>Deputy Clerk</td>
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<td>Disciplinary Administrator</td>
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<td>Estate Administrator</td>
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<td>Guardianship Clerk</td>
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<td>Jury Commissioner</td>
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<td>Land Commissioner</td>
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<td>Legal Documents Officer/Supervisor</td>
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<td>Legal Research Director</td>
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<td>Parole Officer</td>
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<td>Pretrial Services Officer</td>
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<td>Probation Officer/Director</td>
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<td>Registrar</td>
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<td>Reporter of Decisions</td>
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<td>Settlement Director</td>
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<td>Supervisor of Public Trust Accounts</td>
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<td>Support Payments Officer</td>
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<td>Training Professional</td>
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<td>Violations Bureau Manager</td>
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<th>Civil Rights</th>
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<td>Affirmative Action Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADA Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADA Compliance Manager</td>
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<td>Children's Advocate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Rights Analyst</td>
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<td>Civil Rights Investigator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conciliation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director, Human Resources &amp; Cultural Diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equal Opportunity Compliance Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equal Employment Opportunity Manager/Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights Administrator</td>
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<th>Contract and Procurement</th>
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<td>Contract Negotiator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract Specialist/Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract Termination Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial Property Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procurement Officer/Analyst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchasing Officer/Director</td>
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1 http://www.stcl.edu/career/handouts/What%20Can%20I%20Do%20With%20A%20Law%20Degree.pdf
BYU Law School Career Services
Criminal Justice
- Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Inspector
- Asset Search/Information Investigator
- Bank Fraud Investigator
- Border Patrol Agent
- Child Abuse Investigator
- Civilian Complaint Review Board Officer
- Compliance Support Inspector
- Consumer Safety Inspector
- Crime Analyst
- Crime Prevention Coordinator
- Criminal Investigation
- Criminal Justice Administrator/Analyst
- Customs Inspector
- DEA Special Agent
- Economic Crimes Investigator
- Enforcement Professional
- FBI Special Agent
- Fines, Penalties, and Forfeiture Specialist
- Foreign Service Narcotics Control Officer
- Forensic Investigator
- Game Law Enforcement Officer
- General Investigator/Inspector
- Immigration Inspector
- Inspector General
- Investigations Review Specialist
- Law Enforcement Specialist
- Legal Investigator
- Postal Inspector
- Revenue Officer/Agent
- Securities Fraud Examiner
- Seized Property/Asset Management Specialist
- Special Agent (Wildlife)
- Treasury Enforcement Agent
- Victims Compensation Officer/Claims Analyst

Education Administration
- Assistant to the President/Chancellor
- Director of Federal/State Relations
- Grants and Contracts Manager
- Judicial Affairs Officer
- Laboratory Business Manager
- Law School Career Counselor
- Law School Program Supervisor
- Law School Development/Fundraising Officer
- Law School Director of Admissions
- Law School Director of Alumni Affairs
- Law School Director of Institutional Advancement
- Law School Director of Career Services
- Law School Director of Continuing Legal Education
- Law School Director of Student Affairs
- Director of Planned Giving
- Technology Licensing Associate
  - Education Faculty
- Law School Clinical Program Instructor
- Law School Professor
- Legal Research & Writing Program Instructor
- Paralegal Program Instructor
- Undergraduate Business Ethics Teacher
- Undergraduate Business Law Professor
- Undergraduate Criminal Justice Professor
- Undergraduate Environmental Policy Professor
- Undergraduate Environmental Law and Anthropology Professor
- Undergraduate Environmental Law and History Professor
- Undergraduate Environmental Law and Psychology Professor
- Undergraduate Legal Studies Program Coordinator

Environmental Careers
- Coastal Zone Resource Manager
- Conservation Field Representative
- Director of Environmental Affairs
- Director, Legislative Analysis/Environmental Policy
- Environmental/Public Health Advocate
- Environmental Compliance Manager
- Environmental Policy Analyst
- Environmental Protection Specialist
- Hazardous Waste Consultant
- Remediation Protection Specialist
- Resource Policy Analyst
- Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
- Technological Program Hazards Specialist
- Trade Association Environmental Staffer
Financial Services
Bank Investment Compliance Officer
Bank Probate Officer
Bankruptcy Analyst
Benefits Professional
Claims/Settlement/Termination Specialist
Compliance Officer (Commodities/Securities)
Consumer Affairs Examiner
Corporate Finance Executive
Credit Examiner
Financial Institution Examiner
Financial Services Sales Agent
Futures Trading Investigator
Investment Banking Officer
Legal Fee Auditor
Loan Administrator/Specialist
Loan Workout Officer
Pension Benefits Examiner
Pension Law Specialist
Probate Accountant
Public Finance Consultant
Securities Compliance Examiner
Securities Firm Executive
Securities Transactions Analyst
Trust Business Development Professional
Trust Employee Benefits Administrator
Trust Examiner
Trust Officer/Administrator
Trust Risk Analyst
U.S. Trustee/Assistant U.S. Trustee

Human Resources
Employee Benefit Plan Specialist
Employee Disability Programs Manager
Employee Relations Manager/Specialist
Government Benefits Director
Health Plan Member Services Coordinator
Lawyer Temporary Agency Manager
Legal Career Counselor
Legal Search Consultant
Manpower Development Specialist
Personnel Management Specialist
Public Guardian
Reemployment Rights Compliance Specialist
Retirement System Administrator
Salary Administration Specialist
Veterans Program Specialist

Insurance
Bankruptcy Claims Examiner
Civil Service Retirement Claims Examiner
Claims Representative/Manager
Dependent and Estates Claims Examiner
Document Compliance Specialist
Environmental Claims Specialist
Errors and Omissions Claims Manager
General Claims Examiner
Health Benefits Program Analyst
Health Care Policy Analyst
Health Plan Member Services Coordinator
Insurance Agent
Insurance Fraud Investigator
Litigation Examiner
Loss and Damage Claims Examiner
Pension Investigator
Personal Trust Product Manager
Risk Manager
Social Insurance Administrator/Representative
Social Insurance Claims Examiner
Transportation Claims Examiner
Unemployment Insurance Administrator
Veterans Claims Examiner
Workers’ Compensation Claims Examiner
Workers’ Compensation Program Specialist

International Affairs/Trade
Commercial Loan Specialist
Customs Entry and Liquidation Specialist
Economic Development Project Officer
Export Administrator
Export Control Specialist
Export Insurance Issuing Specialist
Foreign Affairs Officer
Foreign Service Officer
Foreign Trade Zone Manager
Import Compliance Specialist
International Agency Liaison Officer
International Relations Officer
International Trade Analyst/Specialist
Passport and Visa Examiner
Political Risk Insurance Officer
U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service Officer

**Intellectual Property**
Copyright Examiner
Intellectual Resource Director
Patent Administrator
Patent Examiner
Patentability Review Examiner
Patent/Technology Licensing Officer
Technology Transfer Director
Trademark Examiner
University Corporate Liaison Officer

**Intelligence/National Security**
Aviation Security Specialist/Officer
Foreign Assets Control Intelligence Analyst
Foreign Service Diplomatic Security Officer
Industrial Security Specialist/Officer
Information Security Specialist/Officer
Intelligence Officer
Intelligence Research Specialist
Internal Security Specialist/Officer
Personnel Security Specialist/Officer
Physical Security Specialist/Officer
Security Administration Specialist/Officer
Security Classification Specialist/Officer
Security Inspector

**Labor Relations**
Industrial Relations Manager/Specialist
Labor Investigator
Labor Management Relations Examiner
Labor Negotiator
Labor Relations Manager/Specialist/Analyst
Wage and Hour Law Administrator
Wage and Hour Law Compliance Specialist

**Legal Administration**
Bar Association Professional
CLE Training Manager/Specialist
Litigation Management Professional
Law Firm Administrator/Executive Director
Law Firm Management Consultant
Law Firm Recruiter
Legal Services Program Executive Director
Pro Bono Coordinator
Legal Documents/Information Analyst in Social Legislation
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Officer
Law Librarian
Law Library Computer Network Manager
Legal Archivist
Legal Database Manager
Legal Instruments Examiner
Legal Researcher
Litigation Support Specialist
Legislation and Regulatory Affairs Congressional Affairs Specialist
Governmental Affairs/Relations Positions
Legislative Analyst/Director
Legislative Assistant
Legislative Correspondent
Legislative Program Manager
Legislative Representative
Legislative Staff Director
Lobbyist
Manager of Regulatory Affairs
Policy Advocate
Policy Analyst
Regulations/Rulings Specialist
Regulatory Compliance Director
Regulatory Impact Analyst

**Management**
Acquisitions/Divestiture Professional
City/County Clerk/Administrator
Elections Administrator Officer
Emergency Management Specialist
Foundation Executive/Program Manager
Grants Management Specialist
Management Analyst
Nonprofit Advocacy Organization Manager
Marketing
Trade/Professional Association Executive
Bar Review Regional Director/Administrator
Director of Gift and Estate Planning Economic Development Positions (State/Municipal)
Franchise Development Manager
Law Firm Director of Client Relations
Law Firm Business Development Editor
Legal Cost Management Sales Consultant
Public Affairs Specialist
Marketing Consultant

Miscellaneous
Advocacy Coordinator
Child Support Enforcement Analyst
Civil Penalties Officer
Corporate Assistant
Ethics Officer
Family Support Magistrate
Food Program Specialist
Hidden Assets Investigator
Internal Affairs Director (State/Local Agencies)
Legal Fee Auditor/Legal Cost Specialist
License Examining Specialist
Municipal Code Enforcement Officer
Professional Licensing Board Compliance Officer
Senior Paralegal
Small Business Advocate
Trade Specialist
Unclaimed Property Administrator

Real Estate/Housing
Director of Real Estate
Housing Advocate
Housing Authority Director
Housing Service Planner
Land Agent
Land Law Examiner
Land Preservation Director
Land Protection Director/Specialist
Real Estate Auction Project Manager
Realty Specialist/Officer
Tenant’s Broker
Title Examiner
Zoning Administrator

Taxation
Estate Tax Examiner
International Tax Analyst
Property & Transaction Taxes Manager
Tax Law Specialist
Tax Manager/Tax Planning Manager
Tax Research Manager

Transportation
Ad Measurer
Boating Law Administrator
Highway Safety Specialist
Marine Transportation Policy Analyst
Traffic Management Specialist
Vessel Traffic Specialist
State/County Transportation Executive

Publishing/Broadcasting
Acquisitions Editor
Legal Writer/Editor
Law Firm Business Development Editor
Law Correspondent/Reporter
Legal Newspaper/Journal Publisher
Legal Publisher Account Representative/Executive
Technical Legal Information Specialist
Technical Writer/Editor (Law)
Job hunting will present unique challenges once a student decides to work in a nonlegal area. For example, law students interviewing for nonlegal jobs should plan to provide evidence to prospective employers that their legal training would be an asset to the organization. One challenge a student may face is convincing a nontraditional employer that he or she is truly interested in the job and will not miss practicing law. Students may successfully market themselves in this way by using conviction, persuasive oral communication skills, and knowledge of the prospective job.

Many law students would claim that the primary skills developed at law school are how to deal with lack of sleep, how to perform under pressure, and how to cope with frustration. In reality, law school students develop a wide variety of highly transferable and marketable skills that are valuable to nonlegal employers. For example, law students are able to digest large quantities of material in limited amounts of time, they learn to think on their feet when called upon in class; they also develop good technical writing skills.

Other acquired skills and characteristics may include:

- Critical thinking and listening
- Persuasive writing
- Assimilating new data quickly
- Handling stressful situations effectively
- Brainstorming
- Being able to innovate
- Applying theory practically
- Engaging in teamwork
- Dealing with difficult people
- Speaking cogently
- Having a good eye for details
- Setting priorities
- Being personable and outgoing
- Working well without supervision
- Learning technical jargon
- Clarifying information
- Editing and proofreading
• Exchanging ideas coherently
• Following through
• Making hard decisions
• Delegating
• Resolving conflicts
• Dealing with the unexpected
• Training others
• Project management
• Troubleshooting and problem solving
• Setting and meeting deadlines

For More Information

General

BYU CSO Alternative Careers Guidebook – www.law2.byu.edu
(click on: Current Students > Careers > Guidebooks > Alternative Careers Guidebook)

An in-depth guide to pursuing alternative, nonlegal careers.

BYU Alumni Network Job Postings – http://alumnicareers.byu.edu/search/

An excellent resource for job seekers, open to everyone, with no password required.


While primarily designated to information about law firms, this subscription has a large alternative careers section.


Published every two weeks, the Report publishes job positions for J.D.’s in non-law firm settings. Each week features current postings for business, education, government, judiciary, legal publishing, policy, law libraries, public interest, and even international positions.
Information about different types of careers, including the training and education needed, earnings, expected job prospects, working conditions, job search tips, and links to information about the job market in each state.

Contains various in-house and nontraditional legal positions.

Sponsored by the Wall Street Journal, this site features job search news, tips, discussion groups, and a database of job listings searchable by job title or description.

This comprehensive site contains job search tips, recent news articles, and links to other resources. Be sure to check out The Online Job Search Guide.

A database of occupational information. Conduct a skills search to find jobs that match your skills or find information on particular occupations.

A great general job search resource providing career research information as well as job search resources. Check out company, career, or industry profiles to learn more about the job options that are available.

Website features current JD preferred job openings.

Website features current JD preferred job openings.