What should I do as a first year pre-law student at the University of Iowa?

1. **Explore Majors**
   There is neither a pre-law major or a pre-law track. Your law school classes will teach you what you need to know to practice law. You should focus now on a broad base of study and consider majors you would enjoy and do well in. Also, consider what you would do if you did not attend law school.

2. **Meet with your academic advisor**
   They can give you guidance about study skills, course selection, campus involvement and help you navigate the law school application process.

3. **Take Challenging Skill Based Courses**
   Again, there are no required courses for law school. Instead, The American Bar Association recommends that you focus on core skills and broad areas of knowledge. Think about courses in philosophy, history, political science and English to develop close reading, critical thinking and analytical skills. Take writing classes beyond rhetoric to further develop your writing ability.

4. **Get Involved**
   One of the great things about a large university, such as The University of Iowa, is an abundance of student organization and local volunteer opportunities. Law schools like to see students demonstrate community involvement and leadership. Academic research through the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates is also a valuable form of involvement.

5. **Review Resources**
   Familiarize yourself with the LSAT and the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) website. Explore the Pre-Law link on the Academic Advising Center website. [https://advisingcenter.uiowa.edu/pre-law](https://advisingcenter.uiowa.edu/pre-law)

6. **Get to Know the Legal Profession**
   You should use your early years of college to confirm your interest in law and to investigate the profession further. Join a pre-law organization such as Phi Alpha Delta, [https://uiowa.edu/pad/](https://uiowa.edu/pad/) Attend campus pre-law events, job shadow or interview attorneys.

7. **GPA, GPA, GPA!**
   Your GPA will be one of the most important factors in your law school application. Study hard, use academic resources and keep your GPA high from the start. As you earn additional semester hours it will be more challenging to raise a lower GPA.

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**Skills Needed for a Strong LSAT Score and to be a Good Attorney**

- Analytical/Problem Solving
- Critical Reading/Thinking Abilities
- Writing Skills
- Oral Communication
- Listening Skills