

Political Science

Is my major a safeguard or a life
plan?

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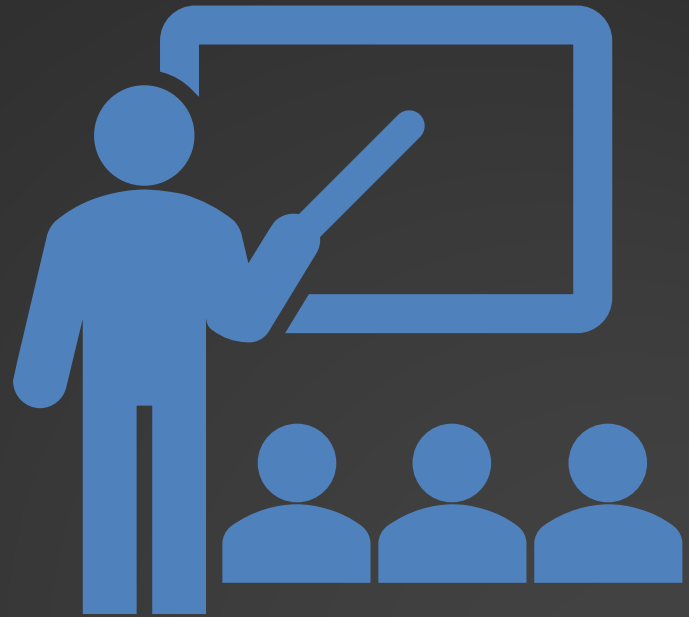
UNIV 1201

My Major

- I chose **Political Science** for my bachelor's major

Political Science is one of the main majors to choose to go to law school one day and graduate as a newly licensed attorney

I chose this as I want to become an attorney and be able to represent myself in court; to have the knowledge to traverse the complex legal system, and to attempt at having my own business non-related to law



I Interviewed:



- Rodolfo “Rudy” Morales III



- Lawyer for City of Laredo



- Awarded
*“Professional of
The Year” in 2015*



Rudy Chose This Career Because



He wanted to make a *“positive impact in [his] community and help people navigate complex legal issues.”*

I Chose This Major Because



Just like Rudy, I want to advocate for fairness for both myself and others.

I want to be able to represent myself and my company in court, and I want to have the safeguard of being able to work as an attorney if things go wrong

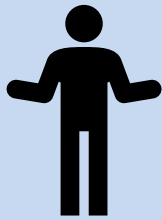
Daily Responsibilities & Roles

- Rudy represents clients in various legal matters, conducts legal research, prepares and reviews legal documents, and advocate for others in court.

What that means to me

- Although I, unlike Rudy, do not chose to one day become an attorney to represent others or work as a lawyer, I am aware of the possibility.
- If my *Plan A* fails (having my own business), having a license for this profession would allow me to use it as a safeguard and stable job. Thanks to Rudy, I now know what to expect from this.

Enjoyment, Challenges, Work-Life Balance and Experiences



Just as Rudy answered to one of my questions, I too want to undergo the challenge of pursuing law to have the enjoyment of *“seeing positive change”*.



I resonated a lot with Rudy when he said, *“I make time for my family –my wife and two children–by setting boundaries between professional and personal time.”*

To me, the people special to me are the most important thing in my life, I never want to forget that.

Advice for Students Entering the Field

- Rudy's advice for someone entering the field was, "*work hard, stay ethical, and stay connected to your community. Strive for excellence [...] but never lose sight of the impact you can make*"

My Reflection

- As I strive for excellence through my academic journey, I want to keep my ethics, my motivation, and my bonds to my community and to the people close to me
- Although it sounds complicated to do with such a sophisticated career, I too strive for all this

What I need to succeed

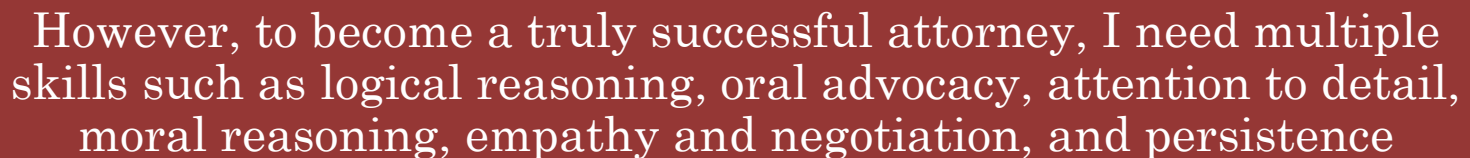
First, I need to get my Bachelor's degree



Then, I need to apply to law school, graduate after 3 years, and pass the bar exam



However, to become a truly successful attorney, I need multiple skills such as logical reasoning, oral advocacy, attention to detail, moral reasoning, empathy and negotiation, and persistence



Salary, Employment Rate, and Work Setting



\$114,767/YEAR
(\approx \$55.18/HOUR)



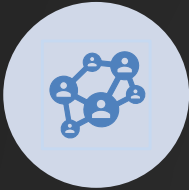
EMPLOYMENT OF
LAWYERS PROJECTED
TO GROW
 \approx +4% **FROM 2024 TO**
2034



LAW FIRMS
CORPORATIONS
GOVERNMENTS
PUBLIC INTEREST
LEGAL AID
SOLO PRACTICE

My Action Plan

I am already sure of my decision, which is why now is the time to act



Keep making significant connections and participate in organizations such as Pre-Law



Keep developing my communication skills

Strive for academic excellence

Keep my connection to my community and loved ones



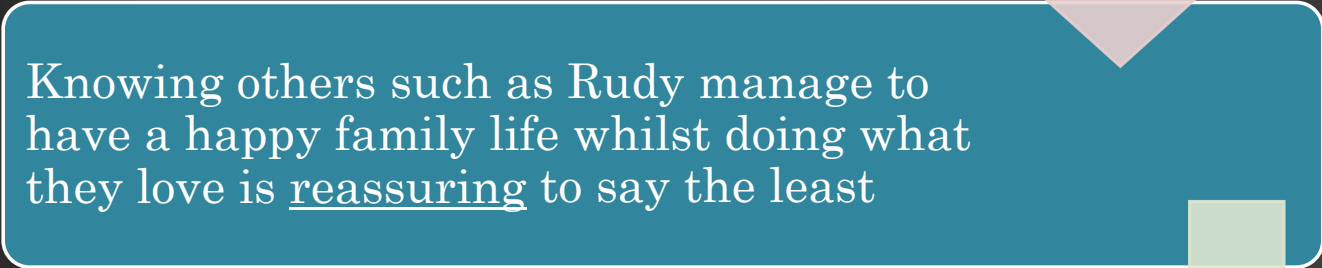
Stay connected with St. Mary's University, where I want to go to law school

Takeaway from the Interview

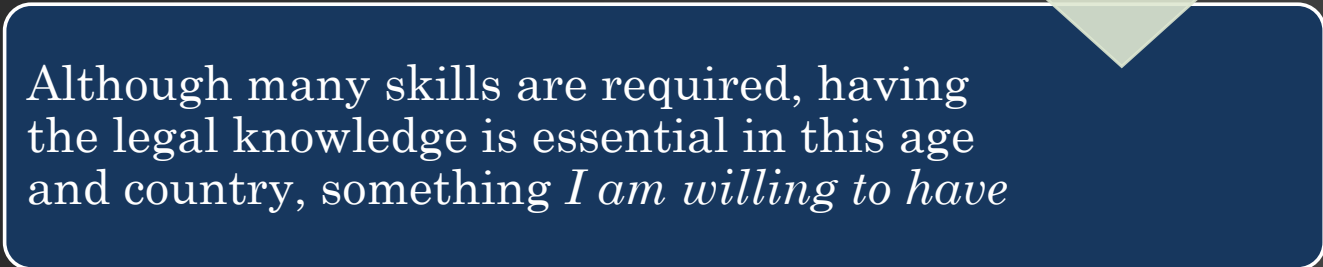
Becoming an attorney seemed like a **daunting** concept



Knowing others such as Rudy manage to have a happy family life whilst doing what they love is reassuring to say the least

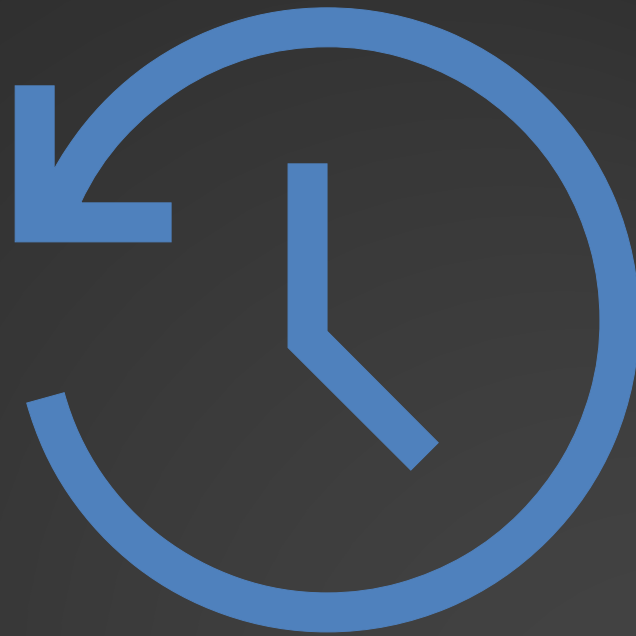


Although many skills are required, having the legal knowledge is essential in this age and country, something *I am willing to have*



Final Thoughts

- I find myself more convinced than ever before that **Political Science** is the major for me
- I will treat my attorney license as a safeguard rather than a life plan and will try my absolute best to have my own business
- I will start building that future from now, I will work hard to develop the skills a good lawyer should have, and *I will keep my dream life in sight*



References

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U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2024, May). *Lawyers: Occupational outlook handbook*. U.S. Department of Labor.
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