

To the Admissions Office:

As the primary pre-law advisor at [REDACTED] University in [REDACTED], I have recently received advertisement materials from your law school, as an encouragement to advise my many pre-law students to consider Tulsa as an option. I appreciate you thinking of me.

But I fear that given recent news from your university (<https://www.chronicle.com/article/U-of-Tulsa-Has-a/246117>), I will be advising none of my students to apply to the University of Tulsa. This is expressly because of the University's announced plan to decimate the liberal arts in favor of a more vocational training.

You might argue that one thing has nothing to do with the other -- that law school is one thing and an undergraduate liberal arts program is another. But this was not my experience. As a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin, I freely bounced between disciplines like Government, Philosophy, History, Languages, and Law. All of my law school classes had liberal arts students in them. Further, many liberal arts professors enjoyed teaching classes in the law school in a way that enriched the educational experience of the law students themselves. The law school at UT-- Austin was not understood as a separate vocational endeavor. It was woven into the fabric of a larger liberal arts education. This not only made the classes more engaging -- it ultimately made better lawyers, equipped with a wider variety of skills that prepared them for an ever-changing world.

When I advise my students at [REDACTED], I advise them with all of this in mind. I want for them all that I was able to have. But so long as the University of Tulsa continues its assault on the liberal arts, I fear they cannot get that at your university. So I will point them elsewhere -- in directions where they can. I would very happily change my advising, re: Tulsa, once I learn that the university has abandoned its plan to marginalize the liberal arts.

You may feel free to share this message to anyone on campus you think appropriate.

Sincerely,
David Lay Williams

David Lay Williams
Professor of Political Science

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