

Frequently-Asked Questions related to law school applications

Is law school right for me?

When considering a legal career, it is important to research the kind of work that attorneys do. Ask yourself the kind of work that you enjoy, as well as the kind of work environment that you prefer. Are you an introvert or extrovert? Do you enjoy reading and writing? Do you like rules and administrative or procedure work? Another way to think about legal work and how it relates to your preferences is to consider these categories:

Are you most interested in...

- Litigation, transactions, or public policy?
- Criminal or civil law?
- Public or private sector?
- Representing individuals or representing companies/agencies?

These general parameters give you ideas for your research about whether a legal career is right for you.

If I double major, will I be more likely to be accepted into law school?

Law schools typically consider all application materials holistically, taking into account all of your experiences and qualifications. However, no particular additional weight is given to a second major. As a general rule, is more effective to have a higher GPA with one major, than to have a lower GPA with two majors. Remember that law schools report the GPA and LSAT statistics of their incoming classes, so these two numbers are key.

How do I decide what law school to apply to?

To decide what law schools to consider, you should think about:

- Where would you like to live? Include such factors as weather, proximity to family/network, professional opportunities, rural/urban experience, and living expenses.
- What fields of law are you most interested in (if any)? Some law schools have additional offerings in particular fields of law. For example, a law school may have a cluster of courses, clinics, or internships related to litigation, corporate law, or public interest law.
- Which law schools are you most likely to get into? Which ones are likely to offer you a scholarship? You can investigate each school's web site for statistics about the grades and LSAT scores of their recent classes.

The LSAC (see below) also provides events called Law School Forums. The Forums are free of charge and are open-house-style recruitment events that make it easy for you to research law schools on a more personal level. At a forum, you can speak face-to-face with admission representatives from over 170 ABA-approved law schools, gain insights about the application process, and ask questions. Here are the upcoming Forum dates: <https://www.lsac.org/lawschoolforums/>.

How do I apply for law school?

Law school applications require all or some of the following components, depending upon the individual law school:

- Application (Completed through the LSAC web site www.LSAC.org)
- LSAT exam
- Recommendation letter/s
- Resume
- Personal statement

What is the LSAT exam?

The LSAT (Law School Admission Test) is a half-day, standardized test administered five times each year at designated testing centers throughout the world. The test is an integral part of the law school admission process in the United States. The test helps law schools make admission decisions by providing a standard measure of acquired reading and reasoning skills considered vital to law school success. The test is administered by the Law School Admission Council, or LSAC. You can learn more about the LSAT by visiting www.LSAC.org.

How is the LSAT weighed by law school admissions committees?

Applicants are allowed to take the LSAT multiple times. In turn, each law school has its own admission criteria regarding the LSAT exam. Some institutions consider the applicant's highest score, while others consider an average of all of the applicant's various scores. Since each law school has its own approach, applicants must research law schools' admission criteria individually. Much of your research can be done on the law schools' websites. Further, applicants should feel free to call admissions offices and ask questions.

What is the LSAC?

The Law School Admission Council, or LSAC, is a nonprofit organization that administers the LSAT exam. The LSAC also provides a service whereby law school applicants compile their application materials. Law school applications are also filled out through the LSAC site. To learn more about the LSAC and its services, please visit www.LSAC.org.

When should I take the LSAT exam?

The LSAT exam is offered five times per year. The date of choice depends on when you intend to start law school (i.e. Fall, Spring) and the various law schools' application deadlines. It is a good idea to give yourself enough time to take the test more than once, to maximize your score and/or to allow for an emergency.

Is there financial aid available for law school?

Yes, financial aid is available for law school. Individual law schools often have scholarship programs based upon merit, as well as other criteria such as field of interest, need/financial status, and demographic considerations such as minority status. You can also obtain grants and loans from the

federal government by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Am I more likely to be accepted if I have a graduate degree?

Most law schools consider all application materials holistically, taking into account your qualifications as a whole. A graduate degree will certainly demonstrate some measure of academic excellence and professional development. With that said, law schools only report the undergraduate GPA and any post-baccalaureate GPAs are not included in that calculation.

Can I get a law degree together with a Master's degree?

Yes, many law schools have joint degree programs wherein students can earn both a law degree (JD, or Juris Doctor) and a Master's or other degree. To research these programs, start with the individual law schools' web sites. You can also perform online searches for the type of program you are interested in.

For example, search for:

- joint JD/MBA program
- joint JD/MS program
- joint JD/MPA or JD/MPP program
- joint programs in law and Criminal Justice
- dual degree in law and Environmental Science