Services for Legal Education from the LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION COUNCIL

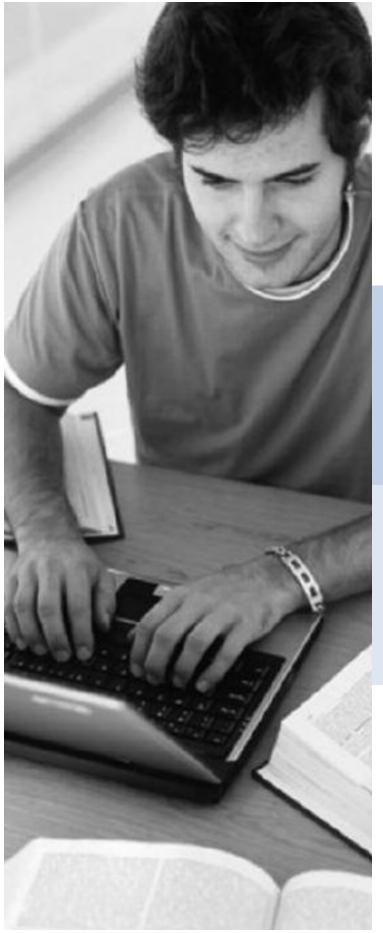
THINKING ABOUT LAW SCHOOL?







Revised 1/2015



LEARN ABOUT AND APPLY TO LAW SCHOOL

This booklet describes services provided by the Law School Admission Council to ease the law school admission process. Find everything you'll need to learn about legal education, careers in law, and applying to law school at LSAC.org.

CONTACT LSAC

Law School Admission Council 662 Penn Street Newtown PA 18940 215.968.1001 LSACinfo@LSAC.org LSAC.org

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

C onsidering law school? We've compiled commonly asked questions about law school and the admission process to help make your decision easier.

What is the Law School Admission Council?

The Law School Admission Council[™] (LSAC) is a versatile higher education services organization whose members are 220 law schools in the United States, Canada, and Australia. Founded in 1947, the organization provides unique, state-ofthe-art admission products and services that ease the admission process for law schools and applicants.

All law schools approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) are LSAC members. Seventeen Canadian law schools recognized by a provincial or territorial law society or government agency and one Australian law school also are included in the voting membership of the Council.

The services provided by LSAC include the Law School Admission Test[™] (LSAT[®]); the Credential Assembly ServiceSM (CASSM), including the Letter of Recommendation Service, the evaluation service, and electronic applications; the Candidate Referral Service[™] (CRS); and various test preparation publications and law school guides.

LSAC does not engage in assessing an applicant's chances for admission to any law school; all admission decisions are made by individual law schools.

What is the LSAT?

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is a half-day, standardized test administered four 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, Canada, and a growing number of other countries.

The LSAT is designed to measure skills considered essential for success in law school: the reading and comprehension of complex texts with accuracy and insight, the organization and management of information and the ability to draw reasonable inferences from it, the ability to think critically, and the analysis and evaluation of the reasoning and arguments of others. The test consists of five 35-minute sections of multiple-choice questions. Four of the five sections contribute to the test taker's score. These sections include one Reading Comprehension section, one Analytical Reasoning section, and two Logical Reasoning sections. The unscored section, commonly referred to as the variable section, typically is used to pretest new test questions or to preequate new test forms. The placement of this variable section in the LSAT will vary for each administration of the test.

The LSAT is scored on a scale of 120 to 180, with 180 being the highest possible score. A 35-minute writing sample is administered at the end of the test. LSAC does not score the writing sample, but copies are sent to all law schools to which a candidate applies.

What is the Credential Assembly Service (CAS)?

The Credential Assembly Service (CAS) is a web-accessible clearinghouse for collecting and transmitting undergraduate transcripts, letters of recommendation, evaluations, and law school applications. Nearly all ABA-approved law schools (and some non-ABA-approved law schools) in the United States require applicants to register for this service.

LSAC provides law schools with a report containing standardized summaries of academic work, copies of college transcripts, letters of recommendation, evaluations, LSAT scores, and writing samples for each applicant. Rather than collect and provide transcripts, letters of recommendation, LSAT scores, and the like to several law schools, applicants provide all of the information required by each school to LSAC, and the Credential Assembly Service takes care of the rest.

How can the Candidate Referral Service help me?

The Candidate Referral Service (CRS) can help the right law school to find you. Through CRS, a law school can search for potential applicants on the basis of certain desired characteristics; for example, GPA, age, citizenship, race or ethnicity, interest in a specific program, geographic background, and LSAT score. By registering for CRS, applicants may be recruited by law schools that they may not have considered previously. This service is free at LSAC.org.

Why law school?

Consider this. To become a lawyer is to take part in shaping the life of a nation and its people. Lawyers are central figures in the life of a democratic country.

According to the American Bar Foundation's 2005 Lawyer Statistical Report (January 2012, pp. 7–8), about 75 percent of American lawyers are in private practice, most in small, one-person offices, and some in large firms. Roughly 7.5 percent of lawyers work for government agencies. About 8.6 percent work for private industries and associations as salaried lawyers or even as managers. About 1 percent work for legal aid or as public defenders, 1 percent work in legal education, and 2.5 percent work in the judiciary. (About 4.4 percent are retired or inactive.) Law school provides a good, solid background for many professions. In fact, many teachers, business people, and writers working today obtained a legal education before pursuing their careers.

What does a legal education cover?

Although you may choose from several different paths to a good legal education, whether the law school you choose is public or private, large or small, faith-based or secular, independent or affiliated with a university, you'll find that the basic curriculum focuses on certain skills required of all lawyers.

A legal education is designed to develop your analytical, creative, and logical reasoning abilities. Going to law school will also strengthen your reading and debating skills.

Lawyers must know how to analyze legal issues in light of the constantly changing state of the law and public policy. They must be able to advocate the views of individuals and diverse interest groups within the context of the legal system. They must be able to synthesize material that relates to multifaceted issues. They must give intelligent counsel on the law's requirements. Moreover, lawyers must write and speak clearly and be able to persuade and negotiate effectively.

Is there a standard law school curriculum?

Not exactly. But in nearly every state, a Juris Doctor degree from an ABA-approved law school is required for admission to the bar. Each ABA-approved law school provides basic training in American law sufficient to qualify its graduates to take the bar examination in all states.

Most law schools require three years of full-time attendance, or four years of part-time study if a part-time program is offered. Although law schools differ in the emphasis they give to certain subjects and in the degree to which they provide opportunities for independent study and clinical experience, nearly all law schools have certain basic similarities. Most law schools rely on the "case method" approach to teaching. First-year curricula usually include courses in civil procedure, constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and criminal procedure, legal method, legal writing and research, property law, and torts.

Most law schools share a common approach to the task of training lawyers. Many emphasize particular teaching methods, placing students in legal internships for academic credit, or using the government or legal resources of a surrounding community. A number of schools have developed specialized programs of instruction combining law with other disciplines such as business, public administration, international relations, science, and technology.

How do I prepare for law school?

Law schools want students who can think critically and write well, and who have some understanding of the forces that have shaped the human experience.

Among the abilities named by the ABA as important preparation for law school are analytic/problem-solving skills, critical reading abilities, oral communication and listening abilities, research skills, organization and management skills, and the values of serving faithfully the interests of others while promoting justice. No particular undergraduate education is recommended; students are admitted to law school from almost every academic discipline. If you are an undergraduate, a prelaw advisor at your school can help you plan a course of study that will help you achieve your goal.

Who is applying to law school?

For fall 2012, about 26 percent of all law school applicants were 22 years old or younger; about 37 percent were 23 to 25; and about 18 percent were between ages 26 and 29. Applicants who were 30 to 34 years old made up about 9 percent of the applicant pool, while 10 percent were over 34 years old.

A growing number of women began to apply to America's law schools beginning in the early 1970s, when only 10 percent of all law students were women. Currently, nearly one-half of all applicants are women.

In the fall of 2010, LSAC changed how race/ethnicity information is collected among applicants. Applicants had the opportunity to select one or more of the following race/ethnicity categories: Aboriginal/TSI Australian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Canadian Aboriginal, Caucasian/White, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and Puerto Rican. For fall 2012, there were nearly 67,900 applicants, of which 40 percent indicated at least one race/ethnicity other than Caucasian/White. Due to the addition of new categories and the possibility of selecting more than one race/ethnicity, the current number of minority applicants is not directly comparable to data before fall 2010. Prior to fall 2010, the proportion of all applicants who identified themselves as being from a specific minority group had been relatively stable, between 27 percent to 30 percent of the total applicant pool.

How do I choose a law school?

You should begin the process of choosing a law school with an honest appraisal of your strengths and preferences. You should consider the size, composition, and background of the student body; the location, size, and nature of the surrounding community; the particular strengths or interests of the faculty; the degree to which clinical experience or classroom learning is emphasized; the nature of any special programs offered; the number and type of student organizations; the range of library holdings; and whether a school is public or private. You may wish to consider a school with a strong minority recruitment, retention, and mentoring program, or one with an active student organization for students of your particular ethnic background or special interest.

At any rate, you should actually select more than one law school where you think you could succeed. Last year, about half of all applicants applied to five or fewer schools.

How can I find out more about law schools? Look widely and inquire thoroughly. Gather and study information on law schools. Select the law schools to which you will apply only after reviewing the admission material available from each law school on your list of possibilities.

Contact law schools through their websites or request their bulletins, catalogs, or other materials that include complete and current information. A complete list of all LSAC-member schools in the US, Canada, and Australia is included on the following pages. For online links to the law schools, visit LSAC's website at LSAC.org.

Consult your college prelaw advisor. Undergraduate institutions with prelaw advisors or career counselors encourage students and alumni to contact them for assistance—even if you have been out of school for a number of years.

Visit law schools. You can learn a great deal by talking with students and faculty members, and by visiting classes. Talk to alumni of the schools, preferably a recent graduate or one who is active in alumni affairs.

Attend a free Law School Forum. Law School ForumsSM are excellent opportunities to talk with law school representatives from around the country in one central urban location. Go to LSAC.org for dates and cities.

Go to LSAC.org and access the searchable database of all ABA-approved law schools.



MEMBER LAW SCHOOLS (USA)

ALABAMA

The University of Alabama School of Law Tuscaloosa, AL law.ua.edu

Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law Montgomery, AL faulkner.edu/law

Samford University Cumberland School of Law Birmingham, AL cumberland.samford.edu

ARIZONA

The University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law Tucson, AZ www.law.arizona.edu

Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Tempe, AZ law.asu.edu

Arizona Summit Law School Phoenix, AZ phoenixlaw.edu

ARKANSAS

University of Arkansas School of Law Fayetteville, AR law.uark.edu

University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law Little Rock, AR law.ualr.edu

CALIFORNIA

University of California Berkeley, School of Law Berkeley, CA law.berkeley.edu University of California Davis School of Law (King Hall) Davis, CA law.ucdavis.edu

University of California Hastings College of the Law San Francisco, CA uchastings.edu

University of California Irvine School of Law Irvine, CA Iaw.uci.edu

University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law Los Angeles, CA law.ucla.edu

California Western School of Law San Diego, CA californiawestern.edu

Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law Orange, CA chapman.edu/law

Golden Gate University School of Law San Francisco, CA ggu.edu/law

University of La Verne College of Law Ontario, CA law.laverne.edu

Loyola Law School Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles, CA Ils.edu

University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law Sacramento, CA mcgeorge.edu

Pepperdine University School of Law Malibu, CA law.pepperdine.edu University of San Diego School of Law San Diego, CA law.sandiego.edu

University of San Francisco School of Law San Francisco, CA law.usfca.edu

Santa Clara University School of Law Santa Clara, CA law.scu.edu

University of Southern California Gould School of Law Los Angeles, CA law.usc.edu

Southwestern Law School Los Angeles, CA swlaw.edu

Stanford University Law School Stanford, CA law.stanford.edu

Thomas Jefferson School of Law San Diego, CA tjsl.edu

Western State College of Law Fullerton, CA wsulaw.edu

Whittier Law School Costa Mesa, CA www.law.whittier.edu

COLORADO

University of Colorado Law School Boulder, CO colorado.edu/law

University of Denver Sturm College of Law Denver, CO law.du.edu

CONNECTICUT

University of Connecticut School of Law Hartford, CT law.uconn.edu

Quinnipiac University School of Law Hamden, CT law.quinnipiac.edu

Yale Law School New Haven, CT www.law.yale.edu

DELAWARE

Widener University School of Law Wilmington, DE law.widener.edu

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

American University Washington College of Law Washington, DC wcl.american.edu

The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law Washington, DC law.edu

University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law Washington, DC law.udc.edu

The George Washington University Law School Washington, DC www.law.gwu.edu

Georgetown University Law Center Washington, DC law.georgetown.edu

Howard University School of Law Washington, DC law.howard.edu

FLORIDA

Ave Maria School of Law Naples, FL avemarialaw.edu

Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law Orlando, FL barry.edu/law

Florida A&M University College of Law Orlando, FL law.famu.edu

Florida Coastal School of Law Jacksonville, FL fcsl.edu

University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law Gainesville, FL law.ufl.edu

Florida International University College of Law Miami, FL law.fiu.edu

The Florida State University College of Law Tallahassee, FL law.fsu.edu

University of Miami School of Law Coral Gables, FL law.miami.edu

Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center Fort Lauderdale, FL nsulaw.nova.edu

St. Thomas University School of Law Miami Gardens, FL stu.edu/lawschool

Stetson University College of Law Gulfport, FL law.stetson.edu The Thomas M. Cooley Law School Riverview, FL cooley.edu

GEORGIA

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School Atlanta, GA johnmarshall.edu

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Georgia State University College of Law Atlanta, GA law.gsu.edu

Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law Macon, GA law.mercer.edu

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IDAHO

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ILLINOIS

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Chicago-Kent College of Law Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago, IL www.kentlaw.edu DePaul University College of Law Chicago, IL law.depaul.edu

University of Illinois College of Law Champaign, IL law.illinois.edu

The John Marshall Law School Chicago, IL www.jmls.edu

Loyola University Chicago School of Law Chicago, IL luc.edu/law

Northern Illinois University College of Law DeKalb, IL niu.edu/law

Northwestern University School of Law Chicago, IL law.northwestern.edu

Southern Illinois University School of Law Carbondale, IL law.siu.edu

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Notre Dame Law School Notre Dame, IN law.nd.edu

Valparaiso University Law School Valparaiso, IN valpo.edu/law

IOWA

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The University of Iowa College of Law Iowa City, IA www.law.uiowa.edu

KANSAS

The University of Kansas School of Law Lawrence, KS law.ku.edu

Washburn University School of Law Topeka, KS washburnlaw.edu

KENTUCKY

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University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law Louisville, KY www.law.louisville.edu

Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law Highland Heights, KY chaselaw.nku.edu

LOUISIANA

Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center Baton Rouge, LA law.lsu.edu

Loyola University New Orleans College of Law New Orleans, LA law.loyno.edu

Southern University Law Center Baton Rouge, LA www.sulc.edu Tulane University Law School New Orleans, LA www.law.tulane.edu

MAINE

University of Maine School of Law Portland, ME mainelaw.maine.edu

MARYLAND

University of Baltimore School of Law Baltimore, MD law.ubalt.edu

University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Baltimore, MD www.law.umaryland.edu

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston College Law School Newton, MA bc.edu/law

Boston University School of Law Boston, MA bu.edu/law

Harvard Law School Cambridge, MA law.harvard.edu

University of Massachusetts School of Law—Dartmouth North Dartmouth, MA www.umassd.edu/law

New England Law | Boston Boston, MA nesl.edu

Northeastern University School of Law Boston, MA northeastern.edu/law

Suffolk University Law School Boston, MA law.suffolk.edu Western New England University School of Law Springfield, MA law.wne.edu

MICHIGAN

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Detroit, MI law.udmercy.edu

The University of Michigan Law School Ann Arbor, MI law.umich.edu

Michigan State University College of Law East Lansing, MI law.msu.edu

The Thomas M. Cooley Law School Lansing, MI cooley.edu

Wayne State University Law School Detroit, MI law.wayne.edu

MINNESOTA

Hamline University School of Law St. Paul, MN hamline.edu/law

University of Minnesota Law School Minneapolis, MN law.umn.edu

University of St. Thomas School of Law—Minneapolis Minneapolis, MN stthomas.edu/law

William Mitchell College of Law St. Paul, MN wmitchell.edu

MISSISSIPPI

The University of Mississippi School of Law University, MS law.olemiss.edu Mississippi College School of Law Jackson, MS law.mc.edu

MISSOURI

University of Missouri School of Law Columbia, MO law.missouri.edu

University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law Kansas City, MO law.umkc.edu

Saint Louis University School of Law St. Louis, MO law.slu.edu

Washington University School of Law St. Louis, MO law.wustl.edu

MONTANA

University of Montana School of Law Missoula, MT umt.edu/law

NEBRASKA

Creighton University School of Law Omaha, NE creighton.edu/law

University of Nebraska College of Law Lincoln, NE law.unl.edu

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Rutgers—The State University of New Jersey School of Law—Camden Camden, NJ camlaw.rutgers.edu

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Elon University School of Law Greensboro, NC law.elon.edu University of North Carolina School of Law Chapel Hill, NC law.unc.edu

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Wake Forest University School of Law Winston-Salem, NC law.wfu.edu

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Capital University Law School Columbus, OH law.capital.edu

Case Western Reserve University School of Law Cleveland, OH law.case.edu

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The University of Tulsa College of Law Tulsa, OK www.utulsa.edu/law

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University of Oregon School of Law Eugene, OR law.uoregon.edu

Willamette University College of Law Salem, OR willamette.edu/wucl

PENNSYLVANIA

Drexel University School of Law Philadelphia, PA earlemacklaw.drexel.edu/admissions

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University of Pennsylvania Law School Philadelphia, PA law.upenn.edu The Pennsylvania State University Dickinson Law Carlisle, PA www.dickinsonlaw.psu.edu

The Pennsylvania State University Penn State Law University Park, PA pennstatelaw.psu.edu

University of Pittsburgh School of Law Pittsburgh, PA law.pitt.edu

Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law Philadelphia, PA www.law.temple.edu

Villanova University School of Law Villanova, PA www.law.villanova.edu

Widener University School of Law Harrisburg, PA law.widener.edu

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Inter American University School of Law San Juan, PR www.derecho.inter.edu

Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law Ponce, PR

University of Puerto Rico School of Law San Juan, PR www.law.upr.edu

RHODE ISLAND

Roger Williams University School of Law Bristol, RI law.rwu.edu

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Vanderbilt Law School Nashville, TN law.vanderbilt.edu

TEXAS

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University of Houston Law Center Houston, TX law.uh.edu

St. Mary's University School of Law San Antonio, TX law.stmarytx.edu

SMU Dedman School of Law Dallas, TX law.smu.edu

South Texas College of Law Houston, TX stcl.edu The University of Texas School of Law Austin, TX utexas.edu/law

Texas A&M University School of Law Fort Worth, TX law.txwes.edu

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law Houston, TX www.tsulaw.edu

Texas Tech University School of Law Lubbock, TX www.law.ttu.edu

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University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law Salt Lake City, UT law.utah.edu

VERMONT

Vermont Law School South Royalton, VT vermontlaw.edu

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Liberty University School of Law Lynchburg, VA law.liberty.edu

Regent University School of Law Virginia Beach, VA regent.edu/law

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University of Virginia School of Law Charlottesville, VA www.law.virginia.edu

Washington and Lee University School of Law Lexington, VA law.wlu.edu

William & Mary Law School Williamsburg, VA law.wm.edu

WASHINGTON

Gonzaga University School of Law Spokane, WA www.law.gonzaga.edu

Seattle University School of Law Seattle, WA law.seattleu.edu

University of Washington School of Law Seattle, WA law.washington.edu

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University of Wisconsin Law School Madison, WI law.wisc.edu

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University of Alberta Faculty of Law Edmonton, Alberta www.law.ualberta.ca

University of British Columbia Faculty of Law Vancouver, British Columbia www.law.ubc.ca

University of Calgary Faculty of Law Calgary, Alberta law.ucalgary.ca

Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law Halifax, Nova Scotia dal.ca/law

Lakehead University, Faculty of Law Thunder Bay, Ontario law.lakeheadu.ca

University of Manitoba Faculty of Law Winnipeg, Manitoba umanitoba.ca/law

McGill University Faculty of Law (Faculté de droit de l'Université McGill) Montreal, Quebec mcgill.ca/law

University of New Brunswick Faculty of Law Fredericton, New Brunswick law.unb.ca

Osgoode Hall Law School York University Toronto, Ontario osgoode.yorku.ca

University of Ottawa Faculty of Law (Université d'Ottawa Faculté de droit) Ottawa, Ontario www.commonlaw.uottawa.ca

Queen's University Faculty of Law Kingston, Ontario law.queensu.ca

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