

Guide for students to the law school application process:

Freshmen Year:

- If you are interested in the Early Admit program with the law school, you will need to begin working with your advisor right away in order to be eligible for that program.

Briefly, HNS and CSS students who have completed all but the last 30 hours of their degree program, including all Common Curriculum, major, named adjunct, and foreign language requirements may, if accepted, enter the law school where the first 30 hours earned in law school will be applied as general elective credits for completion of the undergraduate degree. The law school has final say on whether to admit the student, of course and their website indicates that early admit students should have higher than average credentials.

Freshmen and Sophomore Years:

- Get good grades (after your LSAT score, your grades are the most important factor in law school admissions) and begin building your resume with extracurricular activities and internships or jobs. Note, your involvement in clubs, activities, etc. needs to be genuine! Law schools would rather see strong involvement in one club, than mediocre involvement in 15.
- You should take the time to get to know your professors, particularly, those with whom you feel an intellectual connection and you should try to take these professors multiple times. You will be asking these professors for letters of recommendation sometime in the spring of your junior year or summer before your senior year.

Junior Year:

- Along with continuing to work hard in school and in your extracurricular activities, and developing relationships with faculty members, you must also begin to prepare for the LSAT and begin researching law schools.

September through March:

- If you are planning to take the June LSAT, register for a lighter load of classes your spring semester, since time spent studying for the LSAT will overlap with time spent on your classes.

- View different catalogs and directories on law schools (in print and online), such as *The*
- *Official Guide to U.S. Law Schools, LSAC.org, etc.*
- Create a Student Account with LSAC.org to register for the LSAT online, get your scores via e-mail, assemble credentials, track your applications, and more.
- Determine your study approach for the LSAT (sign up for a course, hire a private tutor, etc.) Ideally, you should take the LSAT the June of your junior year or the October of your senior year. The earlier you take the LSAT, the earlier you can apply and admissions is rolling, so applying early increases your chances of getting in and getting scholarship money. The longer you wait to apply, the more likely seats will be filled and scholarship money used up.
- Gain experience in the field or in a different but interesting field that you have some passion for.

March to May:

- Register for the June LSAT (if that is your choice). To avoid a late fee, registration must be done at least one month in advance of the exam.
- If you are taking the October LSAT, when you register for your fall classes, if possible, register for a lighter load, such as 12 credits.
- Study for the LSAT. Again, I recommend you take a course or hire a private tutor. This is a difficult exam to learn on your own and it is the most important factor in law school admissions.
- Discuss your plans with your advisor or Associate Dean.
- Determine who you will ask to write your letters or recommendation. Most schools accept 3 and that is the number I recommend you obtain. Give your professor an opportunity to say no to your request. Better that they turn you down than that they write a mediocre or poor letter. If you do not have 3 professors who you can ask, ask an employer IF YOU HAVE DONE SUBSTANTIAL WORK FOR THEM. LSAC.org tells you how many letters of recommendation each school REQUIRES, RECOMMENDS, and ACCEPTS. Please pay attention to this language.

June to August:

- Take the LSAT exam in early June (if that is your choice).
- Prepare a draft of your personal statement(s) and have it reviewed by the WAC lab and your advisor or someone else whose writing skills are extremely strong.
- Prepare a draft of your resume and have it reviewed by the Career Development Office.

- Create a list of law schools that you plan on applying to.
- Have your higher education transcripts sent to LSAC.
- Visit Law schools. If you have questions about a particular law school, do not hesitate to call the admissions office of that school. You can also ask to be put in touch with a current law student who shares your particular legal interest. This is especially important if you plan on going to a law school based on it having a specialized program in a narrower field of law.
- If necessary, register and prepare for the October LSAT.
- Gain experience in the legal field or other field you have some passion for.

Senior Year:

September:

- Continue working hard in your classes, developing relationships with faculty and excelling in your extracurricular activities. Your senior year grades matter, especially fall, but spring too.
- Finish writing your personal statements. Note that you will write a slightly different (or entirely different) personal statement for each school you apply to. Each personal statement should include a paragraph about why you are applying to that particular school.
- Update your resume.
- Remind faculty for letters of recommendation if they have not yet been sent to LSAC
- Request financial aid information.
- Continue to visit law schools.
- If you are taking the October LSAT, continue studying until the day of the test.

October:

- If needed, take the October LSAT.
- Complete on-line applications.

November to December:

- Obtain applications for financial aid (federal, institutional, private), e.g. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Contact law schools to confirm the completion of your application.
- Relax and enjoy the holidays.

January to April:

- Continue working hard in your classes. Law schools have been known to rescind an offer of admission when spring grades were poor.
- Have an updated official transcript (which includes your fall term) sent to LSAC from your school's registrar.
- Obtain and complete the FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid . FAFSA's can be found at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- Evaluate offers of acceptance.
- Evaluate financial aid offers.
- When you have chosen your law school, submit an acceptance letter/confirmation forms and pay seat deposit by deadline provided by school.
- Inform other law schools, that accepted you, that you will not attend.
- Submit timely second seat deposit, if required by school.
- Communicate you plans with the pre-law advisor and send thank you correspondence to your recommenders.