

Suggested Timeline for Law School Application Process

Freshman and Sophomore Years

- Study hard. The best law school prep is earning the best grades possible, as your undergraduate GPA will weigh heavily in admissions decisions.
- Choose challenging courses, particularly those with writing, speaking, and analytical reasoning components.
- Speak to a pre-law advisor and learn as much as you can about the legal profession, the admissions process, and the LSAT.
- Find a summer or part-time job related to the legal profession to give you a better idea on whether you're making the right decision to pursue law school.

Junior Year

- Keep studying. Your junior year grades will be the last ones on your transcript submitted to law schools, so make them stellar.
- Visit LSAC's website (www.lsac.org) to register and read up on the LSAT, admissions procedure, and law schools.
- Apply for a fee waiver through LSAC if you think you may qualify (have a limited income). This waives your LSAT registration fee, Credential Assembly Service Fee, and 4 law school application service fees. If you qualify, you also receive a free LSAT prep book.
- Take a practice LSAT test and consider taking the June LSAT (in which case you'd have an opportunity to retake it in October).
- Allow yourself 4-6 months to study for the LSAT! Take as many practice tests under real, timed conditions as possible.
- Think about who to ask for letters of recommendation; keep in mind that asking potential letter writers before summer break will give them plenty of time to write something.
- Assemble packets of information that include a draft copy of your personal statement, law school resume, and any other helpful information to your letter of recommendation writers to help guide them.

Summer Before Senior Year

- Take the LSAT in June and/or register and prepare for the October LSAT.
- Prepare your personal statement and ask others with great writing skills for feedback.
- Get your resume in top shape.
- Law schools provide specific page or word length requirements for the personal statement and resume. While drafting both, think about which parts could be removed, if necessary, for page length.
- Research financial aid options.
- Visit law schools that you are considering applying to.

Fall of Senior Year

- Select the law schools to which you will apply. Carefully review the specifications for each application.
- Get financial aid forms ready (have the FAFSA filled out by March 1).
- Have a copy of your transcript forwarded from the Registrar's Office to LSAC, which will send it to the schools you are applying to.
- Submit your applications as early as possible, before Thanksgiving break is preferable. Most applications are available on September 1. The rest become available on October 1.

Spring of Senior Year

- Make sure that the law schools have received all information necessary to complete your application file.
- Watch those letters of acceptance roll in, and select which law school you'll attend.
- Once you decide on a law school, pay any required seat deposits by the deadline set by the school.
- Request that the Registrar forward a copy of your final transcript to your law school of choice.