



LAW SCHOOL REFERENCE TIP SHEET

LSAT

Students interested in applying for Law School must first take the LSAT. This test is only offered 4 times per year and must be registered for a month in advance. Schools normally admit students on a rolling admissions basis so students should carefully consider when to take the LSAT.

Students can check LSAT dates and register for the test at:

<http://www.lsac.org/lsat/test-dates-deadlines>

Students can study for the test through various test prep books that can be found easily online and it is best to have at least taken a few practice test before taking the actual test. Additionally, Clemson University typically offers an LSAT prep course in the Spring. It is important to study for the LSAT as it is one of the biggest factors schools consider when evaluating applications. However, if your first score is not optimal; don't worry, it is common to retake the test to receive a better score. LSAT scores can have a big impact on scholarship consideration as well.

Credential Assembly Service (CAS)

Most ABA-approved schools require students to register with the Credential Assembly Service in order to apply. This can be done through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) at:

<http://www.lsac.org/jd/applying-to-law-school/cas>

This service assembles your application online and allows you to apply to online as well. It includes your transcript, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and official LSAT scores.

Searching for Schools

Once you have taken the LSAT, you can use the LSAC website to view your likelihood of being accepted to various schools based on your LSAT score and GPA. This is a helpful resource that can be found at:

https://officialguide.lsac.org/release/OfficialGuide_Default.aspx

Some things to consider when choosing where to apply are location, class, size, employment, outlook, school ranking (which can be found at usnews.com) cost, and the type of law that you are interested in among others.

Typically, it is recommended that students apply to 1 or 2 "long shot" schools, 2 to 3 schools of average likelihood, and 1 safe school however, this will vary from student to student.

Personal Statement

Be sure to carefully read the instructions the school you are applying to gives about writing a personal statement, as some provide specific guidelines on content or length.

Try to avoid writing a generic letter for all schools, your personal statement should be tailored to the school you are applying to. CAS has the option to upload multiple personal statements and you can select which personal statement to submit to which school.

Write from experience. This is a statement about your unique skills, qualifications, and experience so above all keep it personal and make sure it highlights what you offer as an individual.

Don't try and do too much. Your statement should be specific and concise. Try focusing on a few unique experiences that highlight who you are instead of writing about every experience or job that you have held.

Letters of Recommendation

Be sure to take note of the Letters of Recommendation requirements of the different schools that you are applying to as they can differ across schools.

Generally, schools require 2 or more letters of recommendation with 1 being from someone who can speak to your academic qualifications.

Be careful to ask people who know you well and can speak to your academic and professional abilities. Typically, the best letters of recommendation come from teachers or work supervisors.

Transcript

A transcript from each undergraduate institution that you have attended or received credit from must be sent directly to LSAC using their transcript request form. Information on how to do this can be found at: <http://www.lsac.org/jd/applying-to-law-school/cas/requesting-transcripts>

Information on how to request your official Clemson transcript online can be found at:

<http://www.registar.clemson.edu/html/transcript.htm>

Note that there may be a small fee associated with requesting your transcript.

Additional Materials

In addition to LSAT score, personal statement, letters or recommendation, and your transcript, schools will also require you to submit a professional resume.

The Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD) can provide help with building your resume if you do not already have one.

Additionally, some schools provide optional essays that students can submit as an addition to their application. These are recommended if you feel you need to supplement your application to boost chances of being accepted.

Students must also submit Character and Fitness essays if they have had previous legal or academic issues. This can be intimidating to students with troubled pasts, but know that it is always better to fully disclose issues than to have problems with your application arise later.

Interviewing

After submitting your application, you may be invited to interview with some schools. Not all schools require interviews and not all students are asked to interview, so do not be alarmed if you do not receive an interview request.

Be sure to show up to your interview on time, professionally dressed, and mentally prepared to answer questions about your qualifications.

Be sure to review your resume, and practice answering general interview questions before you arrive such as “tell me about yourself.” Answer questions in a concise, and specific way and do not be afraid to show personality in your answers. Schools are looking for individuals.

Be aware of posture, tone, and body language, when interviewing as these can have a tremendous impact on the impression you leave. Also, be sure to have questions prepared to ask the interviewer about the school, as this portrays your interest.

Additional Information

If you have any questions or concerns about the law school application process or want advice on things you can do in undergrad to boost your application, feel free to contact Clemson’s Pre Law advisor. You can find information about Clemson’s offerings for students interested in law school at <http://www.clemson.edu/cbbs/departments/political-science/academics/prelaw.html>.