

LAW SCHOOL GUIDE

Is Law School Right for You?

- Are you passionate about advocating for others? Are you interested in law?
- Do you enjoy reading and writing?
- Do your career goals require a law degree?
- How will you pay for it?
- How well have you performed academically as an undergrad? How genuinely interested are you in law school?

Factors to Consider When Choosing a Law School

- Academic support
- Connections to industry representatives
- Curriculum
- Faculty with industry experience
- Reputation
- Tuition cost
- Scholarship Opportunities
- Geographic location
- Dual degree programs
- Online versus in-person classroom environment
- Part-time/full-time programs
- Size of school
- Accreditation
- Accelerated programs
- Personal factors
- Placement with internships
- Rankings
- Student services
- Surrounding Community
- GRE or LSAT exam requirement
- Programs in specific areas of law

Preparing for Law School Admission

- Visit LSAC.org (use this website to apply to all law schools)
- Create an LSAC account
- Research law schools and their requirements
- Prepare for the LSAT and register to take the exam
- Some schools accept the GRE exam (research which schools accept the GRE exam)
- Register for the Credential Assembly Service (LSAC.org)
- Request all required transcripts
- Request letters of recommendation
- Prepare your personal statement and tailor it for each school
- There is an application fee (fees will vary)
- You may attach an addendum to your application explaining any discrepancies (this does not apply to all schools)
- Prepare a resume
- Attend a law school forum
- Maintain a good GPA (will vary based on law school)
- Make sure the law school is ABA-approved
- Build your law-related experience
- Visit the law schools
- Double check all requirements that are unique to each particular school

Build Your Law-Related Experience

- Volunteer at a law office or law-related organizations
- Shadow an attorney
- Join a pre-law student organization
- Take relevant courses
- Work with attorneys in any experience capacity
- Conduct informational interviews with a variety of lawyers and professionals in the industry
- If your law interests are aligned with a particular industry, gain experience by volunteering in that industry

Fields of Law

This section summarizes the fields of law based on information from [LSAC.org](https://lsac.org)

- Criminal Law
- Education Law
- Employment and Labor Law
- Environmental and Natural Resources
- Law Family and Juvenile Law
- Corporate Law
- Health Law
- Immigration Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Law
- Municipal Law
- Animal Law
- Civil Rights
- Real Estate Law
- Securities Law
- Sports and Entertainment Tax Law

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Suggested Timeline

Winter/Spring Quarter – Second Year

Conduct informational interviews

Explore volunteer opportunities and internships related to your field of law interest

- Attend law school forums and/or workshops
- Join a pre-law student organization

Fall/Winter/Spring Quarter - Third Year

Build from second year suggested timeline above

Attend UCR's Graduate, Professional, and Law School Fair in the fall

Start researching/visiting schools

Begin writing your personal statement

- Identify people such as faculty, staff, and supervisors who would be willing to write letters of recommendation (Please check every school's admissions requirements.)

Register to take LSAT or GRE (not all schools accept the GRE)

- Sign up for LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) (Please be aware that there is a service fee)
- Application periods usually start on June 1, but can vary from year to year
- Gain experience through internships and volunteering opportunities

Summer - Third Year

Visit law schools

Continue to work on your personal statement

Continue to gain valuable experience

- Ask for letters of recommendation from appropriate faculty and staff based on school requirements

- Begin deciding which law schools you would like to apply to and make a check list and schedule for each application
- Get your resume reviewed by a career specialist
- By the end of summer finish your personal statement and make an appointment with the Academic Resource Center to have it reviewed by a writing specialist

Fall/Winter Quarter – Senior Year

Submit your applications early, don't wait until the last day of the application deadline

If you haven't already, register to take the LSAT or GRE (not all schools accept the GRE)

If you haven't already, finish your personal statement and make an appointment with the Academic Resource Center to have it reviewed by a writing specialist

- Collect letters of recommendation
- Continue to attend law school forums and workshops
- Apply for awards
- Submit financial aid application

Spring Quarter - Senior Year

Secure financing

- Submit tuition/housing deposits upon acceptance to the school in which you've enrolled

Websites

UCR Graduate School Resource

- careers.ucr.edu/students/preparing-graduate-professional-schools
- arc.ucr.edu
- graduate.ucr.edu/programs

Law School Information

- lsac.org
- petersons.com
- gradschools.com
- americanbar.org
- lawyeredu.org

Rankings

- usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/law-rankings
- washingtonmonthly.com/2021college-guide

This information is accurate and reliable as of the date of publication, but may change without notice. Please contact the Career Center for the most up-to-date information. (08/23)



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