

# LAW SCHOOL APPLICATION CHECKLIST

For students seeking to matriculate directly to law school. Gap years will affect timeline.

## JUNIOR YEAR & FALL OF SENIOR YEAR

- Create a [Law School Admissions Council \(LSAC\)](#) account
- If available, meet a Pre-Law or Career Advisor to discuss study plan & timing
- Prepare for the LSAT or GRE (Understand Limitations)
- Register and take the LSAT or GRE
  - Register 6 weeks in advance ([LSAT dates and deadlines](#))
  - If seeking [accommodations](#), submit documents *after registering* for test but as early as possible
  - Submit your [fee waiver](#) application **four to six weeks** prior to test registration deadline
- Meet with Pre-Law (or Career) Advisor to discuss LSAT score, schools, application timeline and strategy, and school visits
- Prepare a spreadsheet to organize schools (dream, reach, competitive, safety) and application timeline
- Subscribe to LSAC's [Credential Assembly Service \(CAS\)](#)
  - Required to release letters of recommendations and transcripts
- Request Official Transcript(s) be sent to LSAC
  - "Transcript Summarization" & Recalculation
- Update resume and draft initial personal statement
  - Ask an advisor to review
- Request Letters of Recommendation (2 academic +)
  - Supply letter writers with resume and personal statement, transcript and information that will help them write a persuasive letter (listing classes you took with them, research, activities)
- September 1st - Application Cycle Opens
  - Request fee waivers from schools (some don't charge to apply and others offer waivers without demonstration of financial need)
  - Update and review spreadsheet for deadlines (application, scholarship, acceptance, seat deposit, FAFSA/CSS, reconsideration)
  - Review statement prompts (explain why you want to attend law school and narrowly tailor individual statement for each school)
  - Consider drafting diversity statement (where applicable) and/or a non-required addendum, such as one to explain extenuating circumstances (a drop in grades, medical leave, etc.)
  - Carefully read Character and Fitness prompts from each school. Answer the questions honestly, clearly and concisely

### PROJECTED EXPENSES

LSAT REGISTRATION: \$200

CAS: \$195 (VALID FOR 5 YEARS)

CAS LAW SCHOOL REPORT (LSR): \$45 PER SCHOOL

APPLICATION FEES: \$0-\$85 (REQUEST FEE WAIVER)

BAR EXAM REGISTRATION: \$100-\$1300 (DEPENDS ON STATE)



- When in doubt, disclose! Talk to Pre-Law (or Career) Advisor if you have questions
  - If you have additional questions, call law schools to clarify
- Submit applications in the Fall of senior year (applying earlier is generally better)
  - Review median LSAT/UGPA on most recent [USNWR](#), depends how score compares
  - [Review 509 Reports](#)
  - Understand binding early decision versus priority decision versus regular application
  - Research employment statistics (locations, salaries, etc.)
- Apply for scholarships for which you are not automatically being considered
- Prepare FAFSA and CSS Profile & Attend Financing Law School Workshop

## SPRING OF SENIOR YEAR

- Compare schools where admitted (read *Getting to Know Law Schools* below)
- Attend Admitted Student Days & decide where to pay seat deposit
- Review scholarship offers and understand acceptance conditions and whether binding or not
  - Use [AccessLex Loan Calculator](#) to understand loan payment amounts
  - Use [Analytix School Comparison](#) to compare cost, bar passage, employment 10-months out stats
- Navigate scholarship reconsideration opportunities (depends on school)
  - Discuss with Pre-Law Advisor *before* contacting law schools
- Discuss waitlist procedures and options with Pre-Law (or Career) Advisor
  - Submit Letters of Continued Interest
  - Be patient, but stay in touch

## GETTING TO KNOW LAW SCHOOLS

- Connect with Law School Admissions Representatives
  - Get to know them and send follow up or thank you emails
- Use the following to compare:
  - [ABA Required Disclosures](#) (bar passage, employment type and salary and location)
  - Bar Pass Scores & ABA Probation (discuss remedial plan with school)
  - [UBE Jurisdiction](#)
  - [Analytix School Comparison](#) to compare cost, bar passage, employment data
- Visit schools or take virtual tour (inquire about on-campus visits)
- Register and attend [LSAC's Virtual Forums](#) and events usually in summer or fall
  - Many schools offer fee waivers to attendees
- Review [AccessLex](#) to understand cost of attendance (COA) & loan repayment options
  - Each school offers different programs. Consider reviewing each school's available need-based aid options, merit-based aid opportunities, Public Interest Loan Forgiveness (PILF) and Public Interest Scholarship options, and Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)