

JUNIOR YEAR LAW SCHOOL APPLICATION TIMELINE

Fall Semester

- Attend the mandatory Pre-Law Orientation session if you have not done so previously.
- Research law schools – Examine them for *personal fit* on basis of location, cost, clinical programs, faculty, student body, career services, and other factors of importance to YOU. Be realistic but not pessimistic. Select up to 12 schools based on these factors of importance.
- Attend Law School Fair to get first-hand information on law schools.
- Identify two (2) to three (3) recommenders you anticipate using for letters of recommendation.

Spring Semester

- Continue researching law schools for your best fit. Identify their “tag line” or emphasis for purposes of tailoring personal statement to particular school.
- Continue to identify and seek out recommenders.
- Review potential prompt questions for personal statement.
- Begin to prepare for LSAT if taking it in June – either individual preparation or class, **six (6) weeks to three (3) months is adequate preparation time.**
- Schedule campus visits at law schools in which you are interested. *Remember:* you won’t know the “fit” until you “try it on.”

June

- Take the LSAT. Remember – a good night’s sleep is the best preparation!
- Continue researching schools.
- Formulate ideas for personal statement.

July – August

- Evaluate your LSAT score and GPA in refining your list of schools. Begin to pare the list of applicant schools down for goal of 6 to 8 schools.
- Begin drafting personal statement.



SENIOR YEAR LAW SCHOOL APPLICATION TIMELINE



September

- Create second LSAC account with LSAC's Credential Assembly Service at www.lsac.org for compilation of application materials.
 - Continue studying for LSAT if taking in October or December.
 - Provide recommenders with your information and letter of recommendation form from LSAC.
 - If available online (many law schools do not post their applications until the beginning or middle of October), review and commence completing application materials from chosen law schools. [**NOTE: Be aware of and complete additional essays as required by schools.**]
 - Request transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended per LSCAS.
 - ***Make an appointment with the Pre-Law Advisor*** to discuss any specific questions or obstacles.
- Attend the Law School Fair

October

- Take the LSAT if registered for October date.
- Continue preparing applications and personal statements.
- Follow up on letters of recommendation to ensure they have been sent.
- Meet with Pre-Law Advisor as needed, and ***submit personal statements and essays for review.***

November

- Evaluate LSAT score if taken in October – adjust list of schools as needed.
- Finalize and submit law school applications.
- Follow up to ensure that transcripts and recommendations are on file with LSCAS.

December

- Take LSAT if registered for December date.
- Remember rolling admissions! Have applications in by **December 1**.
- Remember rolling admissions! Investigate financial aid as needed before money runs out at schools.
- Forget about everything over your break.

January – February

- Evaluate your LSAT score and adjust school list if needed.
- Follow up on LSAC's "file status" to ensure that your application file is complete.

March

- Admissions offers will be forthcoming – wait patiently.
- Weigh admissions / financial aid offers.
- Meet with Pre-Law Advisor to discuss any deferment, waitlist, school selection issues.

April – May

- Decide on which school to attend and submit deposit to hold your position. If you are on the waitlist for your first-choice school, pay deposit to hold seat at your second-choice.
- Order final transcript as needed to the law school chosen.

TIMELINES & DEADLINES: MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME

When should you take the LSAT – the pros and cons of the four dates:

JUNE – This is the only test administration that is offered on a Monday AFTERNOON (for all of you that think Saturday 8:00 a.m. is only suitable for sleeping in). The June test, taken between the junior and senior years, is one of the most common test dates since it allows you to concentrate exclusively on the application process in the fall. **CAUTION:** If you are scheduled for a tough spring semester, adding LSAT preparation to that class load may result in true overload!

OCTOBER – One of the two most common test dates. You can prepare for the LSAT during those long summer days and nights. After taking the LSAT, the remainder of your fall may be devoted to your applications and personal statement. **CAUTION:** Though this test date generally falls before midterms, if you have a heavy course load Fall semester, you may opt for one of the other test dates.

DECEMBER – December is the last test date that will be accepted at most competitive law schools. **CAUTION:** The test date generally overlaps final exams to some degree. In addition, if you miss the December test administration for whatever reason, you may end up waiting another year to begin law school since you may not be considered for admission in the coming academic year due to rolling admissions. Another downside is that you will be preparing law school applications at the same time as you are preparing for the LSAT (not to mention those pesky undergraduate courses in which you are currently enrolled!).

FEBRUARY – You can get a jump start on other juniors by taking the LSAT in February. This allows you to use the summer and early fall for researching and applying to your law schools of choice. **CAUTION:** If you are a senior, the February test is generally too late to be considered for acceptance into law school in the coming academic year. The February test is also the only non-disclosed test, meaning that you will not receive individual section scores nor see your actual test booklet for review in preparing for any potential re-takes.

