

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

Preparing for Law School Admission

- Visit [LSAC.org](https://lsac.org) (this is the website you will use 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 recommendations
- 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 Law
- 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 the second year suggested timeline above
- Attend UCR's Law School Information Day 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 counselor
- 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
- 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/2020college-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. (9/20)