

To Be or Not to Be:
Law School Edition

Make the right decision for your career



Ice Breaker Activity

- Turn to your neighbor
- Introduce yourself (name and major)
- Share why you are interested in going to law school
- What does it mean to you to get your Juris Doctorate (J.D.)?

Agenda

1. Careers with a Juris Doctorate
2. Prepare to apply to Law School
3. All about the LSAT, transcripts, personal statements and letter of recommendations
5. Things to Remember





Careers with a Juris Doctorate



Always leverage off of your degree

- A Juris Doctor (J.D.) is the degree awarded to law school graduates.
- Most J.D. programs are three-year programs and there are other four-year programs that are part-time and a couple that are accelerated programs that are two-year programs.
- After you pass the state bar exam then graduates can practice in any area of law.





Lawyer

- Research lawyers
- Public defenders
- Junior associates of private law firms
- Once they pass a state bar exam, individuals can also pursue legal specializations including professional litigator, corporate counselor, and civil defense attorney
- After years of long hours and simple assignments, lawyers may earn partner or senior associate status, though competition for these positions is fierce. (High working standards and ethics play a part in a lawyer's likelihood of being promoted, along with having good contacts and references.)



Business: Corporations, Real Estate as a Broker

- You can earn a dual degree for example an MBA and JD combines

Public Service Careers

- Politics
- Social work
- Human Resources
- Community Associations
- Specialized degree in public health, political science, urban planning, international studies, political science or public policy

Creative Arts:

- Copyright law
- Media law
- Intellectual property laws



Prepare to Apply to Law School

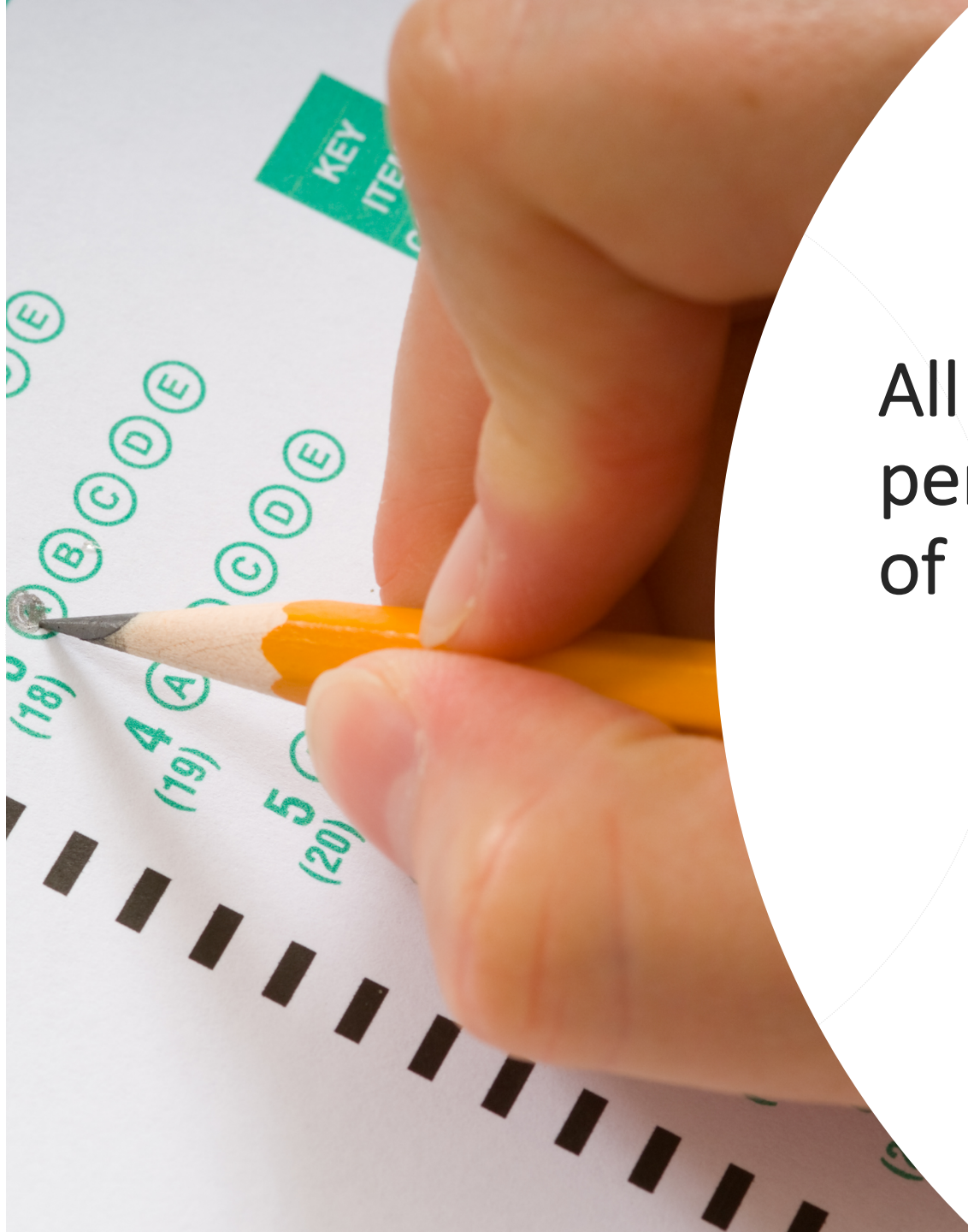
Get organized



How to get Organized and Ready to Apply

- Research different Law schools and their rankings and look at their recruitment deadlines
- Create a secure account on [LSAC.org](https://lsac.org)
- Register and prepare for the LSAT
- Attend a Law School Forum or Information Day Fair
- Sign up for LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS)
- Submit transcripts and letters of Recommendation
- Register with LSAC's Candidate Referral Service.
- Keep track on your application status.





All About the LSAT, transcripts, personal statement and letters of recommendation

Prepare in Advance



How Law Schools Determine whom to Admit

Application Package

- Application
- LSAT score
- Letters of recommendation(if required)
- Personal statement
- Application Fee (if required)
- Any additional requirements unique to that particular school (Resume, unofficial transcript etc.)

Important Tips

- There is **no such thing as an “honest mistake”** make sure all application material is accurate and you have not adjusted any documents. This can affect you before, during and after law school.
- **Apply early!** Most schools recruit through out the whole year, but you don't want your application to be reviewed last minute
- If you apply early then **you can make a decision** to either accept one of the early offers you received or continue to apply to more law schools
- **Two factors applied objectively:** Undergraduate GPA and LSAT Score
- “If your credentials fall below the school's standards, you will probably be denied admissions.”- If you can justify credentials that don't meet standards then make sure to add it to the addendum.
- **Other factors they may consider:** Experience, Personal Statement, Obstacles you may have overcome, past accomplishments, grade improvement...etc.



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Start building a genuine relationship with your professors
- Go to their office hours. Get interested in their research or projects they are working on
- Request a letter of recommendation three months in advance and follow-up
- Provide your professor a deadline
- In your email request to your professor include your resume, purpose of why you want to go to law school, remind the professor the class you participated in and the grade you received
- Send your professor a thank you note and update them on your application progress
- Some law schools will not accept T.A. letters of recommendation. Please double check each law school website or call their admissions office



TRANSCRIPTS

UCR Request Transcript Information

- Please visit the registrars website for details. Make sure your request is made two weeks in advance.

Important Tips:

- You have to directly send transcripts to LSAC.

● Personal Statement

Tell your story

- A personal statement informs admissions representatives about yourself.
- Everyone has a unique story and schools want to recruit qualified students beyond their grades and test score.
- If you have overcome a serious obstacle in your life to get where you are today, share that with the committee.
- This is an opportunity to share your passion of why you want to attend law school.





LSAT

General Information

- Visit lsac.org for more information
- LSAT measures Reasoning and Reading skills. Skills needed to complete law school successfully
- Test is 3 ½ hours long : 5 sections (4 scored) multiple-choice sections Logical Reasoning (two sections), Analytical Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, and an unscored Variable Section. (35 mins each- 24-26 questions per section total of 100-102 questions)
- Two unscored sections: One multiple choice section and written sample (35 mins each)
- You will not know which multiple choice section is unscored.
- There is no pass or fail score
- Scores range from 120-180
- Average score 150



Preparing for the LSAT

- Highly recommend to prepare for the LSAT. Many students don't achieve their full potential without some preparation.
- There are many LSAT Prep test companies : UCR ARC, Kaplan Test Prep, Princeton Review, TestMasters, ScoreItUp and many more!
- Diagnose your strengths and weaknesses- Khan Academy (LSAC official online prep program)
- Take a timed practice test and writing sample
- Get familiar with the question types and test instructions
- Watch test prep videos from Isac.org
- Free materials at Isac.org. Click on "The LSAT" then select "Preparing for the LSAT"



Funding Law school

- Law school can be pricey. Ranging anywhere from \$50,000+ a year. This does not include other expenses not allocated. So your law school education might cost you \$150,000+.
- The availability of scholarships and grants is limited, but worth researching. The earlier you apply the more funding your institution might offer you.
- Some scholarships and grants are merit or need-based.
- Some schools award merit money shortly after admission, while others require separate forms.
- Confirm with each school what their individual school requirements are. Apply early for all institutional aid from law schools.
- Look into a variety of different student loan options and scholarships.

“Today, approximately 80% of law school students rely on education loans as their primary, but not exclusive, source of financial aid for law school” - LSAC.org



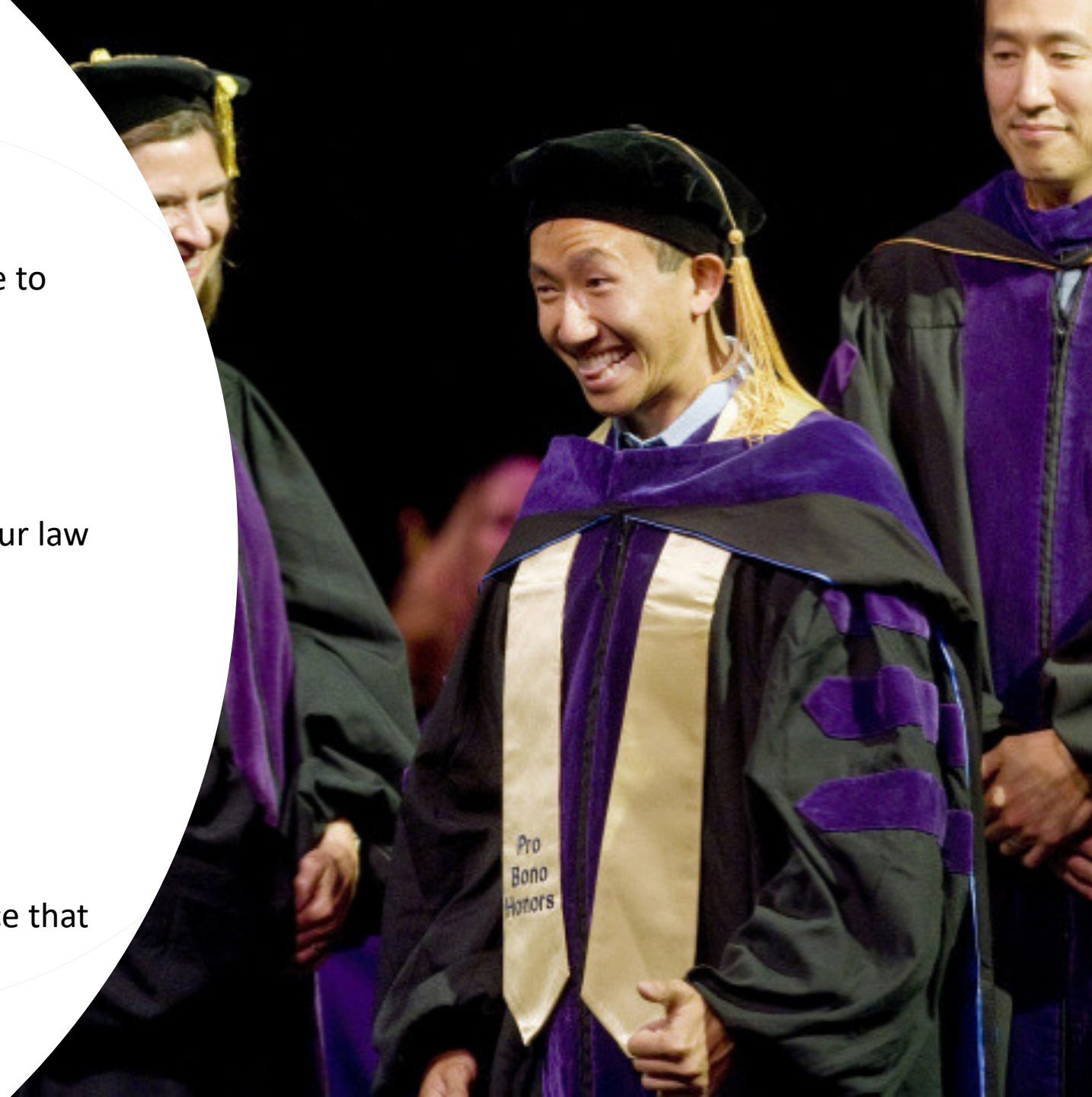
Things to Remember

Make a Checklist



Things to Remember

- Research, prepare and don't wait last minute to apply!
- Utilize your on-campus resources
- Join a pre-law school student organization
- Make sure to attend a law school forum or our law school information day fair
- Talk to admissions representatives
- STUDY for the LSAT
- Network with pre-law students, current law students and industry people
- Get experience! Volunteer or intern at a place that is law service related





Follow your
DREAMS!
But make
the best
decision for
you!

THANK YOU

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Hours:

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Drop-In Hours:

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