Law School 101

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Summary

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3. Application
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   b. GPA/Transcripts
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Law School?

- Juris Doctorate Degree
- Dual Degree: MBS, MS, PhD, etc
- 3 years of schooling
- 1L - broad, no choice in classes
  - Torts.
  - Contracts.
  - Civil Procedure.
  - Property.
  - Criminal Law.
  - Constitutional Law.
  - Legal Methods.
- Externships every summer
Law Related Jobs

- Lawyer
- Paralegal
- Legal Secretary
- Legal Assistant
- Compliance Specialist
- Conflicts Analyst
- Legal Recruiter
- Court Messenger
- Litigation Support Professional
- E-Discovery Professional
- Document Coder
- Judge
- Magistrate:
- Law Clerk
- Mediator or Arbitrator
- Court Reporter or Stenographer
- Broadcast Captioner
- Parole Officer

- Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) Provider
- Jury Consultant
- Computer Forensics Professional
- Forensic Scientist
- Legal Videographer or Forensic Videographer
- Accident Reconstructionist
- Law Firm Administrator
- Corrections Officer
- Courtroom Deputy
- Court Interpreter
- Court Clerk
- Law Professor
- Law School Dean
- Law School Admissions Officer
- Legal Career Counselor
- Criminologist
- Public Policy
**Lawyer and Related Careers**

- **Lawyer**
  - LSAT Exam
  - Law School for Juris Doctorate (JD) Degree, or...
  - Dual Program for JD/PhD if you are interested in academics such as law professor, or JD/MA if you are interested in other fields related to law
  - Pass the State Bar Exam

- **Paralegal**
  - Complete Paralegal Certification Program. Associates, BA, and MA in Paralegal also available
  - Some programs will have specializations in: Bankruptcy, Corporate, Criminal Law, Immigration, Litigation, Intellectual Property
  - Internship or Field Experience is Typically Required

- **Criminologist**
  - Recommended: Masters in Criminal Justice or Criminologist, or...
  - PhD in Criminology, Law, and Society, or...
  - Masters or PhD in Psychology or Doctor of Psychology for a Criminal Psychologist
  - Some states require licenses
The LSAC

- Law School Admissions Council
  - The College Board of Law School
- Resources
  - CAS (Credential Assembly Service)
  - Quizzes
  - Information/ Data
- $195 (don’t pay until ready to apply)
- REQUIRED
- Stores Transcripts, LOR, and other Documents-- meant to make application process easier
The Application

- Apply a Year Ahead
- Rolling admissions
- 5 Components
  - GPA
  - LSAT/GRE
  - Letters of Recommendation
  - Resume
  - Transcripts
LSAT (Law School Admissions Test)

- Arguably the **MOST** important aspect of application
- Never take it for practice
- Recommended to it take 1-2 times
150
Average score on the LSAT
LSAT Cont.

○ Score between 120 and 180
○ Average is 150
○ Offered 6 times a year
○ Digital starting this July
○ 4 sections + experimental section + writing sample
  ◦ Reading Comprehension
  ◦ Analytical Reasoning
  ◦ Logical Reasoning x2
  ◦ Writing Sample
50th Percentiles:
- Stanford: 171
- Berkeley: 168
- USC: 166
- Los Angeles: 168
- Davis: 162

- Hastings: 158
- Santa Clara: 155
- USF: 152
- Golden Gate: 150

LSAC, June 2016 - February 2017 LSAT Score Distributions
Study for the LSAT!

- Test Prep Companies
- Self Study
- Tutors
GRE (Graduate Record Exam)

- About 20 schools accept the GRE
- If you take LSAT AND GRE, they will look at the LSAT
### GPA

- A+ is 4.33 for CAS GPA
- Most important after LSAT

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Letters of Recommendation

- Academic
- Who KNOWS you the best
- Usually need 2
- Quality vs. Quantity
Resume

- Should have an Academic focus
  - Remember, you’re a student first and foremost
- Academic achievements, leadership, activism, study abroad experiences
- Resumes are looked at for an average of 6 seconds so keep it short and sweet
- Stop by drop-ins to get that resume critiqued!
Personal Statement

- Present yourself as more than just GPA and LSAT numbers
- Academic/personal background, extra curriculars, work experience, etc (don’t repeat your resume)
- Why you want to study law or why you would be great at it
Supplemental Essays

● Diversity Statements
  ○ If anything about your upbringing makes you diverse
  ○ NOT mandatory

● Addendums
  ○ Extenuating circumstances, Low GPA or LSAT score, Disciplinary Actions, Emergencies
  ○ NOT a place for EXCUSES
  ○ Some schools require for LSAT score discrepancies
Law School Application Timeline

Junior Year
Develop relationships w/ Professors
Focus on Grades
Research Schools

Junior Year
Spring-Summer
Write Personal Statement
Study and take LSAT
Ask for Rec Letters

Senior Year
Spring
Make Decision about where to go for Law School!

Senior Year
Fall
Last LSAT
Finalize Application
Apply

Senior Year
Fall
Apply
Gap Year

- Decide ahead of time if you want to take a Gap Year
- Pros:
  - Life experience/ Gain full time work experiences (resume booster)
  - Study for LSAT
  - A break from school
  - Law Schools like it / could make you a stronger applicant
- BE PRODUCTIVE DURING YOUR GAP YEAR
BE THE STRONGEST CANDIDATE YOU CAN BE

Here's what you can be doing now:
Get Involved!

Get experience, have fun, make friends and add to your resume!

- Research
- Student Organizations
- Internships
3 On Campus Pre-Law Organizations

- Phi Alpha Delta, Pre Law Fraternity
- Pre Law Society
- Mock Trial
Go to law school fairs and/or the LSAC forum

- Meet and Talk to Law School Representatives
- Ask Questions!
Visit Law Schools

• Make it a goal to visit the schools you want to apply to

• Meet students, staff and representatives. Ask questions!

• Lots of schools let you sit in on classes!
Visit the Career Center

• Talk to your Pre-Law Advisor
• Get your resume critiqued
• Go to Pre-Law Workshops and Events

What we do: Pre-Law Services
• Drop Ins (Application guidelines and timeline)
• Advising Appointments (Handshake)
• Pre-Law Events and Workshops
Pre-Law Coaching Services

Connect with Career Center Pre-Law Coaching in a number of ways:

- Drop-Ins (with our Pre-Law Peer Coach)
- Coaching Appointments (with the Career Coach)
- Join our Listserv
- Workshops and Events

**Drop-Ins**

All drop-ins are on a first-come first-served basis and are 15 minutes for quick questions (resume critique, application and resources overview etc).

- Drop-Ins are:
  - Mondays, 10:00-12:30pm
  - Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00pm
Resources

- 7Sage.com (app and site)
  - Online proctor
  - Law School Master List
  - CAS GPA calculator
- Law School Numbers
- Discover Law
- Boston College Law School Locator
- Career Center Pre-Law Pages Etc.
THANKS!

Any questions?

Email pre-law@ucsc.edu

Also ask to join our email list!