



Law professionals agree that there are many different paths that will prepare you for a legal education. Determine if Law school is right for you by spending considerable time reflecting on the commitment needed to get a degree, required hours as a lawyer, various fields of law, type of careers available, and decide if it is a good fit for you.

Why law school/is law school right for you?

Do you feel the need to speak up on behalf of those who do not defend themselves? Are you motivated for social justice?

Before the Application:

Choose a major:

Law schools do not prefer specific majors. Choose a major you enjoy with courses that develop reading, logical thinking, writing and research skills. These will prepare you for communication and analytical skills; two important components to succeeding in law school.

Research fields and careers

- Review list of Law school specialties at lawschools.com/law-career-specialties
- Conduct informational interviews with lawyers
- Speak to alumni via the UCSC Alumni LinkedIn group
- Attend graduate school fairs or law school panel sessions.
- Test out a field by volunteering or interning at a legal office.
- *Be sure the career, the field, and law in general are right for you.

Sign up for our Pre-Law email site (prelaw@ucsc.edu), for information and updates on events.

Choosing a Law School

There are many things to consider in choosing a law school. A great source is the **Boston College Law School**

Locator (bc.edu/offices/careers/gradschool/law/lawlocator.html)

Things to consider:

ABA Approval: Some schools are not approved by the American Bar Association. Be sure to research bar admission limitations of such schools.

Curriculum and Special Programs: What is the range and quality of courses? Are courses offered in an area you may want to specialize in?

Bar Exam/Job: What is the success rate of graduates in passing the Bar?

Location: If you attend a school in the vicinity you wish to work, it will be easier to network and find a job after graduation.

Financial Support: What types of financial support are offered by the institution?

Cost: What are the costs of the program and how much can you afford?

Law School

Applying to Law School:

These application components are required by all ABA-approved law schools

Set up an LSAC account

The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) will help you complete and send out your Law School applications to the school applicants wish to enroll in. Make sure to become very familiar with LSAC.org as it is an almost essential tool when applying for Law School.

Register to take the LSAT

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is a test required for admission to all American Bar Association (ABA) approved school.

- The test consists of 5 sections. Four of the five sections are scored.

Reading Comprehension

Logical Reasoning

Logic Games

Writing Sample (not scored)

- LSAT scores range from 120 to 180, with the mean being about 150.

- The LSAT is offered four(4) times a year: June, October, December, and February.

Sign up for CAS

The Credential Assembly Service (CAS) is a great service provided by LSAC where applicants can combine all of the materials needed to apply (Transcripts, Letters of Recommendation, LSAT scores, Personal Statement) into one system. This is a great and easy way to have everything you need located in one place.

Write a personal statement

- Write a concise story with one or two points. Go for quality.

- Write a story about an activity that shows off your best qualities. Keep the focus on YOU.

- Don't write about your philosophy on law. You also do not have to write about your interest in law.

- Focus on activities that have happened since you have been in college.

- Follow all statement instructions. Answer all prompts completely.

- Write several drafts. This should be an A+ paper. Any less and the admission council will notice your lack of effort.

- This statement is a critical sample of your ability to write, as well as an opportunity to talk about yourself.

- Most schools are interested in learning what unique qualities and experiences you will contribute.

Register for the Credential Referral Service (CRS)

Help Law Schools find you! The CRS allows your Law School application information to be available to Law Schools and allows the opportunity to be found by schools that might not have been considered.

*Note: Not all schools are the same. The application requirements may slightly differ at every Law School so read the instructions carefully.

Next steps...

- Make an **appointment** with a career adviser

- Set up your LSAC account at LSAC.org

- Visit the Career Center's site for the application process, events, and more!

Checklist

- Make sure Law School is for you by researching different professions.
- Get involved in pre-law student organizations.
- Check out LSAC.org and set up an account.
- Attend a Law School fair on campus.
- Take the LSAT Junior or Senior year.
- Request professors for Letters of Recommendation.
- Write your personal statement.
- Set up a CAS account and send all of your undergrad transcripts to it.
- Complete all Law School application materials by November.

LSAT Prep Courses

Research which LSAT Prep course is best for you.

Blueprint: blueprintlsat.com
info@blueprintlsat.com

Kaplan: kaptest.com

Princeton Review:
princetonreview.com

Cabrillo College Extension:
ed2go.com/cabrillo/