



PRE-LAW PREPARATION TIMELINE CHECKLIST

The following checklist is designed with an ideal timetable for students or young professionals planning to apply for law school. Use the boxes to the left of the items to check off tasks as you complete them.

GENERAL ADVICE REGARDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

- Take courses that align with your academic interests
- Visit your professors' and advisors' office hours, this will help you build relationships and make requesting recommendations easier
- Select a major in which you are interested in and excel in academically
- Take advantage of opportunities to learn outside of the classroom through internships and/or summer jobs

22 - 24 MONTHS BEFORE 1L

- Meet with a staff member at The Career Center to discuss your plans
- Prepare a resume if you have not already
- Register for a free account at LSAC.org
- Create a study plan for the LSAT (most students require 3-6 months of study)
- If you feel adequately prepared, register for the June sitting of the LSAT
- Conduct thorough school research using [LSAC's Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools](#)

18-20 MONTHS BEFORE 1L

- Sign up for LSAC's Credential Assemblyd Services, which is where your Law school applications will eventually be completed
- Short-list potential recommenders
- Create an outline for your personal and diversity statements
- Attend local law school fairs and complete campus visits if possible
- Create a reach, target, and safety list of schools

**FLIP TO THE BACK OF THIS
HANDOUT FOR ADDITIONAL
CHECKLIST ITEMS**



PRE-LAW PREPARATION TIMELINE CHECKLIST

12-14 MONTHS BEFORE 1L

- Complete your FAFSA & research [other aid options](#)
- Take the LSAT (with Writing)
- Finalize your personal and diversity statements
- Submit all required application documents through the Credential Assembly Service on LSAC.org

6 MONTHS BEFORE 1L

- Compare your acceptances and aid offers
- Decide if you are applying for a loan
- Visit your top two to three schools (if you haven't already) prior to making your deposit

HELPFUL HINTS

- The optimal time to take the LSAT is June of the year you apply, but taking the test in late September/early October will allow you to see your LSAT score before applying in November.
- While there is no official minimum LSAT score required to apply to law school, you generally do not want to submit a score below 150.
- LSAC will report the results of all LSATs you have taken within five years; however, you may find some schools willing to consider only scores received within a three- or four-year period.
- Personal statements are typically two double-spaced pages. If schools don't provide guidelines on length, try to keep your statement to two pages.
- At least one letter of recommendation should be from a professor in your undergraduate major, if possible.
- It is both accepted and common for Law school applicants to take a "gap year(s)" before beginning 1L. This time can be used to prepare for the LSAT as well as other meaningful activities such as working, interning, or volunteering.

HELPFUL LINKS

- [Law School Application Costs](#)
- [Create Your Law School Application](#)
- [LSAC LawHub® to Access Free and Affordable LSAT Preparation](#)
- [Khan Academy LSAT Prep](#)