

Checklist for Applying to Law School

- Submit Information Form to Pre-Law Advisor [electronic form, web site]**
- Take review course for LSAT**
- Consider LSAC Fee Waiver [Info in Pre-Law Bookshelf]**
- Take LSAT early enough to repeat it if necessary**
 - Maybe take review course second time or take self-taught course if necessary to take LSAT again
 - Take LSAT second time if necessary
- Register with LSDAS**
- Clean up social networking sites (like Facebook, MySpace, etc.)**
- Write “core” personal statement**
 - Review PowerPoint Notes at <http://webdev.loyola.edu/prelaw>
 - 2 pages **MAX**
 - Double-spaced
 - Personal
 - Interesting

- Unique
- Sink the hook
- Link to “the legal enterprise” [not to why I want to go to law school]
- Make appointment with Writing Center to go over statement
- After Writing Center, use faculty member to read and advise re statement
- Give faculty member a polished, typed draft of your statement
- Meet with faculty member to go over statement
- AFTER THE ABOVE**, Revise statement and e-mail to Pre-Law Advisor
- Discuss statement with Pre-Law Advisor for final changes [if any]
- Modify “core statement” as needed to fit the particular law schools
- Get letters of recommendation**
 - Two or three letters
 - 1st: classroom professor
 - 2nd: classroom professor
 - 3rd: outsider employer, etc.
 - Do not presume you are entitled to a letter.

- Ask letter writer if he/she can write “strong letter.”

- Special topics for letter writers [optional]
 - Why your grades are so bad
 - Why your LSAT is so low
 - What unique talents you bring to law [language, experience, service, etc.]

- Give each letter writer:
 - LSDAS Letter of Recommendation Form – completed, signed
 - Stamped envelope, addressed to LSDAS
 - Transcript [unofficial copy]
 - Resumé
 - Writing sample (preferably from class taught by the letter writer)
 - Do this way ahead of time, especially with certain professors
 - Tell letter writers that Pre-Law Advisor said it is important that letters not be delayed.
 - After one week, send letter writer a thank you note (or an expensive gift)
 - Two week follow-up.
 - Three week follow-up

- Then contact Pre-Law Advisor if still no letter

- “Special letters”
 - Individually arranged between you and the writer.
 - Usually goes directly to the law school, not through LSDAS

- Select law schools**
 - Consider waiver of application fees [individually, per school]

 - Consider subjective evaluation factors
 - Where you go is *probably* where you will start out practicing.
 - In-state tuition

 - Two or three “long shots”

 - Two or three “safe” schools

 - Five or so schools “in range”

 - Create “Debt Analysis” for each law school to which you are applying

 - Assess probabilities of admission with
 - Use Boston College On-Line Locator re admission chances
 - ***ABA-LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools*** [This is the best guide; available Beatty 3rd floor bookcase and in library on reserve under Pre-Law Advisor’s name.]

- Use MAPLA Law School Admissions Profiles [Pre-Law Bookshelf, Beatty 3rd floor]

- Submit unofficial transcript or WebAdvisor printout to Pre-Law Advisor

- Submit Law School Selection Form to Pre-Law Advisor [electronic form, web site]

- After the above*, Make appointment with Pre-Law Advisor to go over law school selections
 - Consult Pre-Law Advisor concerning any addendums to the applications

- Complete on-line law school applications**

- For minority candidates: consider Legal Opportunity Scholarship [See Pre-Law Advisor]