

Thinking About Law School

Why Go To Law School?

A law degree is considered prestigious for its intellectual rigor. A legal education offers a fair amount of flexibility and can open doors to various opportunities such as public interest, corporate and commercial, and international affairs. Many employers recognize that law school graduates can offer them a broad range of skills including analytical reasoning, research, oral communication and critical analysis of written works.



Law schools generally confer two degrees:

JD

Juris Doctor

3-year degree program

- Requires LSAT (Law School Admissions Test) in the admission process
- Required to practice law in the US

LL.M.

Master of Laws

1-year degree program

- Requires a bachelor degree in law for admission
- Not necessary to take the LSAT to apply

How to Obtain Information About Law School?



Explore the different areas of law, such as corporate, family, environmental, public interest work.

Review books or online resources on the legal profession.

Attend career panels and info sessions including legal representatives to help you in your exploration. The Career Development Center (CDC) often sponsors events that provide students further insight into the legal profession.



Conduct informational interviews and shadow attorneys. **Talk** to staff/faculty/NYUSH alumni who went to law schools.

Contact law schools to find out if they would allow you to visit their facilities when you study abroad.

Contact the NYU School of Law to inquire about attending a first-year class as a prospective applicant when you study abroad.

How To Gain Relevant Experience?

- **Intern/volunteer with** with a law firm or organizations that will provide legal exposure such as government agencies, non-profits, human rights organizations, community centers, etc.



- **Use social media sites** like LinkedIn to join law-related groups. Many firms post positions directly on LinkedIn.



- **Join a relevant club** on campus where you can network with law professionals in order to find out about opportunities at their firms.



Tips For Your Resume

- ☆ **Civic engagement** can showcase your understanding of law and society, challenge your intellect, and demonstrate your commitment to others. Engagement in your community through volunteerism and service helps you develop social awareness, cultural competency, and a sense of civic responsibility.
- ☆ **Relevant courses** that have taught you important theoretical knowledge for the field of law. Projects that relate to the field of law or where you had to work with a group of people for a common goal.
- ☆ **GPA** if it is above 3.5 and any other academic honors.
- ☆ **Leadership roles** both at NYU Shanghai and outside of school.
Do not include high school items. Focus on your college success.
 - Attend resume and cover letter workshop and make a career counseling appointment at CDC to help you refine your application documents

Starting The Application Process



Create a top-10 list of law schools that interest you and contact the admissions office to attend an open house if you can.



Look for a program that coincides with your interests and one where you meet the admissions requirements.



Contact the flagship law school in your preferred city, since there is likely an established pipeline between law firms and that law school.



Think about the kinds of facilities the school offers, such as its faculty, career services, libraries and tutorials, the focus of its curriculum, its student associations and its placement rate.

What Do Law Schools Look For In Candidates?

Primary Requirements

- Competitive LSAT scores
- A broad-based education
- A strong GPA in a solid undergraduate curriculum
- Strong letters of recommendation. Most law schools require two letters of recommendation from faculty, including one from a professor within your department

Secondary Requirements

- Demonstrated academic or community leadership roles
- Work experience, including internships and volunteer work that is relevant to the specific area of law
- Having a diverse background in classes, experiences and professional maturity
- Cultural experiences

Preparing For The LSAT

If you want to attend law school immediately after graduation, you should plan to take the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) in June following your junior year, or at the latest in September/October of your senior year. Taking it later will delay your application, which could affect your eventual acceptance. It is recommended to take the LSAT once unless extraordinary circumstances affect your score. If you retake the LSAT, test scores will be treated differently by each school -- most take your highest score, some will average your scores, and some take the most recent one. The expiry date for LSAT results is usually 5 years. You can obtain an information booklet describing the LSAT through the Law School Admission Council. The booklet also provides information regarding upcoming test dates. Consider taking a commercial prep course to improve your score.

For more information: <http://lsac.org/jd/lsat/>



The Next LSAT Test Dates

January 16, 2021
February 20, 2021
April 10, 2021



The Available Test Centers in China

Shanghai - Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
Beijing - Beijing Foreign Studies University
Guangzhou - Guangdong University of Foreign Studies;
Hong Kong - Hong Kong Examinations & Assessment Authority San Po Kong Office

When To Apply?

Most law schools admit students in the fall semester. Start applying for admission at least one year before your desired date of enrollment. Get your applications in as early as possible; preferably by late November. Law schools generally respond more quickly and favorably to early applications.

01

Applications available

Toward the end of the summer with deadlines beginning mid-fall

02

Get your applications in

As early as possible, preferably by late November

03

Decisions available

Decisions may be made as early as mid-December or as late as June of the following year.

Selected Online Resources For Research

Discover Law: www.discoverlaw.org

Law School Admissions Council: www.lsac.org

American Bar Association: www.abanet.org

Internet Legal Research Group: www.ilrg.com

CAS Pre-Law Program Resources: www.cas.nyu.edu/prelaw

NYU Pre-professional Advising Center Law School Guidebook: www.cas.nyu.edu/prelaw/handbook

Applying to Law School: www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/applying

If you have any questions or need help with finding, deciding and applying to law school, visit the CDC for individual advice. Be sure to schedule an appointment online or come to our walk-in hours.