

PRE-LAW RESOURCES

When reviewing law school options, there are a variety of potential paths that students can choose to pursue; however, the most common is attending school to pursue a JD (Juris Doctor). Once you have obtained a JD, you will then need to sit for the Bar examination (a multi-day test) to obtain a license to practice law in your state.

When considering law school, it can be helpful to have a sense of what type of law you wish to pursue, as that may inform your choice of schools. Many schools now offer concentrations in specific areas and some allow you to add a master's degree in a complementary subject to your JD. Once you are ready to apply, you should carefully review the admission requirements for each program you plan to apply to and the guidelines on the **Credential Assembly Service (CAS)**, which is the application portal used by schools run by the **Law School Admission Council (LSAC)**. Other things to consider when applying to law schools include:

- You can view a list of [accredited programs](#) via the American Bar Association website.
- Law programs require applicants to take the LSAT, and required scores vary from school to school. Check with each program's requirements on minimum scores.
- The median LSAT score is 152. See the Princeton Review website for information on LSAT scores in relation to law school admittance [here](#).
- Most schools require applications to be submitted through the Credential Assembly Service, or [CAS](#). You can make your account and seek more information [here](#). It is important to know that some schools may require additional information, so be sure to check the admission procedures for each school to ensure you submit all the required materials and that they are sent to the correct location.
- Schools using CAS usually open their applications in September and October for admission the following fall semester.
- Many law schools use rolling admissions, which is when programs review applications and admit students as they receive their materials, rather than waiting to review all applicants after the deadline for admission has passed. It is important to apply early to have the best chance of being accepted.
- The entire application process takes a considerable amount of time, so it is good practice to begin preparing your materials before applications open.
- Many students take a gap year when preparing for law school in order to obtain meaningful experience and study for the LSAT. Some types of experience that will increase the competitiveness of your application may include internships at a local law firm, legal research, public policy work, or volunteering with a nonprofit focused on providing legal assistance. If you are unsure of where to gain experience, talk with a pre-professional advisor or contact the programs you wish to apply for.
- Be sure to keep a record of all the schools you apply to, and the outcomes, as some states require this information as part of the Bar Examination.
- You can view more pre-law student resources and learn about Georgia College's Pre-Law Society [here](#).

PREREQUISITE COURSES

Most common prerequisite courses

Introduction to Law – POLS 2350

Legal Research & Writing – POLS 3361

Civil Law & Civil Practice – POLS 3363

The American Judicial System – POLS 3315

Constitutional Law I – POLS 4306

Constitutional Law II – POLS 4307

Constitutional Law III – POLS 4950

Required prerequisites can vary from program to program. Be sure to check with each school of interest for their required courses.

***Talk with your academic advisor before choosing courses!*

LSAT PREPARATION

Law programs require prospective students to take the **Law School Admission Test (LSAT)**. Many schools require you to take the test prior to December for admission the following fall semester, however, most recommend taking it as early as possible. It is important that you thoroughly read each school's website to ensure that you have followed their procedure for testing. The LSAT is made up of

five sections of multiple-choice questions: Logical Reasoning (two separate sections), Analytical Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, and one section that could fall into any category but is unscored. In addition to the multiple-choice questions, there is a separate writing test required as part of the exam. Each portion of the exam is scheduled for 35 minutes. Tests are conducted once a month and you can register for the LSAT [here](#). It is highly suggested that you spend time prior to your test date familiarizing yourself with the types of questions in each section, which you can do by taking a prep course, or you can buy study books online that contain practice tests and examples. The LSAT has partnered with the Khan Academy and offers a variety of free resource materials, including study aides, [here](#). Check the CAS website and the admission page of each school you are applying to ensure that you are submitting test scores by the correct date. Also note that you can retake the LSAT, but that you are limited to three attempts over a two-year period.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS & SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS

Personal statements used to apply to law schools should be program specific so be sure to check each program so that you can address their prompt fully. When applying through the Credential Assembly Service, CAS, they will forward your information to the schools you select including each individual personal statement. Pay attention to the character count allotted for each essay and remember that this could take spaces into account! Follow the instructions listed carefully to ensure that you follow all of the parameters set. You should start writing your personal statement early so that you can get adequate feedback prior to submitting your application.

Supplemental applications could also be a requirement of the programs you are applying to. Some programs require additional material for their application that may be sent out after receiving your initial application. It is important to thoroughly read the requirements of each program that you apply to as they could differ drastically. Supplemental materials could include additional essays, questionnaires, etc.

THE LAW SCHOOL REPORT

A **Law School Report** will be indicated on your CAS application. The report is put together by LSAC and consists of each applicants basic information, including LSAT scores and a copy of the LSAT writing sample, an “academic summary” they compile from the transcripts you submit, copies of all of your transcripts, and copies of your recommendation letters. Note that there is separate fee from the initial CAS fee for each report that you send to an individual school.

RESUME

Unlike many other graduate and/or professional schools, law schools ask that you submit a **resume** as opposed to a CV. It should be written and uploaded to the CAS as part of your application process. If you need assistance with your resume and guidance on how to tailor it to appeal to law schools, the graduate and preprofessional advisors in the Career Center can assist you.

OBTAINING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION/EVALUATIONS

Developing meaningful relationships with faculty is vital when seeking **letters of recommendation**. Begin thinking about faculty who you have (or will have) taken several classes with, have similar interests with, or that you feel a connection to, so that you can begin building those relationships from day one. Remember that a person’s title is not near as important as how well they know you as a student and as a person. When requesting letters of recommendation, quality outweighs quantity, but law schools generally ask for three to five letters. The CAS requires each applicant to provide the information of the person writing the recommendation and then they contact that person directly. Thoroughly read the instructions from each program you are applying to and on the CAS to ensure you are following the guidelines.

When asking for letters, remember to be gracious and *ask* for the letter. “Would you be willing to,” is usually a good way to start the conversation rather than demanding that they write you a letter. Faculty expect you to ask, and they will most likely agree as long as they feel comfortable speaking on your behalf. Be sure to give the faculty member, lawyer, or whomever you plan to ask plenty of notice, generally a month is suggested. Providing a resume, CV, personal statement, or some other document will show that you are serious about obtaining a letter and give the faculty member some reference as to what you want them to talk about. ALWAYS REMEMBER TO THANK YOUR REFERENCES!

INTERVIEWING PREPARATION

When preparing for **law school interviews**, a lot of the same rules apply as with most job interviews. Remember to dress accordingly to interview etiquette and conduct yourself in a professional manner. On Handshake, you can view the Career Center’s “Dress for Success” handouts by clicking on the *Resources* tab. In addition, you want to be sure that you practice ahead of time. “Why do you want to be a lawyer?” or “Why our program?” are common types of questions that you want to be sure and prepare for. To become more familiar with interview questions and preparation, make an appointment with a pre-professional advisor.

Also, you will want to prepare your own questions to ask. Much like job interviews, you are interviewing the school and program just like they are interviewing you. Finding a good fit is important for you to thrive in a program. Once the interview is over, it is always a good idea to write thank you notes. These can be via email or hand-written. Making it to the interview stage is a huge feat, so you want to make sure that you make the best impression!

TIMELINE

Year 1	Meet with a pre-professional advisor to start building your timeline and to explore options and opportunities available to you.	Use the Learning Center for Supplemental Instruction to maintain a strong GPA from day one!	Register for professional memberships and newsletters to stay up to date on events and information. Join clubs on campus that focus on building strengths utilized in legal careers such as debate. Consider becoming a member of the Pre-Law Society.	Explore legal careers using Focus2 and the Occupational Outlook Handbook, as well as attending the Graduate & Professional School Fair.
Summer 1	<p><i>*Work with the Career Center to start building your resume to prepare your applications for summer experiences*</i></p> <p>Volunteer at law or government offices and keep a journal about your experiences. Other summer experiences could include research with a faculty member, working with a legal nonprofit, or volunteering with special interest groups.</p>			
Year 2	Assess academic standing and plans for completing prerequisite courses with your academic advisor.	Identify and connect with faculty for mentorship, research opportunities, and professional advice.	Seek out campus leadership opportunities.	Continue gaining experience in your field as mentioned above. Attend the Graduate & Professional School Fair to continue growing your network and knowledge of programs available.
Summer 2	<p><i>*Work with a pre-professional advisor to begin looking at schools/programs of interest and choose several*</i></p> <p>Start familiarizing yourself with the LSAT and the law school application process, including the Central Application Service (CAS). Continue to gain meaningful internship and volunteer experiences. Create a budget that will include the LSAT, test preparation, and application fees for each program of interest including secondary application fees.</p>			
Year 3	Begin preparing for the LSAT by registering for a course or utilizing the free online prep materials and choose a test date by the start of your second semester.	Consider what faculty, advisors, and mentors could potentially write letters of recommendation and consult with them so that you can include their names on your CAS application.	Take the LSAT and plan to have your final score available in the fall so that you can be ready to start applying if you are not taking a gap year.	Discuss alternatives with a pre-professional advisor in case of a needed gap year or change in career plans. Attend the Graduate & Professional School Fair to explore your options.
Summer 3	<p>Continue involvement, research, and/or meaningful volunteering that can be added to your experiences when applying. Keep regular contact with a Career Center advisor to fine tune your application strategy, schools of interest, personal statements, and be sure to consult your academic advisor about your class standing and any outstanding pre-requisites. Take the LSAT if you have not done so already.</p>			
Year 4	Applications in the CAS system will open in September, so you will want to complete and submit your application and any secondary application requirements as early as possible.	Complete secondary applications/essays as requested and then prepare with the Career Center for interviews with prospective law schools.	Evaluate acceptance offers and talk with your pre-professional advisor for guidance.	Consider if a gap year would be in your best interest. If you decide on a gap year, begin by preparing to sign up for the LSAT for the upcoming summer.