



Five Steps to Law School

Step 2: Make a Plan

Time: October-April

Central Questions:

1. *When (which year) is the best time for me to begin law school?*

a. Elements to consider (if you answer “no” to any question, return to Step 1, Self-Assessment)

1. Are you comfortable with your answers in Step 1?
2. Are you satisfied with your grades?
3. Can you afford to go to law school at this time?
 - a. Consider part/full time
 - b. Request a credit report – you will need to borrow money.
4. Do you have any “unfinished business?”
5. Have you discussed this decision with your family?
6. Are you prepared to continue/re-start your education for 3 more years?

2. *Am I able to identify 2 or 3 people to write letters of support?*

- a. On mentoring: <http://www.doscoll.uchicago.edu/life/mentors.html>
- b. On how to ask for a letter: <http://www.doscoll.uchicago.edu/information/letters.html>
- c. On letters for law school: <http://www.pre-law.uchicago.edu>

3. When you have satisfactory answers to questions 1 & 2, purchase a calendar & establish a timetable. If you do not have sufficient letters from people who know you well, consider delaying the application and developing a strategy to obtain strong letters. The prelaw adviser can help.

a. Set your application deadlines for some time between September 1 & November 30.

Now go on to Step 3: The Pre-Application Process