



Harper Memorial Library

Five Steps to Law School

Step 3: The Pre-Application Process

Time: January-April (6-9 months preceding application deadline)

The LSAT

For information on the LSAT, go to www.lsac.org and pick up a copy of the LSAC & LSDAS Registration and Information Book from the wall racks near the advising desk, Harper 2nd floor.

Questions about the LSAT

1. *When should I take the LSAT?*
 - a. When you are ready, but try to avoid October/December of the year you apply.
 1. Tests are offered February, June, October, December.
2. *How long should I take to prepare?*
 - a. Begin preparing 1-2 quarters in advance of the test date.
 1. Study old exams (available from the LSAC).
 2. Consider taking three classes during the quarter in which you take the exam so that you have enough time to study.
3. *How many times should I take the LSAT?*
 - a. Once, or if it was a disaster (talk to the prelaw adviser), twice.
4. *What does it test?*
 - a. Reading comprehension, critical reasoning, logic. It also has an ungraded writing section.
5. *How do I register?*
 - a. Go to www.lsac.org. It currently costs \$112.
6. *Should I take an LSAT class?*
 - a. Only if you are certain that it is necessary. They cost ~\$1,100.
 - b. For options see UC *Pre-Law Guide*: <http://pre-law.uchicago.edu/guide/app.html>.



**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEAN OF STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE**

The LSDAS (register for it two months before you apply)

1. *What is the Law School Data Assembly Service?*
 - a. A section of the LSAC that collects/distributes transcript & letters. Its currently costs \$103.
 - b. Please check “yes” to allow the LSAC to share your information with the prelaw adviser!
2. Sign up for the Candidate Referral Service (CRS) – its free!
 - a. CRS shares your personal profile with law schools – they may contact you directly.

Letters of Recommendation (request after you have set up the LSDAS file)

1. The LSDAS will send up to four to each school. Three or four letters is generally better than one or two if every letter is strong.
2. Give your recommenders one month *minimum* to write for you and the LSDAS 1-2 weeks to receive and process the letter.
3. Request a meeting to discuss a possible letter, but (unless one of you is out of town) meet the writer in person to seal the deal.
4. The LSCAS will store letters for up to five years. Interfolio.com also offers a letter storage service, but read the law FAQ carefully. All reference letters must be signed.

Now go on to Step 4: Researching Institutions