

Harper Memorial Library

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEAN OF STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE

Five Steps to Law School

Step 5: Select and Apply

Time: August of the year of application

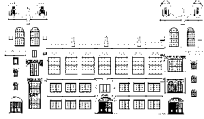
Selecting schools

1. Cut list of “Law schools I would attend” to ~10 (applications cost \$50-\$75 each).
 - a. Bracket selections based on your LSAT/GPA, cost, & reputation.
 - b. A reasonable bracketed selection of 10 schools will include.
 - a. Three “reach” schools (“*Its my dream to attend...*”)
 - i. You fall in the bottom quartile based on LSAT/GPA
 - b. Four “realistic” choices (“*There is a 50/50 chance that I will get in to...*”)
 - i. You fall within the published 25th – 50th percentile LSAT/GPA
 - c. Three “safe” choices (“*I would be surprised if I did not get in to...*”)
 - i. You fall in the top quartile based on LSAT/GPA

Note: Never apply to a school that you would not attend should you be accepted to it alone!

The Application

1. Applications are generally available September 1.
 - a. Apply early – October-December.
 1. If you are in school, try to have the applications done by October 1.
 2. Why? Classes + job search + BA thesis + friends = **distractions**.
 - b. October LSAT takers can complete applications in advance and submit after receiving the score. December testers should speak to the prelaw adviser.
 - c. LSACD on the Web is an online application too that is worth the money for more than three or four schools.



Harper Memorial Library

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

2. Personal statement

- a. Expect that this will take 4-6 weeks to write.
 - a. Look at previous year's applications for the questions (they don't change).
 - b. Write for a specific question.
- b. Law schools want to know:
 - a. Who you are.
 - b. Why you are a unique person.
 - c. What your passions lie.
 - d. How to distinguish you from other applicants.
 - e. *Committees do not always want to know ONLY why you want to be a lawyer.*

3. Supplemental/optional essays

- a. Always take option – more information is better.
 - a. If you visited a school and really love it, say why in 2 paragraphs.

4. Questions about your record? Are there skeletons in your closet?

- a. Write an addendum to explain. This is required when your records shows:
 - a. You have been on academic probation.
 - b. You were arrested (even if it wasn't your fault).
 - c. You appeared before the College Discipline Committee.

This outline is designed to provide a general overview. If you have any questions, refer to the prelaw web page (<http://pre-law.uchicago.edu/>) or make an appointment (University of Chicago students and alumni only) with the prelaw adviser by calling 702-7040. Good luck!