

THE APPLICATION PROCESS— FAQ'S

What factors are most important for admission to law school?

GPA and LSAT

Two primary factors for admission to law school are your grade point average (GPA) and your Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score. Law schools vary in the weight they accord to each, but some schools give the LSAT significantly more weight. Thus, it is important both to keep your grades up and to prepare thoroughly for the LSAT. Most schools will take account of trends in your undergraduate performance; if you had a bad first year and then improved your grades, it will be noted.

What else will the admissions committee consider?

Personal statement. Your personal statement gives you the chance to set yourself apart from other applicants. What are your accomplishments? What unique experiences have you had? What difficulties have you overcome? Use the personal statement to show the Admissions Committee what is special about you. Make certain that you show the personal statement to your pre-law adviser.

Letters of recommendation. Many law schools require two or more letters of recommendation. These letters should be from professors or employers who know you well enough to comment on your abilities, work habits, and character. Vague letters from people who do not know you well are not helpful.

Work experience. Law schools are interested in work experience that shows motivation and a capacity to succeed in a nonacademic environment. Especially if you are waiting several years after graduation to apply to law school, as many students do, this work experience will be considered.

Personal and academic integrity. Law school applications require you to report any violations of Yeshiva University's social and academic integrity codes as well as any criminal convictions. Some schools will require a Dean's certification in which the Dean indicates whether the student has any violations on his record.

What is the Law School Admissions Council ("LSAC")?

The Law School Admissions Council streamlines the process for applying to law school. The LSAC website is located at lsac.org. Students can use this site to:

- Register for the LSAT
- Purchase study materials

- Sign up for Credentials Assembly Service (CAS)
- Research schools
- Complete online applications
- Utilize the letters of recommendation and evaluation service

What is the Credential Assembly Service (“CAS”)?

The CAS compiles and summarizes information about each applicant. This summary is called a law school report and is sent to each school the applicant applies to. The law school report includes the applicant’s LSAT scores, writing samples, undergraduate and graduate grades as well as some biographical information. CAS also offers a letter of recommendation and evaluation service. Most American Bar Association (“ABA”) approved law schools require applicants to subscribe to CAS.

Applicants can sign up for CAS on the LSAC website located at lsac.org. There is a onetime fee of \$195. The CAS account is active for 5 years from the date it is set up. Fee waivers may be granted in cases of extreme need.

In order for CAS to compile a law school report applicants must:

- Create an LSAC Account
- Make sure they have a reportable LSAT Score
- Provide information about the schools they have attended to LSAC
- Print and sign a transcript request form and formally request a transcript from the registrar of each and every post-secondary university they have attended. The transcript will then be sent directly to LSAC.

Applicants can sign up for CAS at the same time they register for the LSAT but are not required to do both simultaneously. However, applicants should pay the CAS fee and complete the above steps at least 4-6 weeks before their first law school application deadline.

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