

PRE-LAW RESOURCES

This handout is designed to provide students a general guide to applying to law schools. For further assistance, please schedule an appointment with a Career Advisor.



CAREER CENTER

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

110 Lanier Hall | 478-445-5384 | career.center@gcsu.edu
gcsu.joinhandshake.com

QUICK FACTS

To practice law in the United States, one must receive licensure through the **American Bar Association (ABA)** - www.americanbar.org). The standard pathway to earn licensure is to first earn a **Juris Doctor (JD)** from an ABA accredited law school before taking and passing the **Bar examination**. Almost all states require a student to earn their JD before they take the Bar exam. The law school application process can feel overwhelming at times, but with the right support and preparation, it becomes a manageable and rewarding journey.

Here are some general aspects to consider when looking into specific programs:

- Applications usually require the following: **minimum GPA, a resume or CV, standardized test scores, an application submitted through the common application system, letters of recommendation, an admissions essay, and an interview.** Thoroughly read through the requirements each school/program has for admission.
- The **Law School Admission Test (LSAT)** is a required standardized test all law students must take as part of the application process.
- Most schools will require you to use the **Credential Assembly Service (CAS)** application portal run by the **Law School Admission Council (LSAC)** - www.lsac.org).

COMMON APPLICATION SERVICES (CAS)

Credential Assembly Service (CAS)

- Most schools will require you to use the **Credential Assembly Service (CAS)** application portal run by the **Law School Admission Council (LSAC)** - www.lsac.org).
- **Schools that use CAS usually open applications in September or October,**
 - Many schools use **rolling admissions**. It is recommended to submit your application earlier rather than later.
 - It's recommended to begin preparing your materials before applications open because the process takes a long time.
 - Some schools will require additional materials to be submitted, so be sure to **carefully review all admission procedures as you apply.**
 - You can find more information on CAS and create your account on the LSAC website:

www.lsac.org/applying-law-school/jd-application-process

- Included in your CAS application is a **Law School Report**. This report is put together by LSAC for the law schools you apply to. It consists of your basic information, including LSAT scores, a copy of the LSAT writing sample, an academic summary compiled from the transcripts that you submit, copies of all your transcripts, and copies of your letters of recommendation.
 - **NOTE:** There is a fee separate from the initial CAS fee for each report you send to an individual school.

LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TEST (LSAT)

Law School Admission Test (LSAT) - www.lsac.org/lSAT.

- **What is the LSAT?**
 - **The Law School Admission Test (LSAT)** is a standardized test that consists of four sections: **Logical Reasoning, Analytical Reasoning, Reading Comprehension**, and one unscored variable section.
 - Each section is scheduled for 35 minutes.
- **Take the test early!**
 - Many schools require you to have completed the LSAT **before December** for admission the following fall semester, **but it's recommended to take the test 12-6 months before you applications open.**
 - Make sure to check the websites of schools you apply for to ensure that you are following their testing procedures and keeping track of deadlines.
 - The LSAT is conducted **once a month**, and you will need to register beforehand through LSAC.
 - **You can retake the exam up to three times over a two-year period.**
 - It is highly recommended that you spend time before the test studying and practicing, which can be done by enrolling in a prep course or purchasing study books that contain practice tests and examples.
 - **The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC)** also offers a variety of free resource materials, including study aides, which can be found at www.lsac.org/lSAT/prep.
 - You can find more information on LSAT scores compared to law school admittance on The Princeton Review website - www.princetonreview.com/.

COMMON COURSES

Introduction to Law
Legal Research & Writing
The American Judicial System
Constitutional Law I, II, III

Philosophy of Law
Logical & Critical Thinking
Legal Environment of Business

****This list is not exhaustive. Please consult your academic advisor prior to registering for classes.**

KEY NUMBERS

- Median GPA Range: **3.0-3.9**
- Median LSAT Range: **146-170**

***Check with each individual school for their GPA and score requirements.**

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PRE-LAW AT GCSU

Students are not restricted to a specific major to be considered pre-law. **GCSU has pre-law mentors in various departments across campus.** These faculty and staff members are here to help guide you as you navigate law school applications.

- To view our pre-law mentors, please visit the Career Center: www.gcsu.edu/career

Philosophy, Pre-Law Concentration

- Students may complete a concentration in Pre-Law as part of a Philosophy major by completing ethics and theory-based courses designed to help prepare students for studying law.
 - Visit: www.gcsu.edu/artsandsciences/philosophy/philosophy-ba

Legal Studies Certificate

- GCSU also offers a **certificate in Legal Studies**. The certificate prepares students with practical knowledge on navigating the regulatory environment of the business world.
 - Visit www.gcsu.edu/business/accounting/legal-studies-certificate for more information on applying and requirements.

RESOURCES

American Bar Association:

<https://www.americanbar.org/>

Credential Assembly Service:

<https://www.lsac.org/applying-law-school/jd-application-process/credential-assembly-service-cas>

GCSU Legal Studies Certificate:

<https://www.gcsu.edu/business/accounting/legal-studies-certificate>

Pre-Law at GCSU:

<https://www.gcsu.edu/career/pre-professional-graduate-school-planning#prelaw>

Pre-Law Concentration, Philosophy B.A.

<https://www.gcsu.edu/artsandsciences/philosophy/philosophy-ba>

Law School Admissions Council:

<https://www.lsac.org/>

LSAC - Application Process:

<https://www.lsac.org/applying-law-school/jd-application-process/>

LSAC - Test Prep

<https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/prep>

Law School Admission Test:

<https://www.lsac.org/lSAT>

LSAT Registration:

<https://lsac.org/Logon/Access.aspx>

Princeton Review - Find your dream Law School:

<https://www.princetonreview.com/law-school?ceid=lss-article-body>

Princeton Review - LSAT Scores:

<https://www.princetonreview.com/law-school-advice/lSAT-scores>