

Graduate/Professional School Planning: Law School Search and Application Checklist

What You Will Need for Most Applications

- LSAC account to sign-up for the LSAT and complete law school applications
- Take the LSAT early enough so you can take it again, if needed.
- Letters of recommendation from faculty or previous supervisors in the field you are pursuing
- Transcripts from all colleges attended (you'll most likely have to send your final one after graduation as well)
- Personal Statement or Letter of Intent
- Interview (depends on the program but will be necessary for any scholarships).
- Resume or Vitae (Even if the application doesn't ask for it, you will need one after you graduate. We promise. Get feedback from the Career Center so you are on the right track.)
- Campus Visit (optional but highly recommended)

Researching Programs – Start no later than early senior year, but junior year or earlier is best

- Pick-up a free **Graduate School Guide** from the University Career Center and use the publication's website. www.graduateguide.com to research potential programs. These are available each fall in 110 Lanier.
- Start your research early! You will need to begin your search early enough to meet application deadlines. If you plan to enroll in August after your May graduation, you should begin researching programs early in your senior year if not before.
- Reach out to the admissions office for each program and ask questions. Never make assumptions or underestimate their ability to help you be a successful applicant.
- Use LinkedIn to network with alumni who are attorneys or currently attending law school. Where did they attend?
- Check the ABA website for accredited or provisionally accredited law schools:
http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/aba_approved_law_schools.html
- Check the LSAC website to find out how your GPA and LSAT score match various law schools:
<https://officialguide.lsac.org/release/ugpalsat/ugpalsat.aspx>

Testing Resources

- Companies such as Princeton Review and Kaplan offer free online resources as well as fee-based courses and materials.
- LSAC also offers materials for purchase.

Applying – Be Ready to Start the Summer Before or Early Fall Senior Year

- Choose at least five programs and begin collecting your application materials such as **letters of recommendation**. Make an appointment with those individuals that are writing recommendation so you can discuss your goals. Provide them with a resume.
- Pay close attention to when the program reviews applications. Many schools have rolling admissions deadlines and will review applications as they arrive. Check scholarship deadlines too. In this case, spots could be filled by the posted deadline.
- Write a meaningful **personal statement**. Faculty and the Career Center can help with reviews.
- Take any tests needed for admission.
- Meet with the Career Center to complete a mock interview and resume review. A resume and interview may be required for admission and most always is required for assistantships, internships, and scholarships.
- Attend the **Graduate & Professional School Fair** in the fall to talk to programs you have applied to or to meet with any new ones.
- Visiting programs and contacting individual faculty members can help you narrow your list.

Being Proactive – It's Ok to Have a Plan B

- Register in Handshake at www.gcsu.edu/career, attend a career fair, and get assistance with your resume.
- Be open to other schools. If you meet someone from an accredited program who encourages you to apply, then go for it.
- While on holiday break, continue to investigate possible job opportunities through networking and online research.

Spring of Senior Year

- Follow-up with programs before the deadlines to make sure they received all of your materials.
- Continue to talk to your network about additional programs and/or job opportunities.
- Verify with your programs when notices were to be sent to accepted applicants.
- If you do not get into the program you want, the Career Center can help look at a Plan B or help you reevaluate your next application process.
- Once you get your acceptance letters, make your decision on where you will attend. Finalize required deposits and other requirements of your chosen school.