

Things You Should Know About Law School: Success Tips

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William & Mary was founded in 1780, but the modern law school did not emerge until the latter half of the 19th century. In the United States, Canada, and some international schools, the modern curriculum was well established by the turn of the century. There are over 230 law schools in the United States. Over 40,000 new students attend these schools each year, and just under 34,000 graduate. Juris Doctor (Doctor of Law) bachelor's degree is commonly referred to as a JD. There is stiff competition for law school admissions, and the application process can be costly. Most law schools offer a first-year curriculum that covers the basic foundations of law, although some focus on specific areas of law, such as environmental law. There are only a relatively few law schools that offer a complete online education. Still, law schools that are accredited are slowly beginning to accept more forms of distance education. Almost 90% of law school graduates become practicing attorneys.

It is hard to succeed in law school. To obtain this legal right of passage, one must work hard and be determined. The more preparation before starting law school will help you succeed from day one.

Is It Hard To Get Into Law School?

Approximately 230 law schools across the United States offer over 40,000 seats for law school applicants each year. Over 60,000 students applying to these schools every year. [An average of six law schools accepts prospective law school applicants](#). Because law school rankings can play a significant role in how graduate job offers are made, the competition is intense for the top law schools. [A law school chooses its students based on a combination of past academic experience and life experience](#). An undergraduate major is also important. In addition to pre-law/political science degrees, there are other degrees, which lend themselves well to law school preparation. In light of the diversity of law practice, law schools accept students with diverse educational and personal backgrounds.

[Learn More About This Video](#)

How Does Law School Application Process Work?

There are several factors that go into determining acceptance to law school, including:

Standardized test scores on the [Law School Admission Test \(or LSAT\)](#). In recent years, [Graduate Record Examination scores have also been accepted](#). [LSAT averages are published by every law school](#). Applicants who fall within (or above) the average are more likely to be accepted.

Undergraduate performance. Your undergraduate institution's reputation and any additional undergraduate GPA or degrees are also taken into consideration by law schools. Although there are many degree programs that make students, it is also important to demonstrate passion in your undergraduate degree. A passion for a field of study demonstrated by extracurricular or work experience.

Letters of recommendation from professors or individuals who can attest to your capacity as a good law student. Letters are bound by professional standards, letters of recommendation speak to not only your abilities as a student but also your moral and ethical character.

A diverse and unique background adds to the applicant's appeal. Due to the broad scope of law practice, law schools seek students with rich and varied life experiences.

Law school applications cost a lot as well. Standardized tests, application fees to schools (which average \$80), and Assembly Service fees (CAS) cost between \$400 and \$450. Most applicants apply to six schools on average, with

schools costing between \$60 and \$100. [Most law school applicants spend close to \\$1000 on their applications. applicants also take preparation courses or purchase materials in order to improve their test scores, which is also a considerable expense.](#)

What Is Law School Accreditation And Is It Important?

An attorney must be licensed by the state's agency that regulates legal practice before he or she can practice law. Law school students at ABA-recognized law schools are required to graduate from ABA-accredited schools as most states require a law degree from an ABA-accredited school. To be accredited by the American Bar Association, a law school must meet certain requirements. [Six states do not require law students to attend an ABA-accredited law school to sit for the bar exam.](#) In these states, law students must attend law schools that are approved by the licensing agencies in these states. Some jurisdictions require a law clerkship or legal internship may be substituted for a J.D. in these jurisdictions.

In Law School, What Will I Study?

[Traditionally, law school education starts with a first-year curriculum that covers the fundamentals of all law: contract law, tort law, civil procedure, property, criminal law, and constitutional law. Additionally, first-year law students normally take a course in legal research methodology and legal writing.](#) Students focus on core classes such as business administration and the legal process in their second year. Classes like these help students prepare for the legal profession. Students who are specializing in a specific area of law in their third year take courses on health law, environmental law, intellectual property law, international law, labor law, public international law, tax law, corporate law or legal relations.

[Generally, law schools teach a general curriculum, but some focus on a specific area of law.](#) The Lewis & Clark College at Northwestern University, for example, is widely regarded as the best law school for students who are interested in Environmental Law. Many law schools offer joint degrees that allow students to obtain their Juris Doctor while also earning a Master of Business Administration (MBA), a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), or a healthcare degree such as an MD or a Master in Public Health (MPH). Combining two degrees takes less time and money than earning them separately. Additionally, law schools give lawyers the opportunity to concentrate their studies and expand their career opportunities.

See Also: [DECODING LAW SCHOOL RANKINGS](#)

Law School Success Tips

DO THE READING: [Make sure you read all the reading assigned to you. Keep up with your reading to avoid falling behind.](#) Schedule your reading to take advantage of your alertness. It would be best if you also read in an area where you are not distracted. If you fail to prepare for class the right way, you will spend far too much time on it.

BRIEF THE CASES: Take notes as you read. Describe the legal significance of facts, the findings of a court, and the reasoning behind a ruling for an assigned case. It is known as "briefing" a case. Case briefs should be brief and to the point.

REVIEW BEFORE EACH CLASS: You should review your reading notes (case briefs) before classes. As a result, you will be better able to understand the class discussion (as well as avoiding any embarrassment that may arise if you are not prepared).

GO TO CLASS: It will be hard to prepare for the final exam if you do not attend class because professors will cover material in class that were not discussed in the readings. You will also receive an "FW" if you miss more than 20% of the semester's class. If you repeat the course, this will still count as an "F" in your grade point average.

PAY ATTENTION IN CLASS: **Some misguided students spend** class time shopping online, playing computer games, or checking email. College tuition is expensive. Rather than attending class discussions, would you instead spend your time "surfing the web" or playing computer solitaire?

PARTICIPATE IN CLASS: Active participation is the best way for students to learn.

TAKE CLASS NOTES: Do not, however, get so caught up in trying to take down every word your professor says that you miss the main points.

not actively participating in the discussion. Analyze how newly read cases relate to previous ones you have read. Review your course notes before starting your next reading assignment.

PREPARE AN OUTLINE FOR EACH OF YOUR CLASSES: You should not use outlines prepared by more senior students or commercial outlines instead of making your own. In preparing a course outline, you need to determine the law of the course's subject matter courses subject matter, as well as the relationships between the rules. The likelihood of mastering the subject matter is minimal if you do not go through this process. Professors may also approach a subject differently. It is not unusual for professors to teach a course in different ways year after year. A custom outline can be made for your course if you create it yourself. You will never finish your outlines in time if you wait until the reading period. Some students outline weekly, others once a month. Other students outline after each topic is completed. [Choose an outline that works for you and stick to it.](#)

CONSIDER FORMING A STUDY GROUP: Study groups can be an effective learning tool. Understanding and retaining material can be improved by talking through the material with classmates. You can also get study tips from your classmates. Form a study group with students who are well-prepared for class and have similar academic goals. Keep group sessions from becoming gossip sessions. In addition, do not use study groups as a means of sharing the workload. Finally, if you feel that your study group is not working for you, resign.

REVIEW, REVIEW, REVIEW: No matter when your final is, consider doing your review during the reading period. If there is no exam before then. This is not college. There is no point in cramming right before finals. Throughout the semester, review the material frequently.

ATTEND REVIEW SESSIONS CONDUCTED BY YOUR PROFESSORS AND/OR THEIR ACADEMIC FELLOWS: Review sessions are sometimes held by professors and academic fellows. You can clarify the issues you are confused about by standing in line outside your professor's office. Furthermore, during review sessions, helpful tips regarding how to write exam answers to earn you the most points are often shared.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FEEDBACK FROM YOUR PROFESSORS: As soon as you are given a practice question, if your professor asks that you submit your answer within a set deadline, DO IT! Getting your professor's opinion is a great way to adjust your performance before it is graded.

ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED BY THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT CENTER: [Workshop topics include outlining, time management, and preparing for and writing law school exams-skills essential to a student's success.](#)

TAKE PRACTICE EXAMS: Several times. Preferably exams previously administered by your professor. It will help you figure out how they draft exams. Law professors prepare a variety of prior exams. If possible, choose a prior exam for which an answer is available. Your performance can be evaluated by comparing your answer to the sample. You may ask your professor to review your answer if there is no sample on record. Asking your professor to review your answer should be done until just before finals. It is more likely that your professor will have time to review your response if you ask early.

CREATE A STUDY PLAN: Many students complain about not having enough time to prepare for practice exams and cases. But they are wrong! When you plan your time in advance, you will have enough time to meet all of the demands of law school and still have time to enjoy some outside activities.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO PREPARE YOUR LRW PAPERS: Remember, this is not an undergraduate school. There is no point in hurriedly assembling a paper the night before you have to submit it and expecting a passing grade (or at least a good one). LRW assignments require a lot of editing and time, so begin working on them as soon as you can.

REVIEW YOUR EXAMS: Talk to your professors about your tests [after grades have been released](#). Assessing your performance in your first year of college is the most effective way to evaluate your progress.

MINIMIZE YOUR STRESS: Even though law school can be stressful, there are several steps you can take to reduce stress. A great stress reliever is humor. Carrying 100 pounds of law books every day does not count as exercise. Eat fruit, and whole-grain foods regularly-a diet Coke and a package of Ding-Dongs are not balanced breakfast. Drink lots of water instead of too much caffeine. Make sure you sleep for seven hours each night. Make time for social and leisure activities. Getting a law degree doesn't mean giving up everything you liked doing before; all you will have to do is do them more efficiently.

DO NOT GET CAUGHT UP IN THE COMPETITION ASPECT OF LAW SCHOOL: Let's face it. There is only one student who can finish at the top of the class. Instead of setting Numero Uno as your goal, strive to do your best. Show your classmates respect and support. You and your classmates will enjoy law school more if this happens.

GET HELP IF YOU NEED IT: There is a tendency for students to be confused about the substantive law covered in their classes, how to prepare for class, how to study for exams, how to manage their time, or [how to take law school exams](#). Especially during the first year of law school, it is rare for a student not to have questions about these subjects from time to time. Several resources are available for those who have questions.

For more observations about the top law schools, see the following article: [Top Law Schools Analyzed and Ranked by America's Top Legal Recruiter Harrison Barnes](#)

What Kind of Job Can I Get After Graduation?

Around 90% of law school graduates [become practicing attorneys](#), and most graduates find a job within 10 months of graduation. Despite this, the practice of law is prominently diverse and the types of jobs and salaries vary greatly.

Private sector jobs and public sector jobs generally exist. [Working in a law firm](#) or in-house for a corporation are common in the private sector. Most jobs in the private sector pay more, leading to increased competition. From the data, it appears that most graduates who accepted jobs in the private sector were paid a median [annual salary](#) between \$60,000 and \$85,000. A small percentage of those with salaries over \$150,000 earned over \$85,000.

[Jobs in the public sector](#) pay less than those in the private sector. Work as a prosecutor, a public defender, a district attorney, a [legal clerk](#), or in a non-profit advocacy center are certain examples. Starting salaries in the public sector are typically around \$60,000. If a [law school graduate](#) accepts a job in the public sector, there are frequently student loan forgiveness programs that can help them clear their debt.

In addition, the starting salary for a licensed attorney tends to increase rapidly with experience. Attorney salaries have topped \$120,000 on average. In addition, a large proportion of law school graduates pursue careers outside of law to the advantage of their legal education in other ways. There are a number of [career options for graduates of law school](#) in law enforcement, finance, child welfare, and numerous other areas.

Depending on your interests and the kind of work you hope to do, certain areas of law may appeal more to you.

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[Tax Lawyers](#)[Civil Rights Lawyers](#)[Sports Lawyers](#)**See Also:** [Do I Need to Submit my Transcript When Applying for Jobs Years After Law School?](#)

Conclusion

It is normal to have ups and downs when studying law at university. As long as you are motivated to work reasonably hard and are interested in the subject, there are definitely more positives, which makes it a great subject for three (or four) years. At the end of the day, you cannot anticipate everything about law school ahead of time. A fresh start should be achieved with an open mind, open eyes, and an open heart.