

### Analysis of Part-Time and Full-Time ABA Law School Program Trends: 2006–2010

The trends presented in this report are based on an analysis of LSAC end-of-year files for the academic years 2006 through 2010. It is a continuation of a previous study that looked at academic years 2003 to 2007. The initial study was undertaken as a result of numerous requests for trend information that included part-time programs at ABA-approved law schools.

From 2006 to 2010, the number of applicants and matriculants for part-time programs has generally either stayed the same or decreased, even though more schools added part-time programs during that period. The credentials of these applicants and matriculants varied by program, with full-time candidates generally having higher credentials than part-time.

There was a steady increase in the number of law schools offering both day and evening part-time programs since 2006 although in 2007 the number of part-time evening programs dipped slightly.

Table 1. Number of ABA Law Schools Offering Part-time Day and Part-time Evening Programs: 2006-2010

Year	ABA Law Schools	Part-time Day	Part-time Evening
2006	192	40	55
2007	194	43	53
2008	195	52	60
2009	198	52	63
2010	198	53	65

From 2006 to 2010, the number of ABA applicants and matriculants in part-time day programs decreased, but there was little change in the number of part-time evening programs (Table 2). The percentage of applicants applying only to full-time programs increased in this 5-year period (79% to 84%), while the percentage of applicants applying only to part-time day programs decreased (3% to 1%) as did the percentage of applicants applying to both full-time and part-time day programs (6% to 3%).

Smaller changes are seen in the percentages of matriculants in the various types of programs in the same period. In 2006, 89% of matriculants enrolled in full-time programs, 5% in part-time day programs, and 6% in part-time evening programs. Five years later, 93% of matriculants enrolled full-time, 2% part-time day, and 5% part-time evening.

Table 2. Number of Applicants and Matriculants by Law School Program: 2006-2010  
(F=Full-time; PD = Part-time Day; PE = Part-time Evening)

	Year	F	F & PD	F & PE	F, PD, PE	PD	PD & PE	PE	Total
Applicants	2006	72,247	5,628	5,038	2,178	2,297	350	3,496	91,234
	2007	68,216	5,266	4,433	2,094	2,699	278	3,578	86,564
	2008	65,817	5,741	5,120	2,298	2,579	357	3,395	85,307
	2009	74,186	2,322	4,647	2,118	1,554	487	3,689	89,003
	2010	75,687	2,608	4,196	2,524	1,041	656	3,881	90,593
Matriculants	2006	41,925				2,363		2,949	47,237
	2007	42,371				2,581		2,958	47,910
	2008	42,070				2,719		2,676	47,465
	2009	46,258				1,183		2,624	50,065
	2010	47,525				1,016		2,455	50,996

The academic qualifications of applicants, as measured by average LSAT scores and undergraduate GPAs (UGPA) differed by the type of program to which they applied. Full-time-only applicants had higher median average LSAT scores (consistently 154) and undergraduate GPAs (~3.35–3.37) than did applicants to only part-time evening programs (LSAT: ~146-147; UGPA: ~3.03-3.08) or only part-time day programs (LSAT: ~145-147; UGPA: ~2.95-3.01) applicants. Similar patterns were found among matriculants, with those in part-time day programs frequently having, on average, the lowest academic credentials.

Table 3. Median Average LSAT Score of Applicants and Matriculants by Law School Program: 2006-2010

	Year	F	F & PD	F & PE	F, PD, PE	PD	PD & PE	PE	All
Applicants	2006	154	147	151	150	145	148	147	153
	2007	154	148	150	150	145	148	146	153
	2008	154	148	150	148	145	148	146	153
	2009	154	149	149	149	145	150	147	153
	2010	154	151	149	149	147	149	147	153
Matriculants	2006	157				148		153	156
	2007	157				149		152	156
	2008	157				148		153	156
	2009	156				150		152	156
	2010	157				152		153	156

Table 4. Median Undergraduate GPA of Applicants and Matriculants by Law School Program: 2006-2010

	Year	F	F & PD	F & PE	F, PD, PE	PD	PD & PE	PE	All
Applicants	2006	3.35	3.12	3.16	3.13	2.95	3.01	3.08	3.30
	2007	3.36	3.13	3.14	3.14	2.96	3.04	3.05	3.31
	2008	3.37	3.13	3.15	3.06	2.95	3.05	3.05	3.31
	2009	3.36	3.14	3.11	3.05	2.99	3.13	3.03	3.31
	2010	3.35	3.20	3.09	3.08	3.01	3.05	3.03	3.31
Matriculants	2006	3.44				3.17		3.26	3.42
	2007	3.44				3.13		3.23	3.42
	2008	3.44				3.14		3.24	3.42
	2009	3.44				3.14		3.22	3.42
	2010	3.43				3.20		3.19	3.42

Applicants who were accepted into both a full-time program and a part-time evening program chose roughly equally between the two types of programs. The majority of applicants admitted to both part-time day and full-time programs chose to enroll full-time rather than part-time. Of applicants who applied to all three types of programs (full-time, part-time day, and part-time evening), the majority of applicants enrolled in either full-time or part-time evening.

Table 5. Matriculation Decision of Applicants Accepted into Various Programs: 2006-2010

Year	Program Matriculation	Program Acceptance (Column Pct)		
		F & PE	F & PD	F, PD, PE
2006	PE	52%	--	42%
	PD	--	36%	28%
	F	48%	64%	30%
	Column Count	1,779	1,782	223
2007	PE	49%	--	38%
	PD	--	34%	24%
	F	51%	66%	38%
	Column Count	1,738	1,984	330
2008	PE	46%	--	36%
	PD	--	30%	21%
	F	54%	70%	43%
	Column Count	1,902	2,226	321
2009	PE	49%	--	43%
	PD	--	38%	22%
	F	51%	62%	35%
	Column Count	1,332	602	208
2010	PE	53%	--	41%
	PD	--	49%	23%
	F	47%	51%	37%
	Column Count	1,021	647	219

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