

ACES²
National/School Profile
Reports for JD Programs
REFERENCE GUIDE





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1 Overview

In the past, LSAC provided two separate JD applicant-based reports, the National Applicant Profile Report and the Monthly Applicant Summary Report. The **National Applicant Profile Report**, produced annually and made available through ACES², provided you with JD applicant demographic data essential for reviewing trends in a law school's applicant pool over some years. The **Monthly Applicant Summary Report** was made up of four reports; two reports that gave you counts for applicants to the upcoming fall term (a school-specific report and a national-level report for applicants to all ABA-approved law schools). The other two reports provided final school-specific and national applicant counts for the previous fall term.

In January 2008, the National/School Profile (NSP) reports were added to ACES². This enabled you to obtain the National Applicant Profile and Monthly Applicant Summary data for JD applicants through ACES².

In 2010, LSAC began to collect race/ethnicity data allowing for “maximum reporting”—including each race/ethnicity category selected by an applicant in the tally. However, to give you comparative data to the prior year, LSAC made changes to reports in ACES² and to the Current Volume Summary that equated 2009 race/ethnicity categories to the new race/ethnicity categories. The following fall, LSAC reports contained maximum reporting making data comparable to data from the previous year.

In 2016, additional enhancements were made to NSP reports. Before 2016, NSP reports data only included fall applicants and applicants marked as deferrals as indicated by the school. A change was made to **include data for all entry terms, excluding deferrals**—thus aligning LSAC NSP reporting with ABA guidelines. Also, within NSP reports there is a filter that allows you to compare the current year's Fall applicant data to pre-2016 applicant data.

2 National/School Profile Reports (NSP)

2.1 General

National/School Profile (NSP) reports are real-time statistical reports available through ACES² that include up to ten years of applicant data, allowing you to compare your applicant pool to the national applicant pool. There are two categories of statistical reports in ACES², Applicant Summary Reports and Qualification Profile Reports.

2.2 Applicant Summary Reports

Applicant Summary reports are three reports that provide applicant counts by race/ethnicity, age, and gender.

- **Applicant Summary National**—Allows for comparison of the national applicant pool from different years. For example, you can compare the national applicant pool from 2009 to the national applicant pool from 2010.
- **Applicant Summary School**—Allows for comparison of individual school applicants for various years.
- **Applicant Summary School vs. National**—Allows for comparison of individual school applicant pool to the national applicant pool for a specified year.

2.3 Qualification Profile Reports

Qualification Profile reports are three reports that provide applicant counts by LSAT and GPA in combination and separately for each race/ethnicity and gender group for which there is at least one applicant with LSAT data.

- **Qualification Profile National**—Allows for comparison of all national applicant pools vs. a national applicant pool that meets specific criteria for a specified year.
- **Qualification Profile School**—Allows for comparison of all individual school applicants vs. individual school applicants who meet specific criteria for a specified year.
- **Qualification Profile School vs. National**—Allows for comparison of all individual school applicants who meet specific criteria vs. applicants nationally who meet the same specific criteria for a specified year.

2.4 Current Volume Summary

The Current Volume Summary is made up of five tables that summarize and compare test taker and application data by region, race/ethnicity, and LSAT scores for the current application year to the previous application year. LSAC publishes the Current Volume Summary weekly from late fall to August throughout the application cycle.

2.5 National/School Profile and Current Volume Summary Reporting

The National/School Profile (NSP) reports in ACES² and the Current Volume Summary available in the members-only section of LSAC.org display similar data, but some differences require clarification.

- The national applicant data in an NSP report is a snapshot captured at the time of the applicant's first application and does not display changes made to an applicant record over the course of the application cycle.
- The school applicant data in an NSP report is from your school's ACES² database and does reflect changes made to an applicant record over the course of the application cycle.
- The Current Volume Summary is a weekly report that does reflect changes in test taker and application data over the course of the application cycle.

Here is an example to help understand the reports.

Example—NSP School and National Data and Current Volume Summary

An applicant takes the June 2016 LSAT and earns a LSAT score of 158. The applicant then applies to your law school as a first-time applicant in August of the same year. The applicant then retakes the exam in September and earns a score of 162.

LSAC posts a Current Volume Summary the first week of December and the 162 LSAT score is reflected in this set of reports because that is the score on file at the time LSAC generates the report. As previously mentioned, Current Volume Summary is a weekly report that reflects the changes in test taker and application data over the course of the application cycle.

You proceed to run an NSP School vs. National report in ACES² in December to compare your applicant pool to the national applicant pool. The LSAT score used for national data reporting for the application cycle is 158 because it is the test score on file at the time of the applicant's first law school application in August. LSAC collects national reporting data at that point and, as previously mentioned, national data for NSP reports does not reflect changes made to an applicant record over the course of the application cycle.

The 162 LSAT score earned in September is included in your school data for the NSP reports because, as previously mentioned, school data used in the NSP reports comes from your ACES² database and does reflect changes made to the applicant record either by the school or CAS report updates over the course of the application cycle.

Two points to keep in mind:

1. You cannot directly compare NSP and Current Volume Summary data, especially with small data sets, as small numeric changes could create significant percentage changes.
2. Use caution when comparing individual school data to national data in the NSP reports, especially if comparing changes in small numbers over time.

3 Recommended Uses for NSP Reports

An NSP report lets you view relevant information about your applicant pool. You may use the reports to help manage your current admission cycle, and you can also look at data historically to spot trends that can help with improving your recruitment strategy.

The reports also provide admission offices with statistical information that helps admission staff monitor the volume of applications to your school and also gauge the quality of the applicants applying to your school. For example, admission staff can compare data to determine if your applicant pools are increasing or decreasing over time or if the quality of your applicants has improved based on LSAT score and GPA or remained the same over some years. You can also view any changes in the diversity of your applicant pools and use the data for targeted marketing and recruitment planning.

[Samples](#) of each NSP report, as well as other system reports available through ACES2, are located in the Reference Guide section of the Law School Services Support site.

Appendix A: NSP Report Descriptions

Applicant Summary National—New

The report compares two years/dates of application data from the national applicant pool. The report includes LSAT and GPA profiles and distributions of applicants across ethnicity, gender, and age. This report uses the breakdown of the ethnicities LSAC established in 2009.

Applicant Summary National—Old

The report compares two years/dates of application data from the national applicant pool. The report includes LSAT and GPA profiles and distributions of applicants across ethnicity, gender, and age. This report uses the breakdown of the ethnicities LSAC established in 2009.

Applicant Summary School—New

The report compares two years/dates of application data from your law school's applicant data. This report includes LSAT and GPA profiles, and distributions of applicants across ethnicity, gender, and age. This report uses the breakdown of the ethnicities LSAC established in 2009.

Applicant Summary School—Old

The report compares two years/dates of application data from your law school's applicant data. This report includes LSAT and GPA profiles, and distributions of applicants across ethnicity, gender, and age. This report uses the breakdown of the ethnicities LSAC reported before 2009.

Applicant Summary School vs. National—New

Shows a single year, comparing your law school's applicant pool to the national applicant pool. This report includes LSAT and GPA profiles, and distributions of applicants across ethnicity, gender, and age. This report uses the breakdown of the ethnicities LSAC established in 2009.

Applicant Summary School vs. National—Old

Shows a single year, comparing your law school's applicant pool to the national applicant pool. This report includes LSAT and GPA profiles, and distributions of applicants across ethnicity, gender, and age. This report uses the breakdown of ethnicities LSAC reported before 2009.

LSAT Score Distribution

Shows a single year, comparing your law school's data to national data. Filtering conditions can be applied that limit the type of data displayed. Some of the filters are ethnicity, applicant age, gender, permanent state, date, high LSAT scores, term, and cumulative GPA.

Qualification Profile National

LSAT/GPA report that compares total national applicants to national applicants who meet specified criteria for a single year.

Qualification Profile School

LSAT/GPA report that compares total law school applicants to national applicants who meet specified criteria for a single year.

Qualification Profile School vs. National

LSAT/GPA report that compares law school applicants to national applicants who meet specified criteria for a single year.