

The LSAT and LSAC: A Proven Record of Supporting Law Schools



For more than 75 years, law schools have trusted the Law School Admission Test to assess the critical reasoning, reading, and writing skills that are essential to law school success. The LSAT is the only test specifically designed to measure these skills, and research consistently demonstrates that the LSAT predicts first-year law school performance more accurately than any other single factor. The test is designed through a rigorous process to ensure its validity, reliability, and fairness.

Properly used and appropriately weighted as part of each school's holistic admission process and institutional goals, the LSAT can expand access and ensure equity in legal education, helping applicants receive fair and proper evaluation among the many other factors considered.

As a not-for-profit organization focused exclusively on advancing legal education, all the Law School Admission Council's resources and energy are devoted to programs and services that support law schools and the students they serve.

Trust Built on Decades of Experience

Admission offices understand what LSAT scores mean for their schools. Other information submitted by applicants — such as undergraduate GPAs from different schools or different majors — can vary widely and be difficult to compare. LSAT scores provide law schools with a common assessment for all applicants.

Schools have decades of experience with LSAT scores, as well as access to extensive data on scores and how students at various score points have historically performed in their program. Scores on other tests are not backed by this kind of historical data, and there is no process or tool that can convert a score from another assessment into an LSAT score, since different tests assess different skills and have different test taker populations.

The LSAT Is a Vital Tool for Access and Excellence

The LSAT provides valuable information to admission decision-makers about prospective law students' readiness to succeed in law school and insight into potential academic support needs.

As part of a holistic admission process, the LSAT provides a vital tool for schools to identify candidates who might otherwise be overlooked based on undergraduate institution, GPA, lack of access to extracurricular activities, or other factors.

Research consistently shows the LSAT is the best single predictor of law school success, significantly better than undergraduate GPA alone. Moreover, the predictive validity of the LSAT has increased over time, while the predictive validity of undergraduate GPA alone has decreased over time due to grade inflation and other factors.



Working to Ensure Fairness for All

LSAC invests in a wide range of processes to ensure the fairness and validity of the LSAT, so it can be a trusted resource for schools.

- ✓ All LSAT questions undergo a lengthy multistep process to ensure they are free from any form of bias and fair to all population groups.
- ✓ Internally, LSAC test developers are trained in professional standards of fairness and anti-bias best practices.
- ✓ Every test question is reviewed for appropriate content and fairness at three separate stages: initial writing/development, pretest, and final operational test section review.
- ✓ Every item is also reviewed for fairness by external experts representing a wide range of backgrounds and experience, applying rigorous professional standards and their external perspectives.
- ✓ Finally, every item is field tested as part of an unscored section in an actual LSAT administration, then subjected to a detailed statistical analysis; any item that shows any unfair impact at the unscored stage is rejected and never used on a scored test.

Properly used, the LSAT can be a tool for enhancing access and fairness in legal education, providing opportunity for students from all backgrounds, including candidates from underserved backgrounds or who face other structural or systemic barriers to legal education.

To the extent there are score gaps among groups of test takers, these disparities reflect the systemic disparities in economic and educational access within our society, not issues in how the LSAT is constructed. Research shows that in the absence of the LSAT, a GPA-based admission process would negatively impact applicants from historically underrepresented groups.

A Commitment to Access and Opportunity

As a not-for-profit exclusively focused on advancing legal education, LSAC invests in programs to encourage students from every background to consider a career in law and to support students at every step of their legal education journeys.

- ✓ LSAC Law School Forums attract thousands of prospective law students every year to meet with school representatives.
- ✓ LSAC provides extensive free and low-cost LSAT test prep and practice tests. LSAC has also worked with outside experts to develop a free program, Strategy Booster, designed to help every test taker feel more prepared and confident on test day.
- ✓ To assist economically under-resourced individuals, LSAC has the most robust fee waiver program of any standardized test provider.
- ✓ LSAC also offers a wide range of options for individuals with disabilities who require accommodations when taking the test.
- ✓ To assist prospective law students, LSAC has developed a comprehensive pathway program, Plus, Guided Journey, which provides guidance and support throughout the application and admission process.
- ✓ LSAC also invests heavily in digital outreach to nurture interest in legal education and encourage prospective law students to act.

To learn more about the LSAT and the vital role it plays in supporting access and opportunity in legal education, visit [LSAC.org](https://lsac.org).



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