Top Three Questions Students Ask

Q. What is the difference between a personal statement and a diversity statement?

A. Your personal statement may discuss your goals, accomplishments, achievements, and why you want to go to law school, providing the admission committee with further information about your skills and strengths. When creating your personal statement, remember to read the directions on your application, as different law schools may have different questions as well as varying requirements regarding word limit and format. Your personal statement should be written in your own unique voice and should reveal something about your character and personality while also convincing the reader that you have what it takes to thrive and make valuable contributions in law school. Do not feel compelled to offer an account of personal adversity, particularly if one does not exist. It is important to be honest, take your time, and get feedback from others, if possible, before submitting your personal statement.

The diversity statement provides more details about your background, identity, perspective, and what sets you apart from other applicants. This is a chance to share information about your personal journey, including past experiences that have helped you grow into the individual you are today. The diversity statement also provides the opportunity to elaborate on how your unique experiences, background, and insights will enhance the classroom experience of others.

Remember to consult with each law school to which you are applying to understand their specific application requirements.

Q. How do you decide which law schools to apply to?

A. Deciding which law school to attend is a major decision. The best way to learn about the law schools you’re interested in is by visiting them, either virtually or in person. You may also chat with representatives from these schools when you attend an LSAC Law School Forum, which enables you to research schools and participate in educational workshops, either in person or through an interactive digital platform. If you know the practice area you’re most interested in, or if your choice is driven by geographic parameters, those factors will guide your selection process.

Remember that where to go to law school is more than an academic decision — you’ll want to be sure you are comfortable with the community as a whole, both on and off campus, so that you can thrive personally as well as academically. Consider the law school’s culture in relation to what is important to you — some schools are conservative, some liberal, and some are focused on a specific issue such as social justice.

Regardless of where you are in the process, make sure you’re reaching out to the admission department at the schools you’re most interested in, carefully reviewing law school websites, and asking your advisors any questions you may have — remember, they are there to help you!

Q. Does diversity really matter in law school?

A. Absolutely! Diversity matters in law school and in the legal profession. Diversity enables people from a wide range of backgrounds to add their perspectives and life experiences to the greater community. Race or ethnicity, LGBTQ+ status, and disability are just some of the backgrounds that contribute to the diversity that is important in the classroom. Diversity of age, geographic region, socioeconomic status, and nationality also add to a richer learning experience for all students. Beyond law school, it is up to all of us to ensure the legal profession and the future of our justice system reflects all those it serves.
Explore your interests broadly — both inside and outside of the classroom!

Learn more about how law is a part of every industry and how law intertwines with everyday life. The more you know, the better prepared you will be — but don’t worry about having specific “legal” experience prior to attending law school.

From books to news articles, blogs, and magazines, read as much as you can.

While courses like philosophy will help you develop critical thinking skills, any class that interests and challenges you will also provide a strong foundation upon which to begin your law school journey.

Writing and research are key skills for law school, so take as many writing-intensive courses as possible, including English and literature.

Pursue your passions! Join student organizations with activities that speak to you. If you’re interested in making a difference in the community, step up and volunteer for leadership positions in those organizations.

Practice becoming a better manager of your time, study schedule, projects, and social life. Learning to prioritize your time well now will put you on the path to academic and future professional success.

Look for internships and other opportunities outside of the classroom so you can begin building professional relationships with people in the legal field.

Learn about what lawyers do, how other professionals apply legal knowledge, and what other career paths may be enhanced by legal education.

Give yourself plenty of time to prepare for the LSAT. Take advantage of the free and low-cost test prep options available at LSAC.org to build your confidence prior to test day.
Get Started with Additional Resources

Not sure where to begin your law school enrollment journey? Below are some resources that can help get you started on the right path.

**Check Out Prelaw Programs**

Checking out prelaw programs is a great way to learn about the law school experience, meet people with similar interests, and become familiar with the resources available to assist you in applying to law school. LSAC’s Prelaw Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program offers selected participants a unique immersive learning experience designed to prepare them for law school success. The program helps students explore their interest in law, learn more about navigating the law school admission process, gain insights on the legal profession and future career options, and more.

**LSAC Resources**

LSAC resources, available at LSAC.org, can help you prepare for the LSAT and apply to law schools.

- Law school candidates start their application journey by signing up for an [account with LSAC](https://lsac.org), which is completely free. You will need an LSAC account in order to register for the LSAT, participate in special LSAC recruitment events including the Law School Forums, and have your application materials (LSAT scores, writing sample, transcripts, and letters of recommendation) sent to each school to which you apply.

- Your LSAC account also enables you to sign up for the [Candidate Referral Service](https://lsac.org). This free service helps law schools find you based on selected characteristics such as LSAT score, age, geographic background, and more, giving you the opportunity to be discovered by law schools that you may not have otherwise known about or considered.

- Researching law schools? LSAC’s [Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools](https://lsac.org) can help you compare your qualifications against the applicant profiles of the law schools that interest you. You can search schools by location, keyword, or geographic region, and can even enter your GPA and LSAT score to help predict your likelihood of being admitted to particular schools.

- A legal education is an investment in your future. There is funding available to help you pay for law school, and the [resources available on LSAC.org](https://lsac.org) can help you learn more about these options, including loans, grants, and scholarships. Learning how to budget and spend wisely now will also help you tremendously on your law school enrollment journey and beyond.

- When you are ready to apply, LSAC’s [Credential Assembly Service](https://lsac.org) simplifies the application process by combining your various documents, including transcripts and letters of recommendation, with your LSAT score and forwarding a full report to all schools to which you are applying. With this service, all credentials required for each of your law school applications only need to be sent once to LSAC, saving you both time and effort. You can also access, complete, and submit all ABA-approved law school applications electronically through this service.
Attend Law School Recruitment Events

- **LSAC Law School Forums** allow you to interact with law school admission representatives, either in person or through a convenient digital platform, while participating in educational workshops on topics such as the LSAT, financing a legal education, the application process, and more.

- The [National Recruitment Calendar on LSAC.org](https://LSAC.org) provides a comprehensive listing of recruitment events around the country. In addition to the LSAC Law School Forums, the calendar lists regional fairs and campus events, thus promoting all opportunities for you to interact with law school representatives.

Prepare for the LSAT

You can succeed on test day with the right tools. The [Official LSAT Prep materials available on LSAC LawHub](https://LSAC.org) provide unlimited practice with the authentic test interface, access to official LSAT material, simulated exam modes, and more to help you build your skills and confidence as you prepare for the LSAT. You can also develop a free personalized practice plan through [Khan Academy Official LSAT Prep](https://KhanAcademy.org), which diagnoses your strengths and weaknesses to unlock personalized lessons, instructional videos, and a preparation strategy that will help you progress toward your LSAT score goals.