Index Formula Selection

REFERENCE GUIDE

LSAC®

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1 Overview

Each year, we ask that you select your index formula to use in your upcoming application and admission cycle. A description of the index and the selection process is included in this document. Your school's index calculation will go into effect with the start of the new term and application cycle.

2 Index Selection Formula

There are two main formula options displayed on the ACES[2] webpage: the Current Formula and the Correlation Formula. The Current Formula is the formula that is in our system for your school for the current application year. This formula is displayed on the top left-hand side of the page. The Correlation Formula is the formula resulting from the most recent correlation study for your school. Along with the formulas, the relative weightings (i.e., proportional contributions) of LSAT score and UGPA that each formula represents, the maximum and minimum index values, and the multiple correlation coefficient (R-value) are given. If your school has not participated in the LSAT Correlation Studies or is not now using a formula for the current application year, the corresponding formula multipliers and constant will appear as zeroes.

The predictor variables—LSAT score and UGPA—are on completely different scales. The relative weightings provide an indication of the relative importance of each predictor in the formulas. These proportional contributions are calculated by using the standard deviations for LSAT score and UGPA from the correlation study results for your school, together with the index formula multipliers. If your school has not participated in the LSAT Correlation Studies, proportional contributions cannot be calculated.

The minimum index value assumes a UGPA of 2.0 and an LSAT score of 120. The maximum value assumes a UGPA of 4.33 and an LSAT score of 180. The correlation formula produces index values on the same scale as your school's grading scale, with minimum and maximum values similar to the range of possible grades at your law school. Your current formula may produce values on a different index scale.

Multiple correlation coefficients are provided for your information. Multiple correlation coefficients may range from 0.0 to 1.0. Higher values indicate a stronger validity in predicting first-year averages from LSAT scores and UGPAs than do lower values.

Slight changes in LSAT and UGPA weights are common and probably will not produce significant changes in applicant index rankings. Similarly, small changes in multiple correlation coefficients do not indicate a substantial difference in predictive potential.

You may choose to base your formula selection on results from the study based on average LSAT scores or from the study based on highest LSAT scores. Note: *For most schools, average LSAT scores are a slightly better predictor of first-year grades than highest LSAT scores.*

To select a formula for the application year, we ask that you first decide whether your formula should be based on the LSAT Correlation Study results for average LSAT scores or highest LSAT scores. Then choose one of the six index calculation options. In selecting your index

formula, consideration should be paid to your school's policies and practices with respect to the relative weighting of LSAT score and UGPA and the use of an index formula, along with the results of the correlation study for your school. Note: *Choosing an index formula is optional. If you do not want index values calculated, please check Option 6 (No Index Formula).*

3   Reporting Policy

LSAC will not report an admission index or a cumulative GPA for applicants who received their undergraduate degree from an institution located outside the United States, its territories/associated states, or Canada; **and also** completed fewer than 60 graded credits of US/Canadian undergraduate-level work prior to the awarding of this international degree. If law schools use an index or cumulative GPA to assess applicants, reporting an index or cumulative GPA for someone who only had a few hours of US/Canadian classes could be misleading.

This policy will also be applied to those applicants who received their undergraduate degree at a US/Canadian school that does not issue grades and credits, but only narratives, or that does not have a grading scale that can be converted to a 4.0 system; **and also** completed fewer than 60 graded credits of US/Canadian undergraduate-level work prior to the awarding of this degree.

4   Disclosure

LSAC fully discloses to applicants all information reported to law schools, including your school's index formula and instructions for calculating index values.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact your Regional Support Manager.

5   The Index

The index, which appears on each Credential Assembly Service (CAS) Law School Report that you receive, is based on a weighted composite of LSAT score and undergraduate grade-point average (UGPA). Index values can be used as part of an assessment of applicant qualifications.

6   Index Selection Process

The index formula for your school may be based on either average LSAT scores or highest LSAT scores. The selection of an index formula involves the following steps:

1. Decide whether the formula should be based on average LSAT scores or highest LSAT scores.

2. Choose one of the six index calculation options.

3. Preview the formula.

4. Type in the name and title of the person approving the selected calculation.

5. Select **Submit** to record your final selection.

7   Options

7.1.1   Correlation Formula

If you have participated in the First-Year Performance/LSAT Correlation Studies service, the form includes a predictive correlation formula determined through multiple linear regression methodology. This equation gives a statistically optimal formula for predicting first-year averages for law school applicants based on LSAT and UGPA values. It is important to remember that the equation is optimal only for the sample upon which it was computed. Applying this formula to new groups of applicants will not necessarily result in the same optimal prediction. However, in most cases applicant pools are fairly consistent and prediction for new groups of applicants is comparable.

7.1.2   Correlation Formula with Adjusted Scale

If you wish to use the LSAT Correlation Study results but would prefer a different range of index values, you have the option to choose a new index scale by providing the maximum and minimum values. An adjusted correlation formula will be calculated that represents the same proportional contributions of LSAT score and UGPA as the correlation formula but produces index values on a scale that is different from the grades at your school. Index values will be rounded according to the following rules: for scales that have ranges of ten or fewer points, index values will be reported to one decimal place (e.g., 0.0 – 4.3); for scales with more than ten points, the values will be rounded to the nearest whole number (e.g., 50 –100). As a guideline when specifying a new range of index values, consider the rounding rules and keep the number of possible values reasonable. The LSAT score scale has 61 possible values; generating a much greater number of index values may create the false impression of a higher level of precision.

7.1.3   Formula Based on Proportional Weightings

This option allows you to specify the proportional contributions of LSAT score and UGPA. You have the option to choose this index scale if your school already participated in the LSAT Correlation Studies; the percentages you enter must sum to 100%. This will recompute a new index formula based on the same population used in producing the correlation formula. This formula will yield index values on the First Year Average (FYA) scale for your school with the proportional contributions you have indicated. You also have the option to

choose a new index scale by providing the maximum and minimum values (see Option 2).

7.1.4 Other Formula

This option allows you to provide your own precise values for the formula multipliers and constant using up to three digits after the decimal.

7.1.5 Current Index Formula

The current index formula is the equation on file at LSAC that is currently being used to calculate index values for your law school for the current admission year's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) Law School Reports. For many schools, the formula is based on the correlation formula derived from the most recent LSAT Correlation Study. Other schools have chosen a formula derived via alternate methods.

7.1.6 No Index Formula

Index calculations are optional. If you do not want index values calculated, please check the box for Option 6.