

# **Law School Application Orientation**

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# Do your own research!

- This presentation is meant to serve as a resource during the application cycle. It does **NOT** cover all aspects of the application.
  - Review the LSAC [JD Application Guide](#) for more info.
  - **Phone:** 215-968-1001
  - **Email:** LSACinfo@lsac.org
  - [LSAC Help Form](#)
  - **Hours:** M-F, 8:00am-6:00pm ET



# When to contact LSAC?

- Contact LSAC if you have questions about:
  - LSAT test registration and accommodations
  - LSAT/CAS fee waiver
  - CAS and law school reports
  - Question about transcripts
  - To request an update to your contact info
  - Paying the CAS and LSAT Fees

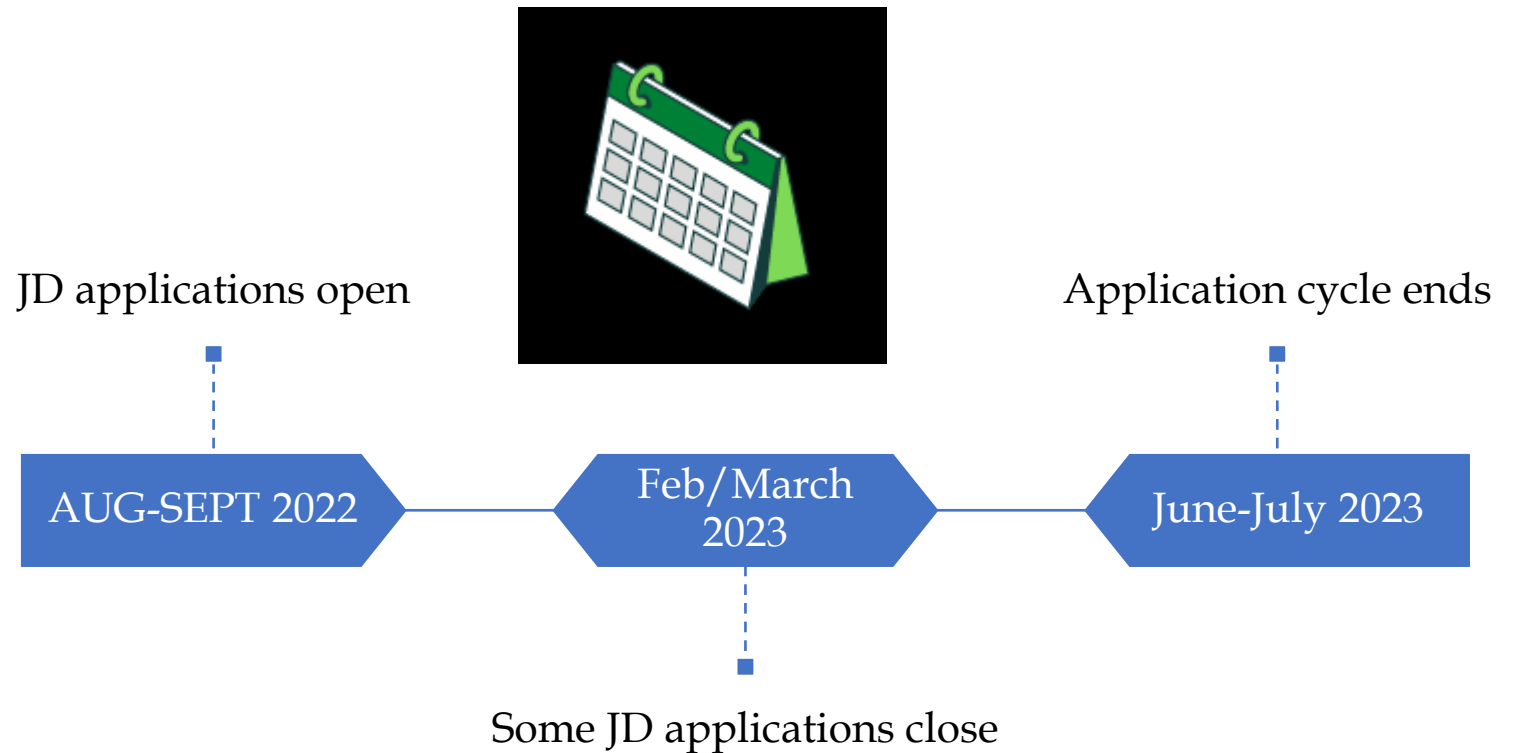
# When to contact a program directly?

- Contact law school programs with questions about:
  - Admission requirements and policies
  - Law school application fee and waivers
  - Deadline requirements
  - Personal statement and resume format
  - Supplemental essays
  - Application status
  - Admissions decisions
  - Options if waitlisted

# LSAC Fee Waiver

- LSAC awards need-based [fee waivers](#) for those with an extreme need and inability to pay.
- Good for two years
- Apply for this fee waiver prior to registering for the LSAT
  - FEE waiver will not apply to previously paid fees.
  - Give LSAT time to process your fee waiver request.
  - You may appeal the a fee waiver denial.
- You are not eligible if you have any instance of personal or criminal misconduct.

# Application Timeline



**Check the application dates on each law school's website! Make sure you note the priority deadline for scholarships**

# Applying Early vs. Early Decision

- **Early Decision**=an admission process where you commit to attend that law school if accepted.
    - Application deadline earlier in the cycle (sometimes)
    - You can receive a decision quicker than through standard admissions.
  - **Applying early**=getting your application in early while there are still many seats available.
- \*\*It is your responsibility to know the various dates and deadlines for each law school as they will vary.**

# Warning about application submission dates!

- **Most law schools admit candidates on a rolling basis. The later you apply in the cycle, the fewer spots there will be available. Plan to submit your applications as early as possible in the cycle. Submitting by Thanksgiving is usually a good guide to follow.**



# Submission FAQ

- **How much does it cost to apply to law school?**
  - You will pay a series of fees to apply to law school. In most cases LSAC will process all of the fees related to your JD application.
    - The 2021-2022 CAS fee=\$195
    - You will pay for a Law School Report for EACH law school at a rate of \$45
    - Each law school will have a separate application fee that you will pay when you submit your application through LSAC. These range from \$0-\$100.

# Submission FAQ

- **I don't know my LSAT score yet...**

- Any update to your LSAT score will be automatically sent to the law schools that you applied to via an updated Law School Report. **You can request a law school accept your application prior to having a score.**

Try not to put yourself in a situation where you are rushing to apply without having a full picture of where your potential as a candidate stands.

# LSAC Account

- To register for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) you will have to [create an account](#) on LSAC's website.
  - You will **use this account to apply to law schools as well.**
  - Select "JD Account"
  - Make sure to sign up for the LSAT well in advance (registration closes six weeks before the testing date).
  - **Do not make multiple accounts.**

# Verify Under My Account....

Once you've logged into your LSAC account, you will want to verify some of your settings. Click on "My Account" in your top right corner. This will give you a list of items. Make sure you are visible under the **Candidate Referral Service**.

# JD Application Checklist

- You must have a clear path to graduating with at least a Bachelors degree at the time of applying (a Bachelors degree is required to enter law school).
- An application for each law school
- Transcripts from all institutions attended including for dual enrollment credit
- A LSAT score (or GRE in some cases) + LSAT writing (on-demand test)
- At least TWO letters of recommendation
- Personal statement (2-pages, double-spaced)
- Resume or CV
- Optional essays & addenda

# Transcript Submission

- Each transcript must be submitted **DIRECTLY** to LSAC
- Which type of transcript does an applicant have to submit?
  - Community colleges
  - Undergraduate and graduate institutions
  - Law, medical, or professional institutions
  - Institutions attended for summer or evening courses
  - Institutions attended even though a degree was never earned
  - Institutions at which you earned dual-enrollment credit during high school
  - Institutions that clearly sponsored your overseas study
  - International transcripts

# Making a Law School List

- You can apply to as many law schools as you want – it's different for everyone.
- Apply to a majority of target schools. Do not apply to a bunch of safety and reach schools.
- **What are safety schools?**
  - Your GPA and LSAT exceed the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- **What are reach schools?**
  - You are under the GPA/LSAT median or under both medians.
- **What are target schools?**
  - Your GPA meets both the LSAT and GPA medians.

# Assumptions to Avoid

- You may get more scholarship money from a safety school. These law schools often have conditional scholarships. READ THE TERMS.
- More competitive law schools do not have more competitive grading systems.
- You are more than the numbers, but need to have a backup plan.



# How to ask for letters of recommendation

- NO character references
- Ask during the summer – you can store letters in LSAC.
- Email is fine, but you can attend office hours to ask.
- Be polite in your email.
- Remind the professor who you are and explain what you got out of the course.
- Offer to provide your resume and personal statement.
- Be realistic with your timeline request.

# “Softs”

Anything not focused on GPA or LSAT score :

- Resume
- Work
  - Service
  - Extracurricular Involvement
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- Essays
- Life Story
  - Personal Qualities
  - Vision for law school





# Why do law schools ask for a resume?

Easy, quick way to access information

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It shows them:

- What you chose to do during college
- What you value
- Who you are
- **DISCLAIMER:** Everyone has different financial and family requirements. Law schools do not have blanket expectations.



# What To Include?

- Education (undergraduate and graduate)
- Employment
- Extracurricular Activities
- Research Publications
- Additional Information



# Personal Statement

Window into you as a person

Driven by your personal experiences

Explores your values, motivations, goals, and/or personal qualities

Generates interest in having you join the law school community

Shows off your writing skills and intellectual abilities

Answers why you want to attend law school

Your one shot - Interviews not common outside of Top 20



# Resources

**Visit Brandi Raines in the Career Center:**

Schedule an in-person or virtual meeting through your Handshake (SPIA/Franklin Humanities) account or call 706-542-3375

**Make an appointment for prelaw advising on SAGE.**