

BEST PRACTICES TO GET INTO LAW SCHOOL

Tips from a current law student

The idea of applying to law school is an intimidating one, but there are plenty of people who have been in your shoes, so don't worry. Here's some advice:

Should I double major? What about a minor in legal studies?

- Since law school is its own unique field, a minor in legal studies is not advisable. Rather, try being diverse by double majoring or pursuing a minor that interests you. Remember, you can apply to law school no matter what your bachelor's degree is in.

Where do I find law school programs to apply? And when should I apply? What application materials do I need besides the LSAT?

- At lsac.org you can find programs to apply to, and you can also register for the LSAT there.
- You can apply at any time; however, each school has its own deadline. Some are as early as January, but most are around March.
- In addition to the LSAT, you will need a personal statement, a diversity statement, and 3-4 letters of recommendation. (Be careful who you ask; law schools look at recommendation letters very closely, and they are as important as your GPA.)

What about the LSAT? When should I take it?

- Start studying approximately a year before taking the exam. The test is only offered four times a year, so plan accordingly!
- It's best to take the exam in the fall or early winter so you will have your test scores back in time to apply to schools.
- The LSAT is a major admissions determiner. A good score helps you get scholarships. Note: It's not an unobtainable goal to get scholarships from a good LSAT score. You can do this!
- Study hard and try your best to ace the test the first time. Law schools do not like it as much when a student takes the LSAT more than two times.

Do you have any study tips for the LSAT?

- Buy the practice books and purchase as many practice tests as possible.
- Note: In order to learn how to do a few sections, you have to have the guide books.
- The only way to study is to learn the techniques and then take practice tests.
- Note: It's recommended to take at least two hours a day to practice.
- There are four sections to the practice test and an ungraded writing portion and a graded portion similar to the LSAT.
- The LSAT also has a reading section, which is right up an English major's alley, but it is often the most difficult part of the test.

How does the English major prepare me for law school?

- Even though legal writing is very different from the writing you do as an English major, those English writing, grammar, and research skills put your skill sets above most other students. Discussion-based English courses also provide you with public speaking skills and prepare you for the "cold calling" discussion in law school.

Are there any on-campus resources at ETSU?

- University Career Services offers experienced coaching on job fields, reviews personal statements required for law school applications, and much more. You can contact them at careers@etsu.edu.
- Handshake is a new online platform students can utilize to check out internships, experiential learning, and other employment options related to law. As an ETSU student, you are already enrolled in Handshake. All you need to do is login to etsu.joinhandshake.com using your ETSU username and password.
- Other helpful sites to visit are:
www.onetonline.org,
collegegrad.com, and
www.buzzfile.com/Major/Employers-by-Major