

Checklist for Applying to Law School

The following list provides an overview of the mechanics of the application process broken down by year. It assumes beginning law school the fall after you graduate from Loyola.

First or Second Year

- ☐ **Join Pre-Law Society on the Bridge**
- ☐ **Meet with Pre-Law Advisor for initial advisement**

Junior Year

- ☐ **Study for the LSAT using an LSAC licensed test preparation company**
- ☐ **Visit Law Schools now or over the summer**
 - Tour the campus of the school you are most likely to attend
 - Visit a second school that is very different than that school so you can assess factors such as library size, class size, and campus location

Summer Before Senior Year

- ☐ **Clean up social networking sites**
- ☐ **Write your personal statement**
 - 2-Pages Double-spaced
 - Personal
 - Interesting
 - Unique
 - Sink the hook
 - Link to “the legal enterprise” [not to why I want to go to law school]

- Develop draft and e-mail to Pre-Law Advisor, other faculty advisor, or the Writing Center (be mindful of making an appointment with the Writing Center)
 - Discuss statement with Pre-Law Advisor for final changes [if any]
 - Modify “core statement” as needed to fit the particular law schools
- **Gather letters of recommendation**
- Two or three letters
 - 1st: classroom professor
 - 2nd: classroom professor
 - 3rd: outsider employer, etc.
 - Do not presume you are entitled to a letter.
 - Ask letter writer if they can write a “strong letter.”
 - Special topics for letter writers [optional]
 - Why your grades are so bad
 - Why your LSAT is so low
 - What unique talents you bring to law [language, experience, service, etc.]
 - Provide each letter writer:
 - Transcript [unofficial copy. Not necessary for Loyola professors who can look them up]
 - Resumé
 - Personal statement draft (If not done, provide some reasons as to why you want to be an attorney)
 - Do this all well ahead of time. That’s why summer notice is preferred for professors
 - Send the LSAC Letter of Recommendation Form email link. This can also be a useful nudge to a letter writer.

- Two week follow-up
- Three week follow-up
- Send a thank you note
- Then contact Pre-Law Advisor if still no letter

□ **Select Law Schools**

- Consider waiver of application fees [individually, per school]
- Consider subjective evaluation factors
- Where you go is *probably* where you will start out practicing.
- In-state tuition
 - Two or three “long shots”
 - Two or three “safe” schools
 - Five or so schools “in range”
 - Create “Debt Analysis” for each law school to which you are applying
 - Assess probabilities of admission with Law School Transparency or ABA 509 reports
 - After the above, make appointment with Pre-Law Advisor to go over law school selections and any application addendums

Senior Year

- **Submit applications between mid-October and Thanksgiving**
- **Your law school application will be compared to what you submit to the state bar association after you graduate**
 - **Disclose what law schools ask for accurately and honestly**
- **Manage waitlists and track responses using a spreadsheet**