



# PRE-LAW at FSU

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## WHAT DO LAW SCHOOLS LOOK FOR IN SELECTING STUDENTS?

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GPA and LSAT scores are key. Law schools also look at your personal statement/essay, letters of recommendation, and other involvement. They look for students who can think critically, research, and present arguments well - both orally and in writing. In addition, they are looking for students who can bring something unique to the classroom.

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## ACADEMICS

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You can attend law school regardless of your major. Select one in which you will do well and that YOU feel is worthwhile. Grades are important, but so is developing the skills to be successful in law school. Look for instructors or courses that will help you develop these.

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## OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

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Law schools, in general, prefer students who are well-rounded. They look at activities, internships, and work experience when considering an applicant; however, academics remain extremely important.

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## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

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Law schools prefer recommendations from people who can speak to your aptitude for success in law school. Thus, it is generally better to have letters from faculty members who can speak to your abilities to reason, research, and express yourself orally and in writing. If you have worked or interned, a supervisor may serve as a good third recommender, after letters from professors.

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## THE LAW SCHOOL ALPHABET

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### LSAT — LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION TEST

The test required for admission to law school\*. It is heavily weighted on reasoning and critical thinking. To sign up for the LSAT (currently administered four times per year; offerings will increase in July 2018), visit [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).

\*Some law schools have begun accepting Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores for admissions purposes. Please reach out to law school admissions staff to learn the specific admission requirements for each institution.

### LSAC — LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS COUNCIL

This organization offers services related to law school admissions, applicants, and the law schools themselves.

### CAS — CREDENTIAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE

This is the service you will submit your transcripts and letters of recommendation to, as well as the portal you will access and manage your law school applications.

### ABA — AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Bar associations are the organizations that recognize practicing attorneys. In order to practice law, you must be admitted to the bar of the jurisdiction in which you wish to practice; there are bar associations in each of the states.

### JD — JURIS DOCTOR

This is the first professional degree for lawyers. Advanced law degrees (often called master's) are available for those who wish to enter specific fields, do research, or teach.

## LSAT

### LSAT OVERVIEW

- 3.5 hours long
- Five multiple-choice sections (35 minutes each)
  - 1 unscored
  - 4 scored
- One “unscored” writing same (35 minutes) administered at the end

### TYPE OF LSAT QUESTIONS (CAN APPEAR IN ANY ORDER)

- Analytical reasoning — 1 section; ~23 questions
- Logical reasoning — 2 sections; ~25 questions
- Reading comprehension — 1 section; ~27 questions
- Writing sample — 35 minutes; not graded but sent to law schools
  - Decide between alternative courses of action using given criteria

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Score ranges
  - Low 140s = low
  - Top tier look for 3.8 GPA and 160 to upper 170s
- There is NO penalty for guessing
- Do the best you can
- You can score well even with many wrong answers

### PREPARING FOR THE LSAT

- Visit [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org) for FREE prep material; additional materials available for purchase
- Visit <http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/terc> for two FREE sample LSATs with instructions and feedback for improvement
- Review sample items with no time limits
- Focus on individual sections under time limits
- Practice full LSAT with timed conditions

<http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/preparing-for-the-lsat#freeprep>

## RESOURCES

PRE-LAW AT FSU — <http://prelaw.fsu.edu>

Stay informed through the Pre-Law newsletter, FAQs, and important resources.

LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS COUNCIL — [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)

Gather information on law school preparation, research law schools, register for the LSAT, and manage applications.

TERC — [www.lib.fsu.edu/get/terc](http://www.lib.fsu.edu/get/terc)

Take two free, timed practice LSATs with explanations, a quick quiz, and word of the day.

ABA - PREPARING FOR LAW SCHOOL — [www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/resources/pre\\_law.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/pre_law.html)

Review ABA's information on preparing for law school.



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