

Applying to Law School

How to Become a Lawyer in Canada

- Graduate from an approved JD or LLB program at an accredited university
- Admitted to the bar in the province where you would like to practice - Bar admission tests and Articling

Application Process

- Ontario Law School Application Service (Osgoode (York), Ottawa, Queen's, Toronto, Western, Windsor): www.ouac.on.ca/olsas. The OLSAS Instruction Booklet has detailed application and school information.
- Canada (outside of Ontario): visit individual university's website
- United States: LSDAS - www.lsac.org

Admissions Package

- Undergraduate study – most law students complete a 4-year Honours degree
- Statement of Interest/Personal Statement/School Submissions – why are you applying to law school, what are your career goals, how is your past experience relevant, etc.
- Sketch (for Ontario schools) – an account of all activities since you graduated from high school including full-time/ part-time work experience, volunteer activities, awards and accomplishments, etc.
- Letters of Recommendation – usually 1 or 2 from professors as well as 1 from a non-academic referee (work or volunteer supervisor, character reference, etc.)
- LSAT – register for the LSAT at www.lsac.org
 - The best preparation for the LSAT is completing practice tests and questions. For many students, the biggest challenge with the LSAT is finishing the test in the time allocated – so being comfortable with the types of questions and being able to move quickly through the test will increase your chances of success.

Will I get into law school?

- There are different admission requirements for each school. Some schools weight GPA and LSAT scores more heavily, some look at all aspects of your application equally.
- Most students attending law school in Ontario had a high B+/A- average or higher in their undergraduate study. Research each school's information about how they evaluate applications. If other areas of your application (personal statement, letters of recommendation) are strong, this can compensate for a lower GPA or LSAT score.

Websites of Interest

Law Society of Upper Canada (Ontario) – www.lsuc.on.ca

Federation of Law Societies of Canada – www.flsc.ca

- Link to National Accreditation Committee (click on Foreign Law Degrees) – evaluates foreign law degrees for bar admission in Canada

Canadian Bar Association – www.cba.org

How Can the Career Centre Help?

If you are unsure about your career goals or would like assistance with applying to law school (admission requirements, personal statement, application forms, etc.), you can book an appointment to meet with a Career Centre staff member.