

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

## Gaining an Edge for Law School

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### What is a lawyer?

- Problem solver
- Critical thinker

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### What are law schools looking for in a student?

- No one single factor

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### What are law schools looking for in a student?


- Academic potential for success
- Critical thinking skills
- Ability to write well
- Avid reader
- Interested and interesting
- Interest in the law



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### What are law schools looking for in a student?

- Unique life experience
- Leadership skills
- Strong work ethic
- Volunteer/community service

 **How to prepare for law school in college**


- Leave high school record behind
- Majors
- Required courses
- Suggested courses
- What is a prelaw major?

 **Law School Admissions Process**


- Holistic view of applicants: a variety of factors
- Rolling admissions
- Apply early
- Number of applications to submit

 **Academic Performance**


- LSAT
- GPA

 **Law School Admission Test (LSAT)**


- Sections
- Writing sample
- Use in admissions
- Multiple scores
- Preparation
- Date selection

 **Undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA)**


- Cumulative GPA
- Major GPA
- Yearly summary
- Comparison to other students at your school
- Transcripts
- LSAC evaluation
- Graduate level work

 **Personal Statements**


- What to include and what not to include
- Use as part of the application
- Personalize
- Draft reviewers

 Letters of Recommendation


- Who should write a letter?
- How many letters to include in the application?
- What content is important?
- Preparing your recommender
- Timeliness

 Credential Assembly Service

- What is it?
- How is it used?

 Addendums


- What are they?
- Why are they important?
- When shouldn't they be used?

 Character and Fitness Issues

- Disclose, disclose, disclose
- Effect on the application

 Financing a legal education

- Options: loans, grants, scholarships
- Applying for financial aid
- Private lenders

 Choosing a law school

- External considerations
- Internal considerations: law school character and environment
- Visit law schools



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## Resources

- Prelaw advisors
- [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)
- Law school admissions representatives