

LAW SCHOOL INFORMATION SESSION



2013-14

Steps for Law School Application

- Research
- LSAT
- Apply
- Additional Info

RESEARCH

LSAT

APPLY



Preparing for Law School

- Students interested in legal study should make the most of their undergraduate education
- University education stands on its own merits as preparation for a lifetime of active involvement in a diverse and changing society
- Choose courses that sharpen analytical reasoning and writing skills
- Law schools prefer students who can think, read, and write well, and who have some understanding of what shapes human experiences

JD vs. LLB vs. LLM

- Juris Doctor (JD)
 - ▣ Required to practice law in the US
 - ▣ Current move from LLB to JD
- Bachelor of Laws (LL.B)
 - ▣ Usually used in the English Commonwealth
 - ▣ All Canadian Universities have moved to JD. Currently, Alumni with LLB can request the new degree
- Master of Laws (LL.M)
 - ▣ First degree in law is required
 - ▣ Essentially, this is continued education from the JD

6 Ontario Law Schools

1. Lakehead University
2. Osgoode Hall Law School of York University
3. University of Ottawa (English & French)
4. Queen's University
5. University of Toronto
6. Western University
7. University of Windsor

<http://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas/>

Important Dates 2014

Mid-August 2013

OLSAS online application available.

November 1, 2013, 11:59 p.m. EDT

Deadline for applications to first-year programs. Note that transcripts and reference forms are also due at time of application.

April 15, 2014, 11:59 p.m. EDT

Deadline for applications to the Canadian & American Dual J.D. Program at Windsor.

May 1, 2014, 11:59 p.m. EDT

Deadline for applications to upper-year programs.

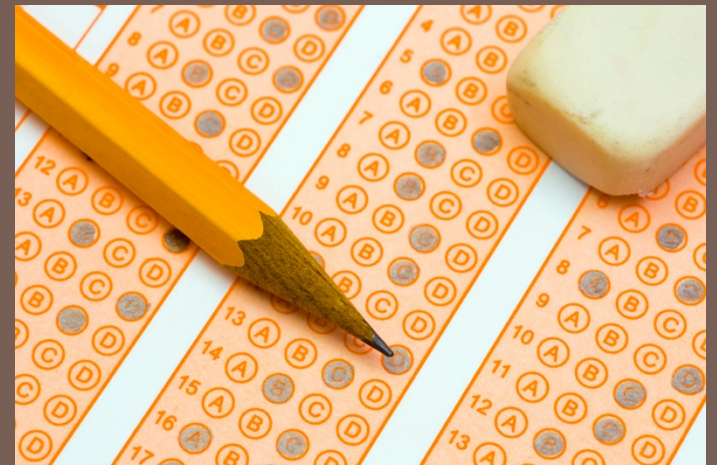
June 30, 2014

Deadline for receipt of final transcripts at the OUAC.

TBD 2014

All provisional acceptances become firm

TAKING THE LSAT



What is the LSAT?

- The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is a half-day standardized test required for admission to LSAC-member law schools, most Canadian law schools, and many non-American Bar Association (ABA) approved law schools
- The test is designed to measure skills that are considered essential for success in law school
- The test is administered four times a year – June, October, December & February
 - Humber holds a test every cycle except June (test centre code 0978)

<http://www.lsac.org/>

What the Test Measures

- LSAT is designed to measure skills that are considered essential for success in law school
- The reading and comprehension of complex texts with accuracy and insight
- The organization and management of information and the ability to draw reasonable inferences from it
- The ability to think critically
- The analysis and evaluation of the reasoning and arguments of others

Test Format

- 3 and a half hours long
- Five 35-minute sections of multiple-choice questions, with three different types of questions; reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, logical reasoning
 - ▣ Four of the five sections contribute to the test taker's score
 - ▣ The unscored section, commonly referred to as the variable section, typically is used to pre-test new test questions
- A 35-minute writing sample is administered at the end of the test
 - ▣ LSAC does not score the writing sample, but copies of the writing sample are sent to all law schools to which you apply

Types of Multiple Choice Questions

- Reading Comprehension Questions
 - ▣ These questions measure your ability to read, with understanding and insight, examples of lengthy and complex materials similar to those commonly encountered in law school work.
 - ▣ The reading comprehension section contains four sets of reading questions, each consisting of a selection of reading material, followed by five to eight questions that test reading and reasoning abilities.

Reading Comprehension Section

- Complex paragraph of text consisting of an argument OR 2 passages to compare against each other (“Comparative Reading”)
 - Answer 5 to 8 questions
 - 4 passages, consisting of a total of 20-28 questions
 - Topics:
 - ▣ Humanities
 - ▣ Natural Science
 - ▣ Social Science
 - ▣ Law Related
- **No previous direct education in legal studies required

Types of Multiple Choice Questions

- Logical Reasoning Questions
 - ▣ These questions are designed to evaluate your ability to understand, analyze, criticize, and complete a variety of arguments.
 - ▣ Each logical reasoning question requires you to read and comprehend a short passage, then answer one question about it.
 - ▣ The questions test a variety of abilities involved in reasoning logically and thinking critically.

Logical Reasoning

- Short argumentative text
- 1 question about the text/argument
- 25 questions per section
- Variety of topics:
 - ▣ Government
 - ▣ Business
 - ▣ Economics
 - ▣ Health
 - ▣ Etc.
- Format:
 - ▣ Letter to the Editor
 - ▣ Advertisement
 - ▣ Dialogue

Types of Multiple Choice Questions

- Analytical Reasoning Questions
 - These questions are designed to measure your ability to understand a structure of relationships and to draw logical conclusions about that structure.
 - You are asked to make deductions from a set of statements, rules, or conditions that describe relationships among entities such as persons, places, things, or events.
 - They simulate the kinds of detailed analyses of relationships that a law student must perform in solving legal problems.

Analytical Reasoning

- Text describes a scenario and a set of rules that apply to it
- 5-7 questions about the case
- Four Analytical Reasoning sets per test section
- Total of 22-24 questions

Writing (Essay) Section

- Scenario describes someone making a decision between 2 options
- Write your argument on your “right” or “appropriate” decision
- Showcase your professionalism, ability to use logic and support your claim/decision

Scores

- Range 120 – 180 (150 being the average)
- No pass/fail
- Average number of correct questions is 58
 - ▣ Use this as a reference when doing prep tests
- If you want to re-take the test because you feel you can achieve a higher score, only the score you wish to submit will be accepted, but they will see the number of times you've taken the test.

How should I prepare?

- Books available in GH108
 - Use actual LSATs as test prep
 - Course
 - Kaplan
 - Princeton Review
 - Oxford Seminars
- **Not necessary

How should I prepare?

- Take a test with no previous prep
 - ▣ Not timed
 - ▣ Use this to gauge where you stand after self-study
- Take another test after a month
- Continue to self-study
- Consider taking a course
- Prep test again ... continuously along the way
 - ▣ Timed
 - ▣ www.lsac.org

How should I prepare?

- Identify strengths/weaknesses
- Focus on your challenging areas
- Review questions you got wrong and find out why
- Be honest with how you learn, and learn in that manner
 - ▣ Classroom vs. Books








Apply



Ontario Application Components

- Application form
- Transcripts
- Personal Statement
- LSAT Score
- Resume

Application Form

 webapp.ouac.on.ca/webapp/account.d2w/report?ident=ACCOUNT_DSP&merchant_rm=320131	
 Most Visited  Getting Started  Latest Headlines	
OLSAS 2014	 Ontario Universities' Application Centre
	Ontario Law School Application
	> Account
You are not logged in.	Your OLSAS 2014 account is your own personal storage space on this site. Do not share this information with anyone. As long as you have not yet submitted your completed application, you may return to your account at any time to review and/or change information you have saved by entering your user ID and password.
Application Links	
> Account	Once you have submitted your completed application, you will no longer be able to access your OLSAS 2014 account to make changes. Please note that you will be able to view your submitted application, verify receipt of supporting documents, order transcripts from Ontario institutions, and use the Secure Applicant Messaging tool to report demographic changes or to respond to offers of admission.
Quick Links	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Info- About OLSAS- OUAC & Privacy- Applicant Responsibilities- Contact Info	If you have an OLSAS 2014 account,  Log In
	If you are a new user for OLSAS 2014, set up an account:  Create Account
© OUAC 2004-2013	13/10/08 04:11PM EDT

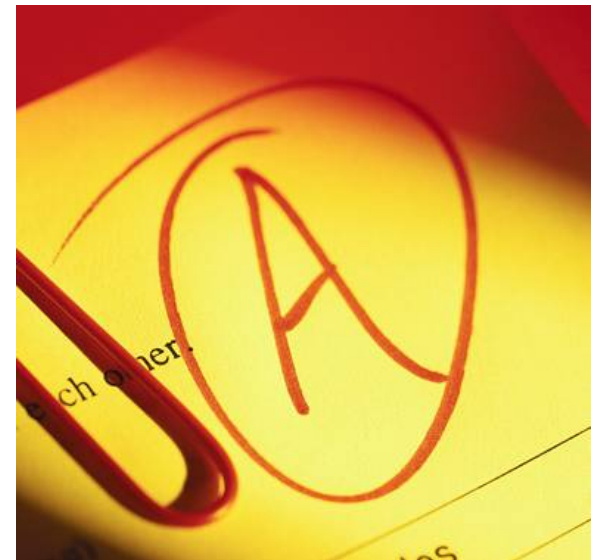
Application Cost

- The OLSAS Application service fee is \$185 plus a law school application service fee of \$90 for each law school selection.

Choice(s)	Application Fee
One school	\$285
Two schools	\$375
Three schools	\$465
Four schools	\$555
Five schools	\$645
Six schools	\$735
Seven schools	\$825

Education

- University of Guelph
- Request Transcripts through OUAC and Web Advisor
- Law Schools look for a minimum A-



Sketch

- Employment History
 - ▣ Full Time
 - ▣ Part Time
- Volunteer Experience
- Extra-curricular Activities
- Academic Honours and Achievements
- Research/Publications
- Other

References

- Ask a professor who knows you
 - ▣ Start going to office hours if you don't already
 - ▣ Photocopy your transcripts
 - ▣ Reminder paragraph

- Review instructions for letters of recommendation
 - ▣ Instruction Sheet
 - ▣ Stamped and addressed envelopes
 - ▣ Standard forms

- Provide them with your resume and transcript

Personal Statement

- Personal Statements provide details on how your experiences have contributed to your interest and knowledge in the profession
- Points to consider:
 - ▣ Highlight features that set you apart from other candidates
 - ▣ Academic strengths
 - ▣ Achievements
 - ▣ Languages spoken
 - ▣ Major successes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Osgoode Hall Law School (York U)

□ JD Program

- 3 years/Full time

- Joint Degree Programs:

 - JD/MBA (Schulich School of Business)

 - JD/MES (Faculty of Environmental Studies)

 - JD/MA (Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies)

□ Graduate Studies

- Master of Laws (LLM)

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Osgoode Hall Law School - Tuition

- \$22,501.26 (tuition + ancillary fees)
- How can I fund law school?
 - Government Assistance
 - Special Professional Student Line of Credit
 - Entrance Scholarships
 - Upper Year Scholarships
 - Bursaries
 - Prizes
 - Funding
 - Internship

U of T - Faculty of Law

- JD Program
- Combined Programs
 - JD/MBA
 - JD/MA
 - JD/MGA
 - JD/MPP
 - JD/MI
 - JD/PhD
 - JD/MSW
- Graduate Studies
 - LL.M (Master of Laws)
 - GPLLM (Global Professional Master of Laws)
 - SJD (Doctor of Juridical Science)
 - MSL (Masters in Studies in Law)

U of T – Tuition & Fees

- JD (Domestic students)
 - Year 1 = \$28,791
 - Year 2 = \$28,516
 - Year 3 = \$27,460
- Combined Programs
 - Varies, depending on accompanying degree
 - JD/MBA is the most expensive at an average \$36,000 per year

Student Budget

Tuition:	\$28,791 (subject to change)
Incidental/Ancillary Fees:	\$1,142.50 (subject to change)
Books and Supplies:	\$1,100
Room and Board: (for students living away from home)	\$10,000
Personal Expenses:	\$2,200
Total	\$43,233.5

Source: U of T Law, Financial Aid

<http://www.law.utoronto.ca/admissions/jd-admissions/financial-aid-office/financing-your-legal-education>



More Information

- OLSAS 2014 Instruction Booklet
 - ▣ The definitive guide for applying to law schools in Ontario.
http://www.ouac.on.ca/docs/olsas/b_olsas_e.pdf
- Program Requirements Chart 2014
http://www.ouac.on.ca/docs/olsas/rc_olsas_e.pdf