

Considering Law School

Is a Career in Law Right for Me?

Before pursuing a legal career ask yourself

- Are my grades high enough to be admitted to a law school?
- Do I have the finances available to support an education in law?
- Will I be willing and/or able to devote the time necessary to be successful in the profession both during my studies and in my practice?
- What are some alternative career paths for me if I don't get accepted into law school?
- Do I completely understand the role of a lawyer?
- Have I thought about what type of law I would like to practice?
- Have I thought about some of the emotional impacts involved with this career choice?
- What are my goals outside of my career? (I.e. Have a family? Be active in extracurricular activities or recreation?)

Do you see yourself...

- Doing extensive research and writing legal documents for clients
- Mediating a fighting couple involved in a difficult divorce
- Defending an accused murderer
- Being involved in a heated dispute about the estate of a wealthy deceased person.
- Questioning witnesses and listening to their testimonies in court.
- Putting in long hours at the office to work on a case.
- Reading previous rulings to build your case.
- Meeting with clients and other lawyers to discuss legal issues.
- Drafting legal documents or reviewing and providing comments on documents drafted by other parties
- Researching different types of law
- Keeping informed about legal developments and retain large amounts of information

Educational Requirements

Although you can apply to law school after 2 years of undergraduate study, most faculties prefer 3 or more years before they will consider you. The requirements vary for each law school, however basic requirements usually include a combination of a candidate's grades (minimum of B+ /A average) and LSAT score (minimum of 70-85th percentile). Extracurricular activities and work experience may also be considered in the evaluation of prospective students.

Admission requirements for mature, aboriginal, and applicants with disabilities may be different and maintain separate access admission categories.

The LSAT

For detailed information on the LSAT and other Entrance Exams, review the Entrance Exam Guide handout in the Career Resource Centre.

Quick Tip: Check with each law school regarding deadlines for writing the LSAT. You may consider writing early to provide flexibility should you choose to take the test again.

How to Apply to Ontario Universities

The admission process is handled centrally by the Ontario Law School Application Service (OLSAS) <http://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas>.

- Application forms can be found online at the above site. It is strongly encouraged that you apply online. You can exit and re-enter at a later time provided you do not “submit” your application.
- Refer to each university’s admission requirements for supplementary information that might be required.
- It is recommended that you allow between 5-25 hours for preparation of your application.
- A non-refundable OLSAS application fee is required for each law school you apply to.
- Refer to the OLSAS website for a listing of upcoming Law School information events/sessions in the fall: <http://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas/olsas-events.html>.

Practicing Law in Ontario

As required by the Bar Admissions Course, to practice law in Ontario law students must successfully complete:

- One year of Articling - supervised work (usually paid) with a law firm
- A skills and professional responsibility program and assessments with mandatory attendance
- Two full-day six-hour multiple choice Bar Exams

Quick Tip: Preview the online OLSAS application (<http://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas/>) at least one year prior to applying to law school by creating a “dummy” account. This will give you an idea of what is required and will help you understand the process of applying in following year(s).

Ontario Law Schools

University of Ottawa - <http://www.commonlaw.uottawa.ca/index.php>

Queen’s University - <http://law.queensu.ca/>

University of Toronto - <http://www.law.utoronto.ca>

University of Western Ontario - <http://www.law.uwo.ca/>

University of Windsor Ontario - <http://cronus.uwindsor.ca/law>

York University - Osgood Hall Law School - <http://osgoode.yorku.ca>

Quick Tip: Information about admission requirements and application procedures can be found on the individual Faculty of Law websites. For a “Program Requirements Chart”, refer to <http://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas/olsas-answers.html>

Resources available in Career Services

- **Job Futures (jobfutures.ca)**
A government resource for investigating occupations and labour market info
- **So You Want to be a Lawyer Eh?**
The book analyzes the legal profession from many different perspectives
- **170 Law Schools, 2008 Edition, The Princeton Review**
Provides detailed information on 170 of North America’s top law schools
- **LSAT 2006 Edition Comprehensive Program, Kaplan**
A test prep book that provides candidates with an inside look at the structure and content of the LSAT, contains study materials and practice tests for review
- **Entrance Exam Guide, Career Services, Brock University**
A chart providing an overview of the most common entrance exams taken by prospective students of graduate and professional schools