

Brooklyn College Pre-Law Handbook



Preparing for Law School and a Career in Law

TABLE OF CONTENTS

❖ Welcome and Mission	
Statement.....	3
❖ Pre-Law	
Events.....	4
❖ Notable	
Alumni.....	5
❖ Online Pre-Law	
Resources.....	6
❖ Is a Career in Law Right for You?.....	7
❖ Pre-Law Career FAQs.....	8
❖ Brooklyn College Pre-Law Program FAQs.....	9-10
❖ Law School Admissions FAQs.....	11
❖ Law School Preparation	
Checklist.....	11-12
❖ Components of the Law School	
Application.....	12-18
❖ Law School Admissions	
Contacts.....	18-19
❖ Additional Resources.....	19
❖ Informative	
Works.....	20
❖ Pre-Law Advising & Personalized	
Guidance.....	21

A Warm Welcome from the Pre-Law Team

Welcome Pre-Law students! The Pre-Law team at Brooklyn College welcomes you and is determined to see you succeed in your professional endeavors.

Our Mission Statement

The Pre-Law program helps achievement-oriented students make informed decisions about pursuing a career in legal professions; assists them in assessing the academic, personal, and professional competencies and credentials they need to become successful applicants and students of the Law Schools they aspire to attend; and provides access to the academic and career advisement, resources, opportunities, and professional networks that will support them in clarifying and achieving their goals.

Qualified and highly motivated participants of the Pre-Law program at Brooklyn College, who have utilized its vast resources, have developed skills such as demonstrating incisive and independent intellectual judgment and problem-solving skills, reading and analyzing dense and complicated texts closely, and creating exemplary works of compelling, effective, and scholarly writing.

Pre-Law Events

Sign up for all career workshops and events by logging onto [BC WebCentral](#) and select the “Career” tab. Some events are organized by pre-law clubs or the academic department.

Lawyer Specializations Employer Panels

Employers and attorneys of all year levels and areas of expertise visit Brooklyn College, answering students’ questions about their particular fields and day-to-day schedules. In the past, employers from the NY District Attorney’s Office and Milkbank LLP have visited.

Internship Visits

Professionals from across all areas of the legal profession visit Brooklyn College to educate pre-law students about internship and fellowship opportunities offered. They are given the chance to network with admissions directors and ask questions about the application process. Securing prestigious internships gives students a leg up with regards to law school applications.

Moot Court and Mock Trial Team Interactive Workshops

Students get first hand experience of how a trial is run. It gives students a chance to learn about specializations, ranging from patent to personal injury law.

Visits from Law-School Admissions Officers

Some events feature representatives of prestigious law schools from all around the nation! Students are encouraged to network with law school admissions officers, ask them questions about the application process, and remain in touch.

LSAC Law Forum Event Off-Campus

Hilton Hotel-1335 Ave of the America, New York, NY 10009

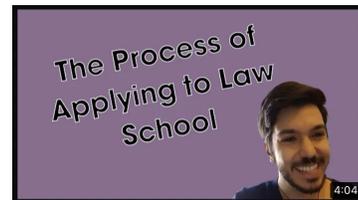
[LSAC](#) offers pre-registration online for the Law School Forums. Attendees can register their information with LSAC ahead of time, saving them the time of filling out a paper form on-site. At the event, there will be pre-Law Advisors present to counsel attendees. LSAC staff is available as well. In addition, there will be a minority resource table to answer questions and provide information of particular interest to minority candidates considering careers in law. For everyone's convenience, there will be a schedule of events posted at the registration area of the law school forum. See you there!

Notable Alumni

Brooklyn College Alumni who have visited and attended events have shared their experiences working in the legal field, even providing students with valuable advice regarding the law school application process and navigating the pro's and con's of the legal profession.

[Joseph Valerio](#)

Associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP



[Ben](#)

The Process of Applying to Law School: Joseph Valerio
MagnerCenterVideo · 5 views · 2 months ago

[Katerina Robinson](#)

Federal Prosecuting Attorney: Department of Homeland Security

[Adams](#)

Staff Attorney at United States Courts

[Kevin L. Jones](#)

Assistant District Attorney at Queens District Attorney's Office

[Edward Smith](#)

Attorney: Manhattan District Attorney's Office

[Terrance Stroud](#)

Director of Training & Development at the NYC Department of Preservation and Development



BIGGEST PIECE OF ADVICE FOR PRE-LAW STUDENTS: Katerina Robinson (...)
MagnerCenterVideo · 7 views · 1 year ago



WHO IS FIT FOR THE ROLE OF AN ATTORNEY: Edward Smith (Manhattan...
MagnerCenterVideo · 11 views · 1 year ago



ZOOM IN with Kevin L. Jones and Benjamin Adams (First Recipients for t...
MagnerCenterVideo · 43 views · 10 months ago



CAREER ADVICE: Terrance Stroud
MagnerCenterVideo · 211 views · 3 years ago

Online Pre-Law Resources

Brooklyn College Pre-Law Career Website Page

[Visit](#) for more information about general events, panels, networking opportunities, internships, and scholarships for pre-law students.

Follow our Social Media pages to stay connected and hear about law-related internship opportunities, networking events, attorney employer panels, and more!

Instagram

(@BrooklynCollegePreLawClub)

Facebook

(@BrooklynCollegePreLawClub)

Twitter

(@BrooklynCollegePreLawClub)

LinkedIn

(@BrooklynCollegePreLawClub)

YouTube (@MagnerCenterVideo)

Tiktok (@magnercareercenterbc)



Is a Career in Law Right for You?

There are several different fields of law that students can pursue once they graduate. Each of these fields can be categorized as either administrative, litigation or transactional, depending on the type of law. In administrative law, you will work for an agency that allows you to practice law on behalf of an organization, such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). As a litigator, you will spend much of your time arguing cases of a civil or criminal nature in front of the judge. Finally, transactional law refers to legal rules that influence or constrain planning, negotiating, and document drafting in connection with individuals or businesses. Some fields of law fall into two or three categories, as you will see below. The following chart assesses which type of law is being practiced for each field provided:

Type of Law	Administrative	Litigation	Transactional
Civil Rights law	√	√	
Corporate/Business law			√
Criminal law		√	
Educational law	√		
Employment and Labor law	√	√	
Environment and Natural Resource law	√		
Family and Juvenile law		√	
Health Law	√	√	
Marine Law	√	√	√
Immigration law	√		

International law	√	√	√
Intellectual Property law	√	√	√
Real Estate law	√	√	√
Sports and Entertainment law	√	√	√
Tax law	√	√	√
Technology Law	√	√	√

Pre Law Career FAQs

Q. How can I learn more about law careers?

A. Students can [register](#) for legal professions employer panels, professional workshops, internship visits, try out for the Moot Court/Mock Trial teams by emailing brooklyncollege.mocktrial@gmail.com, attend visits from Law-School Admissions Officers, and so much more.

Here are some additional helpful resources regarding key topics:

- Deciding on a [field of law](#) to study
- Learning about the different [types of law programs](#)
- Selecting your [legal specialty](#)

Q. Who should I talk to if I need guidance regarding a pre-law career?

A. To decide if a pre-law career is for you, attend our legal career events and connect with an alumni mentor who works in law. For assistance in meeting alumni within the legal field or securing a pre-law internship, contact Pamela Brown at pbrown@brooklyn.cuny.edu, or in 1303 James Hall at (718) 951-5696. Make sure to [watch this video](#) before your appointment.

Q. What kinds of law-related internships are available for undergraduates?

A. In the past, our pre-law students have interned at the Kings County District Attorney’s Office, nonprofits such as Legal Momentum, the Brooklyn Defender Services, as well as political campaigns. Furthermore, the Edward T. Rogowsky Internship Program runs through the Political Science Department. This program places students to work in elected officials’ offices in New York City, Albany, and Washington. An internship is available in both of these programs by taking Political Science 75.5 Urban Fieldwork for 3 credits.

Q. How can students learn more about legal internship opportunities?

A. Students can learn more about legal internship and job opportunities by making an appointment with our pre-law advisor, Pamela Brown. Subscribe to the pre-law “Employment

Opportunities for Pre-Law Students” email newsletters for weekly updates regarding new legal internship, fellowship, job, and volunteer opportunities!

Q. What kind of financial assistance does Brooklyn College offer pre-law students?

A. Students can [apply for the Stanley Geen Memorial stipend](#) for unpaid internship opportunities related to law, politics, and activism. For reimbursement regarding LSAT prep courses, books, or related materials, and to apply for the LSAT reimbursement Stipend Award, please reach out to Pamela Brown at PBrown@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Brooklyn College Pre-Law Program FAQs

Q. What does Brooklyn College offer Pre-law students?

A. Brooklyn College offers a liberal arts education that serves as the best form of preparation for Law School. While there are many classes that are useful for pre-law students, departments specializing in classes for pre-law students are Political Science, Philosophy, and Classics. Political Science offers courses dealing with government, politics, and power. There are specific lenses of government, legal systems, and constitutions. The Philosophy Department offers classes in reasoning, logic, and ethics. A Philosophy of Law track for the philosophy major is available to students who wish to focus on questions in social and political philosophy. Classics courses can help with your analytical skills and the definition of law over time. [Click here](#) for a list of undergraduate programs, with class lists for all departments.

Q. What should I major in, if I want to pursue a law career?

A. There is no formal pre-law major at Brooklyn College and no major should be seen as preparing students exclusively for law school. The American Bar Association (ABA) also does not recommend any particular major. We advise students preparing for Law School to take classes that require you to read and analyze dense texts, as well as improve your written and oral communication skills.

The next section” includes a law-related minor, law-related concentration, and examples of majors that have courses that will help you develop the knowledge and skills you need to succeed. A well balanced liberal arts education, which includes Brooklyn College’s Core Curriculum, is the best preparation for law school. For more questions or assistance in creating your personalized academic plan, schedule an appointment with a faculty advisor Professor Anna Gotlib, Pre-Law Academic Advisor in Philosophy Department, 3307 Boylan Hall, 718.951.5324, AGotlib@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Q. How do I create an academic plan and schedule to help me with law school?

A. Class availability and instructors may vary depending on academic year and semester. To access the updated course catalogs

- 1) Click on the BC website
- 2) Click “Academics”
- 3) Look through “Academic Departments”

Here are some of the Brooklyn College majors that offer relevant law-related and skill-building courses:

- Africana Studies
- Anthropology
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Information
- English
- Judiac Studies
- Judiac Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Puerto Rican and Latino Studies
- Speech Communication Arts and Sciences
- Sociology
- Television

Business Law and Real Estate BPA

- The Business Law and Real Estate concentration is within the B.B.A. and Real Estate Degree program in philosophy. It is recommended for students planning on pursuing careers in business, law, public affairs, or planning and management. [Click here](#) for details and requirements.

Philosophy and Law Program

- The Philosophy and Law concentration is within the B.A. degree Law Concentration program in philosophy.
- It is recommended for students planning careers involving public affairs, law, or planning and management. [Click here](#) for details and requirements.

Children & Youth Studies Program

- Minor in "[Pre-professional Explorations: Focus on Children](#)"
- Minor in "[Pre-Professional Explorations: Focus on Children in Social Services and the Law](#)"

Q. What programs are offered by law schools to help me prepare?

A. Some Law Schools hold summer sessions open to pre-law students to give a preview of what law school is like. [Click here](#) for a comprehensive list.

The Cornell University Summer Session

- The program lasts the same amount of time as a summer semester. You can see what courses they offer as well as the opportunity to be placed at an internship. [Click here](#) for details and requirements.

The Law Review Program

- This program offers week-long, intensive summer prep courses in cities across the country. Their professors come from a wide variety of law schools. Details and Requirements
- [Click here](#) for details and requirements.

Law School Admissions FAQs

Q. What do Law Schools typically look for in a candidate for admission?

A. The two most important parts of a Law School application are a strong LSAT score and a student's grade point average (GPA). Admissions officers and committees use the LSAT score as a measure of the reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, and logical thinking skills needed to succeed in Law School. Admissions committees use the grade point average to assess student preparation for law study, and do take into account the degree of difficulty of the courses on which the GPA is based. Admissions Staff are looking for students who have the potential to be successful law students. This potential is demonstrated through strong analytical and verbal skills and an ability to work at high speed under pressure.

Q. What is involved in Law School applications?

A. All Law School applications are unique to the Law School. Most require the application form, a personal statement, at least 2 letters of recommendation, a resume or curriculum vitae, all transcripts, and an LSAT score. All of the elements of your application for Law School will be received and distributed through the LSDAS. Register for the LSDAS toward the end of your sophomore year.

Law School Preparation Checklist

First Year

- [Register](#) for law-related career events and panels.
- Research potential job/internship opportunities (When do they hire? What do they look for?) using [HireBC](#), [Vault](#), and other job boards like [LinkedIn](#), and [Idealist](#).
- Schedule an appointment with the Pre-Law Career Advisor Pamela Brown at (718) 951-5696 to discuss your career interests and career plan. [Watch this video](#) before your appointment.
- Take core courses and electives to become familiar with a variety of fields that develop communication skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening) and logical reasoning skills.

Second Year

- Take challenging courses that will improve your reading, writing, and analytical skills.

- Consult a Pre-law Faculty Advisor about selecting your major. Decide on your major by the time you have earned 61 credits.
- Become involved in club, community, and campus activities; engage with students from backgrounds different from your own.
- Check out campus organizations for students interested in law.

Third Year

- Schedule an appointment with the Pre-law Faculty Advisor to talk about your Law School search, financing a legal education, and preparation for the Law School Admissions Test.
- Register with the LSAC and check out Law School application planning on their site: www.lsac.org.
- Register for LSAT prep courses, some of which are offered on campus.
- [Register](#) for law-related career events and panels.
- Consider a summer pre-law program for a preview of what Law School is like. [Click here](#) for a comprehensive list.
- Check out the available [scholarship opportunities](#) for pre-law students.

Fourth Year

- Create a list of Law Schools to which you are interested in applying. See lists of schools on the AALS, ABA, and LSAC websites.
- Find the GPA/LSAT score admissions projection tool on the LSAC site, consult a Faculty Advisor, and refine your list.
- Attend the LSAC Law School Forum in New York City.
- Ascertain application deadlines for all the schools you are considering. Consider early acceptance programs, if applicable.
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers and mentors, using the instructions and forms supplied on the LSAC website. Leave time to ask your letter writers to discuss your LSAT score in their letters, if appropriate.
- Start your applications in the fall after you get the results from the June or September/October LSAT.
- Prepare your personal statement. Contact the Learning Center's pre-law writing tutor, to make an appointment to review your personal statement.

Post-Baccalaureate

- Tell the Office of Alumni Engagement and the Magner Career Center on your professional advancement and when you are a lawyer participate in a panel or mentor a student.

Components of the Law School Application

Almost all law schools require the following materials:

- Application Form
- Letters of Recommendation
- GPA/Transcript
- LSAT
- Personal Statement
- Resume with Internships & Extracurricular Activities

I. Application Form

Law School application forms are straightforward, usually requiring you to fill in basic biographical information about yourself and family. In addition, you will also be asked about your GPA, LSAT scores, and work experience.

Q. How do I acquire the law school's application forms?

A. There are two main ways to secure the application forms:

- Request the forms from the Law Schools directly. Most Law Schools have websites where you can download the application. Go to the "Links to Other Resources" page of the prelaw website to find links to websites for all the ABA accredited Law Schools.
- Use the LSAC's on-line application process. LSAC provides detailed instructions (including video demonstrations) describing how to complete your Law School applications on-line through LSAC. See www.lsac.org.

II. Recommendation Letters

Q. Are letters of recommendation important?

A. Recommendation letters are required by Law Schools. They are a vital complement to your GPA and LSAT scores because they come from professors/employers who can attest to the quality of your work and evaluate your potential to study law. Ideally, you should choose professors with whom you have taken more than one course and with whom you have had a positive relationship. Law Schools require a minimum of two letters of reference.

Q. What can I give to those writing letters of recommendation on my behalf?

A. What to give to your letter-writers: Remember that it is very time-consuming to write a compelling letter of recommendation, and your letter-writers are likely very busy people. Therefore, make the letter writing process as easy as possible for the letter-writer. If you provide him/her with detailed, clear information, the letter-writer has more time to focus on the content of the letter (instead of trying to figure out whom it should be addressed to, where it should be sent, etc.). We suggest that you give the letter-writer a packet of information to help him draft the letter, including:

- Statement about why you are applying to Law School: Provide your letter-writer a brief written

statement (one or two short paragraphs) about why you are interested in applying to law school.

- Copies of papers, paper comments, and grade received: Remind your letter-writer of who you are and how you know the letter-writer. If you took a course or courses from the letter-writer, remind him which course(s) and your grade(s) as well as any comments he made about your written work and class participation. You can attach a copy of the papers you wrote and any comments the recommender may have made.
- Your updated resume: Craft your resume with tips and templates from our [Resume Review Guide](#). Be sure to edit your resume. It should be neat, well-organized, and easy to read.
- A deadline: Clearly indicate when your letter needs to be completed. It is proper etiquette to give your letter-writer **at least one month** to complete your letter. This may seem like a long time to you, but remember your letter-writers are busy individuals with many commitments. They'll be much happier with you and more likely to write you a detailed, compelling letter, if you provide them ample time to draft it.
- Content of the Letter: Tell your letter-writer that his letter should address attributes about you which will make you a good candidate for Law School. Among other attributes, your letter-writer can comment about your: reliability, maturity, leadership skills, community work, writing skills, analytical skills, organizational skills, ability to think on your feet, and ability to work in groups. We advise you to ask your letter writer to draft a general letter, which you can submit to all Law Schools.

III. GPA/Transcript

Your grade point average (GPA) is an important part of your Law School application. Most Law Schools will ask you to calculate your GPA. Additionally, Law Schools will ask you to submit an official Brooklyn College transcript.

Q. How do I get my transcript?

A. To obtain a copy of your official transcript, you must order it through the Brooklyn College Registrar. This is done via the [BC Web Central](#).

Q. Where should I send my transcript?

A. LSDAS requires an official transcript. Therefore, instruct the Brooklyn College Registrar to send a transcript and/or grade report to:
[Law School Data Assembly Service](#) (LSDAS)

IV. Credential Assembly Service

Q. What is (CAS) Credential Assembly Service?

A. The LSAC'S (CAS) packages critical components of your application for Law Schools. You should register for this service through the **LSAC website**. **Nearly all schools approved by the American Bar Association require that applicants use the (CAS), which provides a report to each Law School you apply to.** This includes copies of all transcripts, all LSAT scores, writing samples, and letters of recommendation. The CAS prepares a report for each Law School to which you apply. After you register and pay a **fee**, CAS prepares and provides a report for each Law School to which you applied. With the registration, you will also receive access to electronic applications for all ABA-approved Law Schools. Using the electronic application service can save you time, allowing you to answer common questions only once (e.g., your name, address, undergraduate degree). It must be repeated that Law Schools **EXPECT** to receive applications generated by the LSAC electronic service. See www.lsac.org for more information.

V. Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

Q. What is the LSAT?

A. The Law School Admission Test (“LSAT”) is a standardized test required for admission to all Law Schools. It is an important component of your Law School application. Scored from 120 – 180 (with 180 being a perfect score), the LSAT has three main types of sections: reading comprehension, logical reasoning (a.k.a., arguments), and analytic reasoning (a.k.a., logic games). The actual test consists of five sections (each 35 minutes): one reading comprehension, two logical reasoning, and one analytic reasoning, plus one experimental section (which does not count toward your score). Additionally, there is a thirty minute writing portion which does not factor into your LSAT score but is sent to Law Schools. It is suggested that on the day of your exam, you should bring bottled water ONLY, several pencils with erasers, a valid ID (license or passport) and maybe even a candy bar (granola bar if you’re not into sweets) for energy.

Q. How do I register for the LSAT?

A. Register for the LSAT through the Law School Assembly Service at www.lsac.org. Check the website for details about when and how to register.

Q. In general, when should I take the LSAT?

A. The optimal time to take the LSAT is when you have the best chance of doing well. You should take the LSAT when you have time to focus on preparing for the test, and when you are not overwhelmed by other stresses in your life.

Q. How many times a year is the LSAT administered?

A. The LSAT is generally given EIGHT times a year. Most popular times are June, October, December and February (in some years the October test is given at the end of Sept). Refer to the LSAC website at www.lsac.org for this year’s specific test dates and registration deadlines.

Q. What time of year should I take the LSAT – June, October, December or February?

A. In our experience, most students take the LSAT in **October** of the year in which they are applying. So, students who are planning to attend Law School right after they graduate, often take the LSAT in October of their senior year. In October, the fall semester has just begun, and students’ course workload is not yet intense. Therefore, students often find they have time to focus on LSAT test preparation.

1. Taking the LSAT in June of the year in which you plan to apply has advantages; you will know your score in the summer and have a better basis to select where to apply.

2. You can take the December LSAT and apply to Law School during the same academic year. The disadvantage is that you will not know your score in advance of having to submit your applications. Additionally, your applications will not be complete until your LSAT score is submitted; therefore, law schools will not be able to make a final decision about your candidacy until late in the application cycle.

3. If you take the February LSAT, most law schools will require you to wait until the following academic year to submit your application.

Q. How should I prepare for the LSAT? Should I enroll in a structured LSAT prep course, or should I study on my own?

A. One of the best ways to prepare for the LSAT is by taking actual LSAT tests which have been given in the past. You can order these tests from the LSAC website (see www.lsac.org). Some students find it helpful to enroll in a test preparation course. The benefits of enrolling in such a course include: being provided a structured study schedule, being taught test strategies, and studying with other people. However, the test prep services are costly (sometimes over \$1500). It's most important for you to be self-reflective and honest with yourself about your own study habits. If you like and need structure and outside motivation, it's best to take a course. If you prefer to study on your own, in a quiet environment, you may not need to take a prep class. The Magner Career Center offers a list of LSAT Prep programs to research. Please contact Pam Brown.

Q. How much should I study for the LSAT?

A. There is no one answer to this question. Certainly, it depends on your goal score as well as your comfort level with standardized tests. If you find timed tests stressful, it's best to err on the side of studying more rather than less. We find most students prepare for up to 3 months for this exam. The LSAT & LSDAS Information Book has test preparation information, available in the Magner Career Center's Pre-Law library and is available for [download](#).

Q. Where should I have my LSAT scores sent?

A. You should have them sent to the Law Schools to which you are applying.

Q. If I have additional questions about the LSAT, what should I do?

A. The LSAC offers FAQs about the LSAT. See <http://www.lsac.org/>

VI. Personal Statement

Q. How important is the personal statement?

A. Along with the LSAT/GPA and letters of recommendation, the personal statement is the most important part of your Law School applications. Trends in personal statements change over time: be sure to check out resources on the LSAC site, at Magner Career Center Pre-Law workshops, and in the specific instructions about the personal statement offered by each school. The personal statement is your opportunity to provide a Law School some information about yourself which may not be apparent in the other components of your application. Use the personal statement to help Law Schools develop an understanding of who you are as a person. In many cases the personal statement can be the decision maker and should be designated a substantial amount of execution time.

Note: A small number of Tier 1 & 2 schools (such as Yale, NYU, etc.) require an additional essay also known as the "Optional Essay." This essay is usually less specific than the first personal statement but most importantly it is **NOT** optional and must be submitted to LSAC with the rest of your documents.

Q. What are some "tips" about the personal statement? What are Law Schools looking for?

A. They are as follows:

The personal statement should be “personal.” The personal statement is your opportunity to help Law Schools develop a better picture of who you are. You can highlight aspects of yourself which may not be apparent in any other place in your application. Do not, however, write a theoretical or academic essay on a particular topic (e.g., on the meaning of fairness and justice, on the history of legal thought, on the development of international law). Instead, tell a story about yourself. Use the personal statement to demonstrate to Law Schools what motivates you as a person.

The personal statement should be easy to read and well-written. Do not try to impress the readers with an abstruse essay. Instead, write a clear, concise, and well organized essay. To the extent possible, use declarative sentences in an active voice. Edit the statement. The Law Schools are using this statement to gauge whether or not you are a good writer, so errors will harm your chance for admission. Use standard font and margins. All essays should be edited by no less than three people. This can include: professors, employers, any members of the Pre-Law team, and the Magner Career Center for Career Development and Internships.

The personal statement should *not* be a list of your accomplishments and activities. The Law Schools will have your resume and transcript(s). Law Schools use the personal statement to learn more about who you are as an individual – what motivates you, what you will add to the Law School class and the legal profession.

The personal statement should be original. Although you may want to directly answer the question “why I want to go to Law School,” remember that the individuals reading your personal statement have read hundreds of essays which answer this question. Your statement can certainly address how your background and experiences have led you to apply to Law School, but don’t merely list reasons why you want to be a lawyer.

Avoid making broad generalizations and too many political and social references in your personal statement and instead provide personal anecdotes or examples. Instead of making broad statements (like “I want to use the law to make a difference in people’s lives”), provide the reader specific information about how your background and experiences have shaped your attitudes and values. In short, “show, don’t tell.”

Most importantly, always cite your references and double-check any facts and/or figures that are included in any of your essays!

VII. Internships/Extracurricular Activities

Q. Will internships/extracurricular activities give me an edge with getting into Law School?

A. Working in Law-related internships or jobs, are always suggested for students who wish to attend Law School. Law Schools are interested in students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Ultimately working in a Law job may help you decide if the legal environment is the right fit for you. Even if you do not get “substantive” work in your legal internship, it can still be a valuable experience. And ultimately success in an internship may result in a reference or recommendation letter for the future. So make good use of your internship, as you are there to work and observe! Observe how the attorneys interact with one another and with clients.

Observe their moods and stress level. Think about whether you could see yourself in their job.

VIII. Choosing a Law School

Q. How do I learn more about particular law schools?

A. The ABA details at their website, <http://www.abanet.org>, which schools are accredited by them. You can also find lists of ABA accredited schools on the website of the American Association of Law Schools (www.aals.org) and on the LSAC site.

Q. How can I find out which law schools offer particular areas of law?

A. The best indicator of specialization areas at particular schools is the number of faculty who work in those areas. Check out faculty lists and biographies on Law School websites, which you can reach through the AALS site. For clinical areas, check Law School websites for the list of clinics the school runs. Law School admissions staff can tell you more: the LSAC holds Law School forums in various cities, including New York, generally in the fall. The forums are free. Representatives from various Law Schools are there to consult with students. Find out more at <https://www.lsac.org/choosing-law-school/law-school-forums-and-fairs>.

Q. How can I find out which law schools are likely to accept me?

A. The LSAC site provides a search tool in its “Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools” that takes a student's GPA/LSAT score (actual or hypothetical) and produces graphs that indicate where in the entering class for the preceding year for every ABA-accredited Law School in the country a student with that record would fall. This is your best guide to your odds of getting into a particular school. Also, talk to a faculty pre-law advisor about strategies for applying to particular schools.

Q. Are there rankings of law schools?

A. [The American Bar Association](http://www.americanbar.org) (ABA) offers a list of accredited schools. They offer information on when the school became accredited and break down schools by public or private status.

The U.S. News and World Report's rankings are also highly respected and used by students interested in Law School. It must be noted that different schools weigh differently depending on state, region, practice area, and student Law School performance. Talk to a faculty advisor about your particular situation, plans for the future, and geographical preferences to get a sense of how to rank the schools you are considering.

Q. What if I'm waitlisted at a law school? What should I do?

A. If you are waitlisted at a Law School that you would really like to attend, there are several strategies you can pursue. First, it is most important that you communicate to the Law School that you would **immediately** accept if you received an offer of admission. Law Schools want to increase their yields; they are more likely to give an offer of admission if they know it will be accepted. We do not, however, recommend giving up other Law School admission offers (even from lower-ranked schools) while waiting on a waiting list. You can usually accept an admission offer (a deposit is often required), and then withdraw your acceptance later if you withdraw your position on a waiting list at a better school.

Second, you can send additional materials. These materials might include additional letters of recommendation, more recent grade reports (**only** if your grades have improved since you sent your initial application), and additional statements. Probably the most effective statement is a simple paragraph on why you are prepared to drop everything and accept an offer of admission to the law school and how you would rearrange your plans accordingly. For instance, you might explain why you would be willing to move across the country at a moment's notice if

the law school accepted you. You might also explain why you think that the law school is a particularly good “fit” for you. Of course, if there are additional circumstances that might have affected your grades, LSAT scores, and/or reasons for attending Law School that you did not communicate in your initial application, you can include this information in a short statement as well.

While the chances of getting off of waitlists are exceedingly slim, there is also always hope. If you use this opportunity to argue your case more forcefully to the law school, your odds will probably improve.

Law School Admissions Contacts

Albany Law School

admissions@albanylaw.edu

Belmont Law School

law@belmont.edu

Boston College Law School

bclawadm@bc.edu

California Western School of Law

admissions@cwsl.edu

Georgetown Law Admissions

cd1175@georgetown.edu

Harvard Law

jdadmiss@law.harvard.edu

McGeorge School of Law

mcgeorge@pacific.edu

Penn State Law School

admissions@pennstatelaw.psu.edu

Stanford Law School

admissions@law.stanford

Texas A&M Law

admissions@law.tamu.edu

University at Buffalo School of Law

law-communications@buffalo.edu

University of Miami School of Law

LawCommunications@law.miami.edu

University of Nebraska College of Law

lawadmissions@unl.edu

Additional Resources

LSAT

- For general questions about the LSAT, to register for the LSAT and the LSDAS, plus practice tests, see the Law School Admissions Council at <http://www.lsac.org/>.
- LSAT preparation services
 - [Test Well](#)
 - [Princeton Review](#)
 - [Kaplan](#)
 - [Power Score](#)
 - [Testmasters](#)

National Law School Associations

- Learn more about the national organizations of the legal profession, beginning from law school to the bar exam at
 - American Association of Law Schools at http://www.aals.org/about_memberschools.php
 - American Bar Association at <http://www.abanet.org/legaled.html>

Law School Search

- Explore the following resources to facilitate your law school search:
 - [FindLaw.com's Guide to Law Schools](#)
 - [Cornell Law School](#)
 - [Noodle's Law School Search](#)

Legal Job Opportunities

- Stay in the loop and learn more about job opportunities spanning across the entire legal profession, using these resources:
 - [National Association for Law Placement](#) (NALP)
 - [Equal Justice Works](#)

Informative Works

Reading studies about law school and the legal profession, anecdotes written by practicing attorneys, and even some novels can provide you important insights as you contemplate Law School. Here are several books that might interest you:

- Bellow, Gary and Martha Minow. **Law Stories: The Law As Seen from the Outside.** A compilation of stories and anecdotes written by public interest attorneys and their clients. Stories address problems from parental rights in a Head Start program, to the consequence of a large-scale bankruptcy for the company's retirees, to defending juvenile delinquents.
- Fischl, Richard and Jeremy Paul. **Getting to Maybe.** An overview of the best ways to approach taking Law School exams. Can be a little bit overwhelming to read in one sitting, but offers good tips.
- Gottesman, Greg, et al. **Law School Survival: A Crash Course for Students by Students.** Anecdotes from law students about their experiences. Book provides some useful suggestions and ideas.
- Guiner, Lani. **Becoming Gentlemen.** Report on women's experiences at top Law Schools, with a particular focus on the University of Pennsylvania.
- Hope, Judith Richards. **Pinstripes and Pearls: The Women of Harvard Law School Class of '64 Who Forged an Old Girl Network and Paved the Way for Future Generations.** History of the experience of the first women to attend Harvard Law School by one of the women who lived it.
- Lewis, Anthony. **Gideon's Trumpet.** Arguably one of the most inspiring and influential books on American constitutional law: former New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis tells the

true story of how a Florida inmate took his own case to the Supreme Court and earned the right to counsel for all Americans.

- Lewis, Anthony. **Make No Law: The Sullivan Case and the First Amendment.** Lewis' account of the landmark First Amendment case New York Times v. Sullivan tracks the development of libel law and the right to a free press.
- Miller, Robert. **Law School Confidential: A Complete Guide to the Law School Experience.** Tips and advice for Law School, from the application process through the final year of Law School.
- Osborn, John J. Jr. **Paper Chase.** Classic legal novel and movie about a first year law student who attempts to balance adjusting to the difficult first year with a romance (with the daughter of one of his stern Law School professors).
- Kahlenburg, Richard and Robert Coles. **Broken Contract.** A compelling account about the transformation of students who enter Harvard Law School committed to the ideals of social justice and public interest lawyering and leave the school assuming jobs in the corporate sector.
- Stracher, Cameron. **Double Billing: A Young Lawyer's Tale of Greed, Sex, Lies, & the Pursuit of a Swivel Chair.** Cautionary tale of life as a first-year associate at a New York law firm.
- Turrow, Scott. **One-L.** A true account by novelist Scott Turrow (Presumed Innocent) about his first year at Harvard Law School. Similar in tone to The Paper Chase but with a bit more cynicism.

Pre-Law Advising & Personalized Guidance

Pre-Law Advising at Brooklyn College consists of a team of committed and knowledgeable professionals. Each has an area of expertise that can help you successfully navigate your way through law school preparation and planning!

Schedule an appointment with a faculty advisor **Professor Anna Gotlib**, Pre-Law Academic Advisor in Philosophy Department, 3307 Boylan Hall, 718.951.5324 , AGotlib@brooklyn.cuny.edu to get answers to general questions such as:

- How can I best prepare for the LSAT?
- What GPA should I ideally have?
- When should I begin applying?
- Which major or courses should I take to help me get into law school?
- What should I include in my Personal Statement?
- How exactly do I finance a law school education?

Schedule an appointment with career advisor **Pamela Brown** from the Magner Career Center, Assistant Director, Global Internships & Pre-Law Programs and Liaison to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, 1303 James Hall P: 718.951.5696, pbrown@brooklyn.cuny.edu to get answers to questions such as:

- What kind of career options are available for someone interested in law?
- How can I get more information to decide if a career in law is right for me?
- Where can I intern to gain exposure and experience in law?
- Is there funding to help me pay for LSAT prep or an unpaid internship?
- Are there events or professionals I can speak with to learn about law careers?

- What is the NYC Law School Forum?
- Are there pipe-line programs that prepare students for law school?

Make sure to watch [this video](#) before your appointment!