

Sample Law School Application Timeline

As an advisor (even if unofficial), Native students may come to you at different stages in their academic life. Either as a current undergraduate student, or as a graduate. When advising about law school the first important thing to know is you are the tip of the iceberg. There is a vast network of people and resources and you are not alone in advising, nor should you. The second piece of information to remember is that trends in law school admissions expectations change. The advice given to applicants ten years ago is no longer correct. Reach out and rely on your network to know the trends and expectations for law school admissions.

<u>Timing/Month</u>	<u>Current Undergrad</u>	<u>Post Grad – Non-Traditional</u>
A General Note	Going straight from undergrad to law school has been deemed the traditional route. There are benefits like being in the same age group and experience level as other in your cohort and most law school curricula are geared to a recent undergrad, but the lack of professional experience can hamper the maturity level. While everyone’s application process is unique, <i>it is always preferable to start early.</i> If a student starts looking at law school and then changes their mind, the skills and experiences gained will be transferable.	Post graduates – Some applicants do not decide they want to go to law school and become a lawyer until later after they have completed undergrad. As with all decisions, there are benefits and negatives. Technically a student who does not go straight from undergraduate to law school is considered non-traditional and their opportunities in areas of private work may be limited because of implicit biases, but it is not a barrier. While everyone’s application process is unique, <i>it is always preferable to start early.</i>
LSAC Forums	LSAC Forums are law school fair events where law schools hold information tables for applicants to speak with an admissions	
Pre-College Pipeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is important for youth starting as early as elementary school to be exposed to professionals in legal careers (especially Native American and other underrepresented groups). - Encouraging current college students to volunteer with primary and secondary students through moot court coaching can help them with the application process 	
In College Pipeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course Selection: Doing well in critical thinking and writing classes - Major selection: The current trend is for law schools to be less concerned with the type of major, and more with excelling, doing well in all classes and taking the classes that will develop the skills needed in law school. Writing, critical thinking, reading comprehension, research, analysis, commitment to performing well. - Experience: Professional paid, volunteer, or unpaid for course credit experiences are all beneficial. They not only looks good on the resume, but also help students understand what law school and the legal professions is and is not. For opportunities in various types of legal offices (public, private and non-profit), especially in the fields of Federal Indian and Tribal Law, use your network - LSAC PLUS – Pre Law Undergraduate Scholars is a summer program only available to rising college sophomores and juniors. The four-week programs provide an intense focus on the skills required to succeed in law school, the law school admission process, and a legal career. There is no cost to attend, and participants receive a \$1,000 stipend. 	
	All of the action suggestions are for the applicants. As an advisor you can guide and support the applicant to see if the suggested actions are the right path for that student.	

January	<p>Junior Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Register with LSAC and sign up for alerts and notices about Forums and other regional/campus events in your area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 1/26/19 – Khan Academy is official partner for LSAT prep, but may not be the best fit for applicant. Find best study fit. - A postgraduate may want to apply for the upcoming Fall semester. It will be too late for any school with a hard Jan. deadline, but applicant may be able to apply to schools with rolling admissions if they have a strong LSAT score can quickly prepare their application materials. These are uncommon instances, but it is possible - Any applicant should take this January test if they want to be eligible to apply to PLSI
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn more about law schools and the areas of law you are interested in (ongoing) - Visit various law offices, meet lawyers, speak with prelaw advisor - Look for summer opportunities that will develop transferable skills (it does not have to be an experience in the legal field, but should develop professional skills) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize decision for which law school(s) to apply - Complete application materials - Submit application
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decide which LSAT you will take and register - Register for CAS (subscription good for two years) - Apply for LSAC fee waiver (if applicable) - Register for CRS (candidate referral service) - LSAT Offered 3/30/19 (not likely the best LSAT to take because not enough time for preparation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 3/30/19 - Early March – Priority for many school with rolling admissions - Consider this as a re-take date if your January score was not strong. If this is the first LSAT taken, applicant will not be eligible for PLSI - PLSI Application Due 3/22/19
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study for June LSAT – Khan Academy is official partner for LSAT prep, but may not be the best fit for applicant. Find best study fit. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If not applying for the upcoming Fall semester, continue researching - If the decisions has been made not to apply for the upcoming school year follow same timeline as undergrad
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan to use this summer to gain experience that will develop transferable skills and expose you to the legal profession - There may not be any paid positions, but networking within the legal community will be better long term investment to make sure law school is the right fit for you and to get your fit into that professional door (you can also spend part of the summer working for pay and part of the summer volunteering for a nonprofit legal office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look for opportunities to engage in the legal community - The Indian law community is especially small and meeting attorneys judges, professors and students will expose give you a better feel for the legal community - Attend speeches and presentations at law schools - Volunteer with legal nonprofits - Look for opportunities to work in law offices or courts - Study for June LSAT - If successfully applied to law school, attend PLSI

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify preliminary list of schools to apply - Study for June LSAT 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 6/3/19 - Study for July LSAT - Draft a professional resume - Seek resume advice/suggestions - Study for LSAT (procure materials, begin test prep program if desired, create a study timeline you can commit to) 	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 7/15/19 – All LSATs from now on will only be offered electronically - Study for September LSAT - Identify persons for Letters of Recommendation - Update contact information - Write cover letters for recommendation requests - Write Draft personal statement - Study for LSAT (study time, problem sets, practice tests in test –like conditions, etc.) 	
August	<p><u>Senior Year</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request letters of recommendation (aim for 2 academic + 1 other) - Provide cover letter and professional resume (have personal statement available if needed) - Revise/polish personal statement (seek advice if needed) - Study for LSAT 	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 9/15/19 - Applications available (9/1) - 9/1-10/1 Continue to review and polish application and all materials - Draft addenda (as needed, based on application question and any special circumstances) - Continue researching schools. Call admissions offices for specific questions not answered on websites, visit schools and classes if possible - Monitor letter of recommendation completion. Send respectful reminders if needed 	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 10/28/19 - Final edits for personal statement, addenda, application, resume - Target Dates for submitting applications: 10/1-15 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 11/25/19 - Monitor completion and review status through CRS and CAS 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor completion and review status - More decisions begin to be released - Enjoy holiday break. Take advantage of break to travel and visit schools 	
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 1/13/20 - Complete FAFSA (estimates accepted) and have FAFSA info sent to schools to which you applied - Research outside scholarships opportunities/apply for outside scholarships - Search for housing options. On-campus, off campus to meet personal needs 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor completion and review status
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 2/22/20 - Complete need access if required to apply for financial aid or other supplemental apps - Keep monitoring application decisions - Continue applying for school-based and outside scholarships - Monitor completion and review status
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 3/30/20 - Priority financial aid application deadline - Make plans for admitted student events - Contact current students at law schools you have been admitted to (student organizations like NALSA) - Research schools and programs (e.g. loan repayment, summer fellowships, career placement, faculty areas, etc.) - Monitor completion and review status - PLSI Application Due – Late March
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSAT Offered 4/25/20 - First commitment/deposit deadline (usually 1st or 15th) - Attend admitted students events – visit schools - Check financial aid offers - Monitor completion and review status - Indian Section of Federal Bar Association Conference
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize decisions - Monitor application and waitlist status - Accept financial aid/loans. Work with financial aid office as needed - If thinking of deferring, request deferral ASAP - If attending law school or wait listed, attend PLSI <p>Attend PLSI</p>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize housing options - Make travel/relocation plans if applicable - Register for classes - Participate in any summer pre-orientation programs - Attend PLSI
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend PLSI - Family, ceremony, and your community have survived and thrived and will always be there. Attending PLSI will make you stronger and more resilient to return and make your community stronger and more resilient as an attorney, judge or law professor.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relocate (if applicable) - Breathe - Attend law school orientation - Be a law student!

