

Freshman Year

Register with the Pre-Law Advising Office and attend pre-law information sessions.

Familiarize yourself with the **resources** available in the Pre-Professional Advising Office.

Check out the pre-law **student organizations**: Pre-Law Society, Diversity in Law Association, *Pre-Law Review*, Mock Trial and Mock Mediation Team.

Learn about Boston University's student clubs and organizations (including the pre-law groups) at the **Activities Expo** in September.

When choosing classes, **explore all interests**.

Take courses that will enhance your **writing, reading comprehension, and analytical skills**.

Develop your **logical reasoning** ability and increase your awareness of human institutions, social values, and the world at large.

Choose a major in a field that both **intrigues** and **motivates** you to excel!

Sophomore Year

Be serious about your studies. Your **grades** are a very important part of your law school applications.

Make efforts to **actively participate in class** and attend professors' office hours, so that professors know you and your work. You will need academic letters of recommendation for your law school applications.

Find the right **balance** between academic coursework and extracurricular activities. Pursue your interests outside of class, but not at the expense of your academic performance.

Develop a realistic view of legal careers. Look for opportunities to obtain law-related experience. Talk with lawyers about their work.

Consider a summer job/internships and study abroad program that will expand your knowledge (preferably in a law-related field).

Take a look at a past **LSAT** (Law School Admissions Test) The Pre-Law library has all of the released tests. Check out **LSAC.org** (Law School Admissions Council). Set up a tentative plan for when you would like to take the test and how you will prepare. Discuss your plan with a pre-law advisor. Allow yourself **six months to a year** to prepare for the LSAT!

Junior Year

Attend the LSAC Boston Law School Forum. Be sure to pick up information from schools to which you definitely plan to apply. The forum will be busy and crowded, so a prepared list of schools will help to keep you on track. Gather as much information and talk to as many admissions representatives as you can. (The forum is held annually in the fall.)

Attend information sessions and panels co-sponsored by Pre-Law Advising and the Pre-Law Society. Hear first hand from admissions representatives about their schools' programs and what they seek in law school candidates.

Think about your decision to go to law school and research other options if you are not sure. Most law students take time off between college and law school. Consider working for a couple of years before going.

Research programmatic, lifestyle, and financial aid issues of law schools you are interested in attending. The Pre-Professional Advising Office has multiple resources.

Think about how you will pay for law school. Talk with your family. Obtain a free credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com

Begin studying for the LSAT. Discuss your plan with a pre-law advisor, and set up a study schedule. Take a full-length practice test. Work with two LSAT prep books and released official tests. If you feel that you are self-disciplined with your study plan and making progress to your satisfaction, continue with this method. If you are struggling with the material (or with motivating yourself to study), you may benefit from a commercial prep course. LSAT prep courses tend to be quite expensive. We strongly recommend that you do some research before you sign up. The Pre-Law Society holds events to help you learn about the test prep programs operating in Boston. Also, ask friends or acquaintances who have taken prep courses before for their opinions on how effective the course was and whether it really helped them improve their scores.

Register for the LSAT and LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS).

Attend the Application Process Meeting (held in April) with Dean Stern.

Fill out the Registration Packet for the Dean's Letter of Recommendation.

Finalize plans to prepare for and take the June LSAT. If you feel ready, take it in June. If not, consider the September/October test. Remember that ideally you will only take the LSAT once.

Senior Year

September/October

Complete your file with the Pre-Law Advising Office (list of schools and mailing labels).

If you haven't already taken the LSAT register for the October LSAT a.s.a.p. Go to www.LSAC.org

Attend the LSAC Boston Law School Forum. Go prepared with a list of schools you want to visit and with a set of unanswered questions. Go with an open mind; you may leave the forum with an interest in schools you had not previously considered.

Send transcript requests to the Registrar's Office of all undergraduate institutions attended to have your record/s sent to LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS). Verify the accuracy of your transcript through your online account.

Check with professors/employers for the status of your recommendations.

Double check your Credential Assembly Service report.

If applying for early decision/early notification, your application should be ready for submission.

Take the LSAT. (The LSAT is offered either in late September or early October.)

Continue to work on and submit applications to law schools: Prepare application materials, including the personal statement, résumé, supplementary essays, and miscellaneous forms.

Aim to have all applications complete by November 1st. Send applications as early as possible. Many law schools now prefer electronic applications; application software is now free for Credential Assembly Service (CAS) registrants at www.lsac.org.

November

Monitor your online account at www.lsac.org. Double-check everything to make sure that your files are ready for review.

December

All law school applications should be complete. Check your online account for application status.

January

Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form and send financial aid information to law schools as soon as possible after January 1st for best chances of receiving financial aid. Request financial aid information from the law schools. In addition to the FAFSA, many schools will have applications for institutional aid and awards. Pay close attention to all requirements and deadlines! Develop a plan to finance your law school education.

January-August

Most decision letters arrive in the spring. As your decisions come in, meet with Edward Stern, Assistant Dean for Pre-Law Advising, to discuss your options. If possible, schedule visits to law schools you are considering attending. Make timely decisions on acceptances, wait-lists, financial aid, and deposits.

Pay the deposit to the school of your choice and notify other schools of your decision.

Send a final transcript to the law school you have decided to attend.

Congratulations! You've done it!