

TIMELINE FOR APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL

NEVER TOO EARLY

- Sign up for the [Careers in Law listhost](#) to stay on top of opportunities, events, and updates from CIL.
- Sign up on [Handshake](#) to **meet with a CIL adviser** to discuss your initial thoughts and plan.
- Take part in **extracurricular activities**, taking on leadership roles.
- Participate in [treks](#), the **law student mentorship program**, and the **Legal Research and Writing seminar**, and CIL programming featuring **industry professionals**.
- Build relationships with **faculty members** who may later write you a letter of recommendation.
- Plan a time to take the **LSAT** (with a back-up date) while still in school.
- Apply for **internship opportunities** in the legal field to explore your interests and develop your skills. Meet with a CIL adviser for assistance.
- Meet with a CIL adviser to **discuss the law school application process**.
- Familiarize yourself with the [LSAC website](#).

9-12 MONTHS BEFORE YOU APPLY

- Research law schools. Consider attending an [LSAC Law School Forum](#).
- Apply for an LSAC **fee waiver** if you think you might qualify.
- Open a [Credential Assembly Service \(CAS\)](#) account with LSAC.
- Decide **when you will take the LSAT** (planning for 180 hours of study time). The October LSAT should be the latest option. [Register to take the LSAT](#) at least six weeks before your planned test date.
- Begin to consider your options for **financing law school**, utilizing [AccessLex](#) as a resource.

THE SUMMER BEFORE YOU APPLY

- In May, select writers for your letters of recommendation and ask each person by phone or in-person if they would be willing to serve as a recommender. Plan on submitting two academic letters of recommendation, and a third from an employer.
- Write your **law school resume** (a two-pager is fine!).
- Write your **personal statement** and (optional) **diversity essay**.
- Send your resume, statement, and optional essays to a CIL adviser for **review**.
- Submit your **official transcripts** to LSAC through the [MyUChicago portal](#).

THE FALL YOU APPLY

- Confirm your **list of target law schools** with a CIL adviser.
- Obtain and complete a [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Unless a law school's website states to not do so, **request fee waivers** from your target law schools.
- When a recommendation has been received by LSAC, send a thank-you note.
- **Complete and submit your application for each school before the end of October.**

THE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING AFTER YOU APPLY

- If you are applying as a fourth-year student, send **updated transcripts** to LSAC.
- If a law school requests a **Dean's Certification**, contact collegestandards@uchicago.edu.
- If a school asks that you **interview**, make an appointment with a CIL adviser to prepare.
- **Evaluate offers** of acceptance and financial aid.
- Negotiate scholarship offers; make an appointment with a CIL adviser to prepare.
- **Keep the Careers in Law team updated** as you hear from schools so that they can best advise you.
- Send a **Letter of Continued Interest (LOCI)** to any school where you are waitlisted.
- **Accept the offer** from the school you will attend and pay your **seat deposit** before their deadline. Make sure that you are aware of each school's specific rules for seat deposits.
- Once you make a decision, thank your recommenders once again and **inform the Careers in Law team** of your plans so that we can celebrate your success with you!

CONGRATULATIONS! TIME FOR LAW SCHOOL.