

IVY GLOBAL

# LAW SCHOOLS SEMINAR

2011 EDITION

## GETTING IN

Getting into law school is a highly competitive and often intimidating process. Students of all ages and backgrounds aspire to get into law school and to practice in the legal profession. Whether you are looking to study the law in Canada or the US, studying at your desired law school can be an incredible experience.

However, because of growing numbers of applicants, law schools are more selective than ever before. It is thus important to maintain a strong undergraduate GPA, build an effective extracurricular profile, and most importantly, score well on the LSAT. Savvy students can improve their chances of admission by differentiating themselves in many ways. Law schools look beyond strong undergraduate academics, high LSAT scores, and impressive extracurriculars to evaluate each candidate holistically. Combining the personal statement with the criteria above, they look for qualities that don't show as standalone statistics:

US LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS RATES (CLASS OF 2012)	
Yale	6.5%
Harvard	11.8%
Stanford	9%
Berkeley	12%
U. Penn	16%

CANADIAN LAW SCHOOL MEDIAN LSAT SCORES	
University of Toronto	167
University of British Columbia	164
Osgoode Hall	161
University of McGill	161

passion, commitment, and expressed interest in the school. Applicants who can effectively convey their love of a subject, dedication to a cause or activity, and enthusiasm for a particular school will stand out.

## ABOUT IVY GLOBAL

Ivy Global is a pioneering education consultancy committed to helping our clients gain admissions to top Canadian and US law schools. Our team of consultants is uniquely qualified to provide the highest level of expertise in the admissions process.

With office locations in Toronto and Van-

couver, we are committed to maintaining a strong team of consultants and instructors who are picked from the best schools. Their high academic achievement and passion for learning enable them to be academic role models for their students.

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# CANADIAN LAW SCHOOLS

## INTRODUCTION

In Canada, two types of law are practiced: common law, inherited from the legal system of Great Britain, and civil law, inherited from France. Quebec is the only province in Canada that uses the civil law system; hence, it is the only province in which one can practice law with a civil law degree. Every other province

and territory in Canada practices common law. A common law degree allows you to practice law in other common law countries, such as the United States, while a civil law degree allows you to practice law in other civil law countries, such as France.

## COMMON LAW SCHOOLS

### TOP COMMON LAW SCHOOLS

- *University of Toronto*
- *McGill University*
- *Osgoode Hall (York)*
- *UBC*
- *University of Ottawa*
- *University of Victoria*
- *Queen's University*

As common law is practiced in all of Canada's provinces and territories except for Quebec, the majority of Canada's law schools are common law schools. All of these sixteen schools offer highly reputable programs, and the University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall, and McGill are considered top-ranking. Note that McGill and Ottawa offer both common and civil law programs, described later in this section.

Osgoode Hall (York University) and the University of Toronto have two of the oldest and most selective law programs in Canada. Both are particularly strong in constitutional law,

human rights, and international law, and Osgoode Hall additionally offers a United States JD degree in partnership with New York University. U of T admissions are heavily dependent on a high GPA and excellent LSAT scores, whereas Osgoode Hall takes a more holistic and less numbers-based approach.

The University of Victoria is known for its specialization in environmental law and its Environmental Law Centre. Other schools with strong environmental law programs include the University of British Columbia, Calgary, and Dalhousie.

## CIVIL LAW SCHOOLS

### TOP CIVIL LAW SCHOOLS

- *McGill University*
- *U de Montreal*
- *Université Laval*
- *University of Ottawa*
- *UQAM*
- *Université de Sherbrooke*

Given the much smaller legal jurisdiction of civil law in Canada, many fewer civil law schools exist in Canada in comparison to their common law counterparts. McGill and UdeM (Université de Montreal) are considered the top tier in civil law education in Canada, although all six civil law schools are reputable institutions for professional legal development in Quebec.

McGill and UdeM, both in Montreal, have stronger connections to business law, while Laval, for example, has a long history of nota-

ble research in international law and has given rise to several prominent Canadian politicians.

It is important to note that since these schools are geared strongly towards people interested in studying law at least in part in French, they do not integrate the LSAT—which is only administered in English—in any compulsory manner into the admissions process. McGill requires you to disclose LSAT scores if you have written them and will weigh them into the admissions process, while Ottawa will consider them generally only for their common law program and not the civil law-only stream.

## COMBINED/HYBRID PROGRAMS

Because of the presence of both common and civil law within the various jurisdictions in Canada, several law schools offer combined programs or partnerships granting both common and civil law degrees.

McGill University's program, one of the most competitive in admissions, is mandatorily a combined program. All students at McGill Law School complete both an LL.B (Bachelor of Laws) and a B.C.L (Bachelor of Civil Law) and are eligible for admission to the Bar in any Canadian jurisdiction. The program is generally 3.5 years in length, as opposed to the standard 3-year program. As a prerequisite for admission, the program requires that all its students possess capable comprehension, reading, and writing skills in both English and French.

University of Ottawa's Law School, which has traditionally offered and continues to offer the

JD program for common law students and the LL.L. program for civil law students, introduced a joint program in 2008 that combines both degrees. The Programme de droit canadien (PDC) can be completed in 3 years. Like McGill's combined program, the course load is heavier than the standard 3-year degree, but is flexible enough to allow for summer employment, which is critical to finding articling positions after graduation.

Many other Canadian law schools offer their students the opportunity to earn degrees in both systems by partnering with law schools that teach the other system. One prominent example is the Osgoode/U de Montréal partnership, which allows graduates of one program to have two years' standing towards a JD at the other partner's law school, allowing students to complete both JDs in 4 years' time.

### COMBINED PROGRAM LAW SCHOOLS

- *McGill University*
- *U of Ottawa*
- *Osgoode Hall / U de Montreal*

## LAW SCHOOL IN CANADA OR THE US?

There are several important differences between law school in Canada and in the US. There is a much wider range of law schools and lawyers in the US than in Canada. In the US, a lawyer who graduates from the best Tier 1 school in the country might earn a salary four times greater than another lawyer who graduates from a lower-end Tier 4 law school. In Canada, a lawyer's salary depends much more on where he works than on the law school he attended.

In Canada but not in the US, new law school graduates must do job training for one year (called "articling") before becoming lawyers. Law school is much more expensive in the US (\$40,000-\$60,000 tuition) than in Canada (\$10,000-\$20,000). However, a graduate with good marks from one of the top US law schools has the opportunity to quickly pay off his law

school debt, as the starting salary of the top jobs at Wall St. law firms is significantly higher than that at Bay St. law firms.

If Canadian law schools were placed within US law school rankings, the highest-ranking Canadian school would probably rank in the top 20 but not the top 10. Therefore, some students go to the US for a more academically challenging legal studies experience.

While it is possible to practice law in Canada with an American law school degree or vice versa (except in Quebec), it is more difficult in some jurisdictions than in others. Some courses teach material specific to one country which you would not be able to use afterwards (e.g. Canadian constitutional law or US corporate tax law). If you know where you want to live and practice law after graduation, it is recommended that you go to law school there.

# US LAW SCHOOLS

“MORE THAN 30 OF THE HIGHEST-RANKED 45 INSTITUTIONS ARE IN THE UNITED STATES”

## INTRODUCTION

The prestige of the top US law schools is recognized throughout the world. The doors that such a degree opens in the US and world markets are appealing to many prospective law-ymers. While no comprehensive global law school rankings of JD programs exist, according to the Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Academic Ranking of World Universities, more than 30 of the highest-ranked 45 institutions are in the United States. Their strong research programs and extensive funding have made

them particularly attractive to international students, professors, and researchers in pursuit of academic and professional excellence.

Unlike Canada, the United States only uses the common law system, and US law schools only grant common law degrees. Furthermore, almost all Canadian law schools are public institutions, whereas the United States has a wide variety of public and private law schools. This section will introduce students to the types of institutions in the US legal education system.

## IVY LEAGUE LAW SCHOOLS

### IVY LEAGUE LAW SCHOOLS

- *Yale University*
- *Harvard University*
- *Columbia University*
- *University of Pennsylvania*
- *Cornell University*

The Ivy League began as an athletic conference comprising eight private universities in the northeastern United States. But the term has come to mean more than just an athletic conference: it now represents the educational philosophy and devotion to excellence at the nation's oldest schools. A handful of Ivy League universities do not have law schools. For the rest, the prominence of these Ivy League schools—including Columbia University, Cornell University, Harvard University, and Yale University—extends to their respective law schools.

To many people, the term “Ivy League” suggests academic excellence, selectivity in admissions, and even social elitism. Ivy League law schools are considered prestigious all over the globe, and they are often ranked amongst the best schools in the United States and the world. All of the Ivy League's institutions place near the top in the *U.S. News & World Report* law school rankings. The Ivies are also amongst America's oldest schools. Seven of the eight schools were founded during America's colo-

nial period; the exception is Cornell, which was founded in 1865. Ivy League institutions, therefore, account for seven of the nine Colonial Colleges chartered before the American Revolution.

In terms of financial endowment, Ivy League schools rank within the top one percent of the world's academic institutions. Ivy League universities' financial endowments range from Brown's \$2.01 billion to Harvard's \$26 billion, the largest financial endowment of any academic institution in the world. Additionally, all eight schools receive millions of dollars in research grants and other subsidies from federal and state governments. This means they have a larger budget to help subsidize the very high cost of tuition at their schools for students with financial need, as compared to many public universities.

Enrolment at Ivy League law schools ranges from very small admitted classes of around 200 (like Yale) to larger classes of nearly 600 (like Harvard), although this tends to still be lower than at a typical public state university.

## PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Private universities are not operated by governments, though many receive public subsidies, especially in the form of tax breaks and public student loans and grants. Depending on their location, private universities may be subject to government regulation. Like government-operated institutions, private universities are eligible for educational accreditation, but some private universities (primarily proprie-

tary colleges) lack accreditation, and their degrees are not formally recognized.

The Ivy League schools are some of the best known private universities, but there are also many other private institutions whose prestige, endowments, and selectivity are comparable to Ivy League schools’.

### TOP PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- *Stanford University*
- *NYU*
- *Chicago*
- *Duke University*
- *Georgetown University*
- *Northwestern University*
- *George Washington U*

## PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

In the United States, most public universities are founded and operated by state governments. Every US state operates at least one public state university, and the largest states have more than thirty. Many US public universities originated as teacher-training institutions and eventually expanded into comprehensive universities.

Most state schools charge higher tuition to out-of-state students. Thus, for Canadian students, tuition at US public universities is comparable to those at similar private institutions. Universities justify these higher fees by pointing out that in-state students, or at least their parents, have contributed to subsidizing the university by paying state taxes, while of out-of-state stu-

dents and their parents have not. The United States Supreme Court has deemed this practice constitutional because the state is acting as a market participant providing a service rather than protecting a fundamental right.

While many of the most prestigious universities in the United States are private, some public universities rival private schools in both prestige and selectivity. Richard Moll has designated these prestigious public universities “Public Ivies.” At schools like the University of Michigan, the University of California campuses at Berkeley and Los Angeles, the University of Virginia and the University of Washington, a vast majority of law schools are consistently highly ranked.

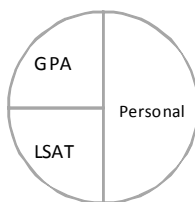
### TOP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- *UC Berkeley*
- *University of Michigan*
- *University of Virginia*
- *UCLA*

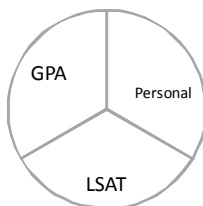
## WHAT DO LAW SCHOOLS LOOK FOR?

Law schools are not necessarily looking for all the same things. Many smaller schools focus on the personal aspects of an application (a “holistic approach”), whereas most large state universities base their admissions decisions primarily on GPA and LSAT scores. Ivy League schools look for students who are well rounded.

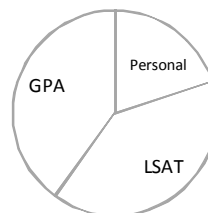
Holistic Approach



Ivy League Schools



Large State Universities



# HOW TO APPLY

## COMMON APPLICATIONS

### DETERMINING YOUR GPA

- *OLSAS:*

A+	= 4.0
A	= 3.9
A-	= 3.8
B+	= 3.3
B	= 3.0
B-	= 2.7
C+	= 2.3
C	= 2.0
C-	= 1.7

- *LSAC:*

A+	= 4.33
A	= 4.0
A-	= 3.67
B+	= 3.33
B	= 3.0
B-	= 2.67
C+	= 2.33
C	= 2.0
C-	= 1.67

Depending on whether you intend to study law in the United States or Canada, you will be completing different common applications. For Ontario law schools, there is the OLSAS common application service. Admissions for all US law schools is handled by the LSAC common application. For other Canadian law schools (e.g. UBC, McGill) and schools abroad (e.g.

Oxford), you must apply directly to those schools. Their admissions requirements and processes will be detailed on their websites.

Keep in mind that some schools abroad may not require the LSAT and may or may not have a standardized test of their own. While Australia recognizes LSAT scores, UK-based schools have their own standardized tests.

## PARTS OF THE APPLICATION

### Academic Information

The Common Application requires detailed academic information from each applicant, including all of the student's undergraduate transcripts, the applicant's LSAT score, and other background information. All LSAT scores from within the past 5 years are deemed valid and will be recorded. Depending on the law school and circumstances, the school may consider only one or all scores.

### Extracurricular Information

Extracurricular activities information helps law schools understand what applicants are like outside of their academic lives. Are they leaders? Do they exhibit passion and commitment? Can they contribute to the social health and diversity of the school? Students should mention their extracurricular activities, hobbies, and passions, as well as any work or volunteer experience and any summer activities. Students should be thorough when describing their extracurricular activities. They should include details such as the skills and knowledge they learned from these activities and how it has helped shaped them and their future.

### Personal Statement

The Personal Statement is a document the applicant prepares to help define why he or she is a strong candidate for law school. It is meant to tell his or her story. Although not commonly viewed negatively, it gives applicants the chance to shine and add a differentiating dimension to their GPA and LSAT scores.

There are many approaches students can take; a common one is the "journey", where the student details his or her past activities and interests and how these have brought the student to where he or she is today, defining law school as the natural progression in the journey. The journey may also elaborate on potential future aspirations and plans for how the applicant intends to apply the legal education.

An alternative, the "mission" approach is similar but places more emphasis on focus and future plans, and less on past achievements. However, students are not bound to follow any one method and are free to devise their own.

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Here's a checklist of requirements for some of the top schools:

- ❑ Common Application form  
(<http://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas/>)  
(<http://www.lsac.org/>)
- ❑ University transcripts  
(submitted to OLSAS and LSAC)
- ❑ Supplemental essays and documents
- ❑ LSAT Score
- ❑ 2-3 references (at least 1 academic)
- ❑ Interview (Harvard only)

### Application Deadlines

Law School	Deadline
Ontario	November
Calgary/Manitoba/ McGill/Dalhousie/ Ottawa/Alberta	
British Columbia/ Saskatchewan/ Victoria	February
New Brunswick	March

## APPLYING EARLY

Applying early can significantly increase your chances of getting into a top school. Applying early in the regular stream enables you to take advantage of earlier admission decisions, as these tend to be a rolling process both in the US and Canada, with Canadian applications due much earlier than US ones. The US additionally offers the Binding Early Decision option.

### Binding Early Decision

Applying Early Decision is binding: any student accepted under Early Decision is then required to matriculate. Early Decision applications are typically due in the fall, often in December, and students receive admissions decisions starting mid-December, usually by mid-January. By contrast, depending on the school, standard applications can be accepted in the US right through to March, and students receive admis-

sions decisions on a rolling basis until late spring.

Applying Early Decision indicates to a school that the candidate considers it his or her top choice. It is a binding commitment, but it also can also significantly affect a student's admission offers. With many schools, it will increase a student's chances of admission. On the other hand, other schools have unique BED programs. For example, all students accepted under BED at George Washington University Law School will also be given a scholarship that fully covers tuition. So rather than being less competitive, BED admissions at GWU are more competitive. Nonetheless, all students not admitted for BED are still considered in the regular admissions pool.

# HOW TO PAY

## THE COST

Attending law school can be very expensive, particularly in the US. A year at a prominent three-year US JD program can cost between \$40,000—\$60,000 in tuition alone, and this does not include the costs of transportation and living expenses. As an example, the annual cost of attending Harvard Law is shown at right.

Canadian law school tuition is much less expensive for Canadian students, typically ranging from \$10,000—\$20,000 yearly. The second chart at right shows the estimated annual cost of attending University of Toronto Law.

Harvard Law	Annual Cost (USD)
Tuition & Fees	\$45,450
Room, Board & Other	\$24,650
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,100</b>

U of Toronto Law	Annual Cost (CDN)
Tuition & Fees	\$25,389
Room, Board & Other	\$13,330
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,719</b>

## FINANCIAL AID: CANADIAN LAW SCHOOLS

Financial aid available to Canadian law students includes merit-based scholarships, need-based bursaries and loans, and student lines of credit.

### Merit-based aid

Many schools and outside organizations offer merit scholarships to deserving students on the basis of outstanding academic achievement, excellent LSAT scores, leadership potential, and other personal strengths. Often every admitted student is automatically considered for merit scholarships, but some institutions require a separate application. Merit scholarships are sometimes awarded without any regard for the applicant's financial need. However, the University of Toronto law school offers very little aid based on merit alone.

### Need-based aid

Need-based financial aid is awarded to students who exhibit financial need. This aid can take the form of loans, which need to be repaid, and bursaries, which do not. Loans and bursaries

from Canadian law schools are meant to supplement government funding; to be eligible, students must demonstrate that they have registered for funding with their applicable government organization. The Canada Student Loan Program provides loans, bursaries, and grants to residents of most provinces except Quebec. Residents of Quebec should apply for funding through the Aide financière aux études.

### Student lines of credit

Several Canadian law schools offer partnerships with local banks to provide non need-based student lines of credit. For example, the University of Toronto has an arrangement with Scotiabank, and Osgoode Hall has an arrangement with RBC. At the University of Toronto, a student may qualify for an interest-free line of credit through Scotiabank, whereby the Faculty of Law subsidizes the student's interest over the three-year JD program.

## FINANCIAL AID: US LAW SCHOOLS

Most US law schools give very little financial aid to international students, including Canadians. Canadians are not eligible to apply for American government loans, and may not be eligible for certain scholarships and grants. However, some schools consider international and domestic students equally for merit-based and need-based awards. It is important to verify the financial aid policy for the schools to which you are applying.

### Merit-based aid

Like Canadian schools, US schools frequently offer merit-based scholarships to applicants who demonstrate excellence in academics or strong leadership potential. Though some schools automatically consider all applicants for merit scholarships, international applicants are frequently asked to submit a separate scholarship application. For many schools, such as Duke and Cornell, international students are only eligible for merit-based aid and are not considered for need-based loans and bursaries. Other schools, such as Harvard, provide little to no merit-based assistance.

### Need-based aid

Most US schools use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine

students' eligibility for federal, state, and institutional need-based aid. While Canadians do not qualify for financial aid from FAFSA, private institutions may ask students to submit a supplemental application for assessment of institutional need-based aid. For those schools where aid is available, it generally consists of a part in grants and a part in loans, with often generous Loan Repayment Assistance Programs for graduates. Schools that offer need-based aid to Canadian citizens include Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Penn, and NYU. Schools that do not offer need-based aid to Canadians include Duke, Cornell, Georgetown, the University of Virginia, and UC Berkeley.

### External loans

Canadian students attending law school in the US can obtain loans through the Canadian government's Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour. Students should contact a Canadian lender, the appropriate Ministry office in their province, or Human Resources Development Canada in Ottawa. Canadian students may also apply to educational loans from private, commercial organizations in the US. Often these loans require a US co-signer. Contact your school of interest for a list of private loan resources.

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## PUBLIC INTEREST FUNDING

Students interested in pursuing a career in public interest or public service law may feel discouraged from attending top-tier law schools because of their high tuition fees and the underpaid wages common to that field. To compensate for this, some law schools in both Canada and the United States provide further financial aid to students who pledge to work in or are already working in the field. For example, Harvard Law School offers the Low In-

come Protection Plan (LIPP), Summer Public Interest Funding (SPIF), and Public Service Initiative (PSI) programs to eligible students and graduates. The Law Foundation of Ontario has created a Debt Repayment Assistance Program (D-RAP) for eligible graduates of pursuing careers in public interest law. Graduates of the University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall, and other Ontario law schools are eligible to participate in this program.

# STUDYING ABROAD

## COMING BACK AND THE NCA

Many Canadian students choose to study law abroad, especially in the US, UK, Australia. However, if they wish to practice in Canada, there is a process they must follow. Students who elect to study law outside of Canada and wish to practice in Canada must obtain a Certificate of Qualification from the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA).

The process costs around \$450 and entails a series of exams and/or completion of a series of courses at a Canadian law school. The exact requirements vary from case to case and are in part based on work experience and parallel

curriculum material between the student's law degree program and Canadian requirements. Students studying only civil law in Quebec will also need to follow the NCA procedure to practice common law in the rest of Canada.

For more information on the Certificate of Qualification program details and requirements, visit the Federation of Law Societies of Canada website ([www.flsc.ca](http://www.flsc.ca)).

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## NCA REQUIREMENTS

There is no predefined method for accreditation of foreign-educated lawyers in Canada. This is because the NCA operates on a case-by-case basis and it is up to the student or practitioner to present the credibility and curriculum of his or her legal education and training, if applicable. Based on this assessment, the applicant will then be presented with a list of exams and sometimes courses that he or she must sit and pass in order to be eligible to article and stand for the bar in Canadian provinces.

Only once the applicant has completed and passed the NCA accreditation process can he or she apply for articling positions, barring fewer than 5 years' work experience abroad or

other evidence of sufficient and applicable training. Upon meeting the articling requirement, the applicant is eligible to write the bar exam in the jurisdiction(s) of his or her choice. Once the applicant has passed the bar exam in that jurisdiction, he or she is eligible to practice the law in that province or territory.

# BAR ADMISSION

## APPLYING TO THE BAR IN CANADA

In order to practice law in a specific province in Canada, you must be licensed as a lawyer by the province's Law Society. The licensing process is similar from province to province and normally entails an articling requirement, completion of a bar admission course (Bar School), and payment of certain fees. Articling takes from 6 to 12 months, and the 2 weeks to 8 months of Bar School can generally be completed during this process. Each province's Bar School culminates with a Bar Exam that students must pass in order to be licensed as a lawyer. The length and content of these exams differ from province to province.

Each province's Law Society administers its own Bar School and Bar Exam, and these are held two or three times a year. In order to

enrol in Bar School, you must have graduated from an approved law school. Canadian common law schools are approved for all provinces except for Quebec. A civil law degree is required for Bar admission in Quebec. Graduates of schools outside of Canada must first obtain an NCA certificate before applying to the Bar in their province (see previous page).

The Law Society of Upper Canada (Ontario) recently did away with its Bar School requirement in favour of a self-study approach. The articling requirement is still intact, and potential Ontario lawyers are required to pass two full-day examinations as well as an online Skills and Professional Responsibility Program in order to be called to the Bar.

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## APPLYING TO THE BAR IN THE US

The US Bar admission process is shorter than in Canada, entailing a series of examinations but no articling or Bar School requirements. In order to apply for the Bar, you must hold a J.D. degree from an American Bar Association (ABA) certified US law school. Candidates seeking Bar admission in most U.S. states will be required to take and pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE), generally administered during law school, although there are certain exceptions depending on the state. Graduates of Canadian common law schools may obtain permission to apply for the Bar in certain US states, including California and New York.

The Bar Exam itself is administered separately by each state and takes 2 or 3 days. One of the

components is generally the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), a multiple-choice test used in all states and territories except for Louisiana, Washington, and Puerto Rico. Other components may include a professional responsibility or "ethics" exam and a state-specific examination.

After passing the Bar Exam in a certain state, a candidate must receive a "moral character and fitness" certification by the state's Bar Association and pay the required fees for admission. The candidate is then eligible to practice law within the jurisdiction of that state. Lawyers admitted to the Bar in one state are not automatically eligible to practice law in another, though some states have reciprocal agreements to make this possible.

# THE LSAT

## LSAT (LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION TEST)

### ABOUT THE LSAT

- *Perfect Score: 180*  
(awarded to the 99.97th percentile)
- *Median Score: 151*
- *Register at LSAC.org*
- *Cost: USD 139/ CAD 144*

The LSAT is a standardized test for law school admissions in Canada, the United States, and Australia. The LSAT is owned, published, and administered by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC). The test was first introduced in 1948, and its name and scoring have changed several times.

The current LSAT Test takes three hours and forty minutes and costs USD 160 for test takers. Possible scores range from 120 to 180. The test consists of three multiple-choice components (Logical Reasoning, Analytical Reasoning, and Reading Comprehension) and one unscored Writing Sample.

### Logical Reasoning

The Logical Reasoning section of the LSAT is designed to assess two skills: the ability to read and understand arguments and the ability to think logically. Law schools want to know if you will be able to understand and draw the right conclusions from what you read, which requires a strong thought process and sound principles of formal logic.

### Analytical Reasoning

The Analytical Reasoning section of the LSAT is designed to assess your ability to reason and think through logic games. This section consists of four games incorporating elements of Grouping, Placement, and Sequencing. Many students find this the hardest section when they begin study but also show the most improvement here by the end of their LSAT studies.

### Reading Comprehension

The Reading Comprehension section of the LSAT assesses your ability to identify structure, purpose, and full scope of meaning across a breadth of academic English texts and articles. There are four passages in the section.

### Writing Sample

Students are given 35 minutes to write an essay based on a prompt which presents a dilemma. The essay is not scored, but a digital copy is sent to each law school that a student applies to. Admissions officers do consider the writing sample but give greater priority to personal

## LSAT TEST DATES

The LSAT is offered only four times a year—in October, December, February, and June. The test generally takes place on a Saturday towards the beginning of the month. Registration is conducted online at LSAC.org.

It is best take the LSAT early as possible before law school application deadlines. The final test date that many schools will accept for Fall admissions is the prior year's December test date. Some schools accept the February test date.

When a student applies to a law school, LSAC sends the LSAT scores of every time the student has written the test over the past five years. Although some law schools consider the highest of the applicant's scores, others consider the average of the scores. Excluding highly extenuating circumstances, there is a limit of three attempts at the LSAT over a span of two years.

## FORMAT OF THE LSAT

Logical Reasoning 1:	- One 35-minute argument analysis section	} 6 sections (3hrs 40min)
Analytical Reasoning :	- One 35-minute logical games section	
Experimental Section:*	- One 35-minute section of any type	
Break:	- One 10-minute break	
Logical Reasoning 2:	- One 35-minute argument analysis section	
Reading Comprehension:	- One 35-minute read comprehension section	
Writing Sample:**	- One 35-minute written short essay section	

**Note:** Logical Reasoning, Analytical Reasoning, and Reading Comprehension sections may appear in any order. However, the Experimental Section must be one of the first three section before the 10-minute break.

\* The Experimental Section is an unscored section of either Logical Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, or Analytical Reasoning type.

\*\* The Writing Sample is also unscored.

## LSAT SCORING

Out of the six 35-minute sections on the LSAT, only four are scored. The unscored sections include the Writing Sample and the Experimental Section, a 35-minute multiple choice section used by LSAC to test new questions for designing future tests. Students will not be told which section is the Experimental Section.

A raw score is calculated from the number of correct answers on the four scored sections. There is no penalty for wrong answers. Raw scores are converted to scaled scores ranging from 120 to 180 using a statistical method called equating. The median score is 151.

To the right is a table correlating scaled score to percentile rank. For example, if a law school requires that applicants score above the 90th percentile, they must score above approximately 163.

Scaled Score	Percentile Rank
180	99.99%
175	99.7%
170	98%
165	94%
160	83%
155	67%
150	47%
145	29%
140	14%
135	6%
130	2.5%
125	0.8%
120	0%

# IVY GLOBAL SERVICES

## THE IVY GLOBAL LSAT APPROACH

Ivy Global has developed a unique approach to preparing students for the LSAT. As the LSAT is a key determinant of the law school admissions process, it is crucial to be as prepared as possible. To this end, Ivy Global has developed a curriculum that combines many of the best and most effective strategies from a broad spectrum of sources for tackling the various questions exam writers may encounter on test day.

Our experience has shown that the key to successful guided study is a more personalized approach and a classroom setting conducive to learning. Consequently, we offer a variety of private tutoring solutions, as well as two course formats with small class sizes ranging from two to eight students.

Our instructors have all scored in at least the 97th percentile on an official LSAC-administered LSAT. They are selected through a rigorous recruitment and training process to ensure that they are both knowledgeable in the curriculum and versatile in their teaching methods to better accommodate lessons and the curriculum to their students' individual learning styles.

Ivy Global LSAT Prep classes use only actual past LSAT exams as practice material for the strategies and theory covered in lessons.

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## LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CONSULTING

### Full Application Help

Our Application Help service helps clients prepare applications that set them apart from the sea of applications. The service includes

1. School Selection
2. Personal Statements
3. Resume and Extracurriculars
4. Interview Coaching
5. Application Review
6. General Consulting

### Personal Statement Help

We help students brainstorm, draft and revise law school admissions applications.

### Strategy Consulting (Undergraduate)

Ivy Global offers strategy consulting for students in their early to late undergraduate years to design a long-term education roadmap for entry to top law schools.

We help applicants navigate the complicated recruiting process by providing personalized guidance.

## LSAT PREP

### LSAT Courses

Our LSAT courses have been uniquely designed to build key skills and effective strategies to crack the LSATs. Our courses are unique in their small class sizes (2-8 students) and highly personalized approach, and they are taught by highly qualified instructors who are experts on preparing students for the LSAT.

60 hr course - \$1350+HST

24 hr course - \$650+HST

For the latest class schedule, please visit [www.ivyglobal.ca](http://www.ivyglobal.ca).

### LSAT Tutoring

Our tutoring program is a unique, full customized approach to LSAT preparation. Our program uses real past exams as practice material and combines elements from some of the best LSAT prep programs available with the guidance of a dedicated instructor.

28 hour program - \$2000+HST

- 10 x 2-hour tutoring sessions
- 2 x 4-hour diagnostic tests
- Set of LSAT books and materials

Tutoring is also available on a per session basis at \$170+HST for each 2-hour session.

## OTHER SERVICES

### Private Tutoring

Ivy Global offers a full range of tutoring services, allowing students to supplement their education with effective, long-term one-on-one instruction. We offer tutoring in a wide range of subjects for students in grades 5 through 12.

### SSAT Prep

Our SSAT prep classes have been uniquely designed to help students maximize their scores on the SSAT, the private school admissions exam.

### SAT Prep

Our SAT preparation helps students develop the necessary techniques and strategies to crack every section of the SAT and get into US colleges and universities. We offer both classes and private tutoring for the SAT.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.ivyglobal.ca](http://www.ivyglobal.ca).

# TOP LAW SCHOOLS

\* Public Universities

USNEWS Ranking	US Law Schools	LSAT 25-75 Percentile	GPA 25-75 Percentile	Acceptance Rate
1	Yale University (CT)	170-176	3.82-3.96	8%
2	Harvard University (MA)	171-176	3.76-3.96	11%
3	Stanford University (CA)	167-172	3.77-3.97	9%
4	Columbia University (NY)	170-175	3.60-3.81	15%
5	University of Chicago (IL)	169-173	3.63-3.84	18%
6	New York University (NY)	169-173	3.57-3.86	23%
7	University of California—Berkeley (CA)*	165-170	3.68-3.95	10%
8	University of Pennsylvania (PA)	166-171	3.57-3.90	14%
9	University of Michigan—Ann Arbor (MI)*	167-170	3.55-3.84	22%
10	University of Virginia (VA) *	165-171	3.54-3.92	15%
11	Duke University (NC)	167-171	3.60-3.84	18%
12	Northwestern University (IL)	166-172	3.40-3.81	18%
13	Cornell University (NY)	165-168	3.50-3.80	21%
14	Georgetown University (DC)	167-171	3.42-3.79	23%
15	University of California—Los Angeles (CA)*	164-169	3.57-3.88	17%
15	University of Texas—Austin (TX)*	164-168	3.54-3.87	23%
17	Vanderbilt University (TN)	164-169	3.5-3.86	24%
18	University of Southern California	165-167	3.47-3.71	22%
19	Washington University in St. Louis	161-168	3.3-3.8	27%
20	George Washington University (DC)	163-168	3.41-3.86	22%
21	University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign	160-167	3.2-3.9	29%
22	Boston University	164-167	3.5-3.83	24%
22	Emory University (GA)	165-167	3.37-3.68	25%
22	University of Minnesota—Twin Cities	160-168	3.3-3.85	25%
22	University of Notre Dame (IN)	163-167	3.36-3.74	25%

Maclean's Ranking	Canadian Common Law Schools	Median LSAT	Median GPA	Acceptance Rate/Class Size
1	University of Toronto (JD)	167	3.8	190
2	McGill University (LLB/BCL)	161*	3.8	18.2%
2	Osgoode Hall Law School, York University (JD)	161	3.9	21.3%
4	University of British Columbia (JD)	164	3.8	180
5	University of Victoria (JD)	163	3.8	108
6	Queen's University (JD)	160	3.75	23.3%
7	Dalhousie University (LLB)	15.9	3.75	160
8	University of Ottawa (LLB)	156	3.7	280
9	University of Alberta (LLB)	160	3.7	170
10	University of Western Ontario (JD)	161	83%	173
11	University of Calgary (LLB)	156	3.5	100
12	University of Saskatchewan (LLB)	160	78%	126
13	University of Manitoba (LLB)	160	3.9	35.9%
13	University of New Brunswick (LLB)	159	3.8	82

**Canadian Civil Law Schools  
(Maclean's Ranking)**

 (1) McGill University, (2) Université de Montréal, (2) Université Laval, (4) University of Ottawa,  
 (5) Université de Québec à Montréal, (5) Université de Sherbrooke \*LSAT not mandatory for McGill







