

How Law Schools Determine Who Gets Admitted and Who Does Not

Determining what schools to apply to should be an exercise in honesty. Some of the most basic determinates for law school applications are:

- GPA – the higher the GPA, the more options you have. A person with a GPA of 3.4 or lower should probably not apply to the highest ranked schools, despite your personal level of commitment
- Experience – legal internships and other forms of legal work experience can distinguish an applicant from others.
- LSAT scores – Most law schools initially separate applications based on upon LSAT scores. The higher the score, the more options you have. For example, the highest ranked law schools generally pool from the top 1% of LSAT scores. (*See Chart below.)
- Schools read applications carefully. While initial factors are GPA and LSAT scores, admissions officers also look at course work and experience. In the end, most law schools accept a wide range of LSAT scores and GPAs.

USF Graduates Admitted to Local Law Schools: 2010 – 2011

School	Number of Students Admitted
USF	17
UC – Berkeley	2
UC – Davis	5
UC – Hastings	10
Golden Gate	13
Santa Clara	7

Opportunities for Minority Students

There are many support networks for minority applicants to law schools. For example, the Council on Legal Education opportunities (CLEO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to diversifying the legal profession by encouraging legal education opportunities for minority, low income and disadvantaged students. CLEO is governed by a council composed of representatives from the American Bar Association, Association of American Law Schools, Hispanic National Bar Association, Law School Admissions Council, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, National Bar Association, and the Society of American Law Teachers.

The CLEO website, www.cleoscholars.com, offers a list of financial aid opportunities for minority students. While not exhaustive, the list can be an excellent starting point. It is important for students to contact scholarship organizations early and press their search for financial assistance beyond their cited list. Additionally, it is important for students to contact the financial aid offices at law schools they would like to attend to determine what in-house and local funding is available.

Possible resources of financial aid for minority applicants are: American Association of University Women; American Indian Graduate Center, Business Fellowship Fund – DIUGUID Fellows; Earl Warren Legal Training Program, Inc.; Japanese American Citizens' League; Mexican-American Business and Professional Scholarships Association; NAACP Agnes Jones-Jackson Scholarship Awards; National Lesbian and Gay Law Association National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students, Inc. (SERO); and the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund.

Learning Disabilities

If you have a proven learning disability, you can apply to receive more time on the LSAT. If you face particular obstacles and/or challenges, please speak to an advisor to find out the pros and cons of notifying the schools to which you plan to apply.