

Preparing and Taking the Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

1. The LSAT is offered 4 times a year: June, October, December and February. Unless you plan to take a year off after graduation, it's strongly recommended that you take the LSAT for the first time **NO LATER** than October of your Senior year.
2. There are various ways to prepare for the LSAT. All of the options may be successful; students must decide which option best suits their needs. The options below, from the least expensive to the most expensive:
 - Work through the free materials offered by LSDAS (in KA 232). At the back of the LSAT and LSDAS Registration Book is a practice test.
 - Numerous books (see **Resources**) are available, which cost approximately \$25 each.
 - CD-Rom courses are available as well at a slightly higher cost.
 - **Take one of the USF LSAT Prep courses, offered 1-2 times each semester, during the summer, and most intersessions. These 4-6 week prep courses are worth 2 credits each, and tacked on to a regular 16 credit course load will incur no additional cost. The prep courses are timed to run several weeks before each of the LSATs**
 - The most expensive and time intensive preparation method would be enrolling in an LSAT course. Often, Test Masters, Kaplan and the Princeton Review offer prep classes on campus as well as provide USF Pre-Law students a discount (even with the discount, the course costs about \$1100, although some scholarships are available through the Undergraduate Law Society).
3. If you plan on attending law school the Fall after graduation, ideally, take the LSAT during the summer between your Junior and Senior year or in October of your Senior year. **But only take the test when you are ready!!** While you can cancel your scores immediately after taking the exam, that is not a recommended option. (See **Statistics: Percentage and Scores for 2005–2006 LSAT Tests** to determine how the raw score figures as a percentage).
4. You can take the **LSAT more than once**; however your scores may be averaged. More and more law schools are counting only the highest score, but you should check with each law school to determine whether they use that policy or an averaging policy. It makes a difference. Take into consideration that on average, most people who take the LSAT more than once do not significantly raise their score. If extraordinary circumstances undermined your performance during the first exam, then consider canceling your score and taking the exam again.

5. You can **cancel a score**, but it must be done before you receive the results. For example, if illness or anxiety prevented you from focusing, then cancel your score immediately and sign up for the next exam.

6. Part of the LSAT is a 30-minute **Writing Sample**. The writing sample is designed to exhibit your ability to argue clearly and effectively one side of a decision problem, utilizing the facts present. Every school uses the writing sample differently, but none actually “score” the sample. If the LSAT is taken more than once, the last writing sample is the one sent to requested schools.