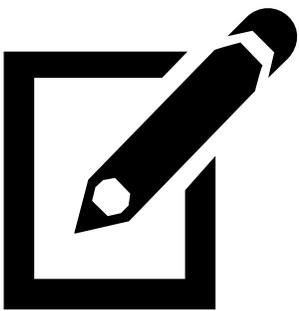


THE COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO LAW SCHOOL IN CANADA



INTRODUCING EMOND

In 1978, Professor Paul Emond published the first Emond casebook. It was a casebook on real estate law, which was soon followed by administrative law and constitutional law casebooks. They were used at the time for classes at the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School.

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If you are just beginning your journey, you have an exciting and challenging path ahead of you. Start by visiting our Law Student Resource Hub at [emond.ca/resourcehub/law-school-resources](https://www.emond.ca/resourcehub/law-school-resources) where you can prepare yourself with introductory law overviews, summaries, and case briefs. In a few short years, when you have finished law school and are preparing for the Ontario Licensing Exams, remember that Emond is here to offer support in the way of tutoring, exam preparation, and practice exams. Our Comprehensive Bar Exam Preparation Manual is available free of charge at [emond.ca/store/books/the-comprehensive-bar-exam-preparation-manual](https://www.emond.ca/store/books/the-comprehensive-bar-exam-preparation-manual).

The road ahead of you won't be easy, but, as most legal professionals will tell you, it is worth the effort. We hope our resources will serve as a valuable aid to you through these coming years, and we wish you the best of luck.

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1 PREPARING FOR LAW SCHOOL

A. THINKING OF BECOMING A LAWYER?

Even if you have dreamed of becoming a lawyer since you were a child, deciding to go to law school and preparing for it can seem like a daunting process. There are many steps involved and it requires a significant investment of time and money. However, pursuing a career in the legal profession can be very rewarding and take you in many different directions. Before embarking on this unique journey, start by doing your research and learning as much as you can about what is involved in becoming a lawyer.

Your journey begins with obtaining an undergraduate degree at an accredited university. Most law schools in Canada require you to have completed a four-year undergraduate degree in a program of your choice. It is important to choose an area that you are interested in for your undergraduate degree, as you will be more likely to excel and achieve higher grades. Your undergraduate grades are a key factor in determining whether you will be accepted into the law school of your choice. Many law schools pride themselves on having a diverse group of students from a variety of educational backgrounds, but the common thread is that they are high achievers in their areas of study.

To get a better idea of the legal field and the career path you are embarking on, it is a good idea to talk to lawyers or other legal professionals. Most lawyers are more than happy to talk to prospective students about their own legal journeys and experiences. Even if you end up deciding not to practise law, a law degree can open up many new career paths for you. A few of the most common alternative career fields are education and academic administration, banking and finance, conflict resolution, government and politics, human resources, legal consulting, and legal writing and publishing. This manual will help guide you along the path to becoming a licensed lawyer, with a focus on the licensing process in Ontario specifically.

 **DID YOU KNOW:** The Canadian Bar Association has some useful resources for researching where your law degree can take you; learn more at <https://www.cba.org/home>.

B. OVERVIEW OF LAWYER LICENSING PROCESS

To get a better idea of the path that lies ahead, this chapter summarizes the stages of the licensing process for lawyers in Ontario. Each of the stages mentioned will be addressed in more detail later in this manual; however, this section provides an overview of the timeline and steps involved.

1	Complete an Undergraduate Program
2	Write the Law School Admission Test (LSAT)
3	Apply to Law School and Complete your Juris Doctor (JD) Degree
4	Write the Licensing Exams
5	Complete your Experiential Training
6	The Call to the Bar (Become Licensed as a Lawyer)

Step 1: Complete an Undergraduate Program

One of the most common questions that prospective law students have is, “What do I need to study during my undergraduate degree in order to apply to law school?” The answer, surprisingly, is anything you want. Canadian law schools accept students from *all* academic backgrounds, ranging from accounting and finance to criminology to art history. It is important to choose an undergraduate program that reflects your interests and enables you to excel, since your academic performance and experiences during your undergraduate studies will help you create a strong law school application.

Step 2: Write the Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

It is common for individuals to spend a few months to a year studying for the LSAT prior to writing the test. Once you have written the LSAT and received your score, you are ready to start researching and applying to law schools.

Step 3: Apply to Law School and Complete Your Juris Doctor (JD) Degree

In Ontario, most law school programs take three years to complete as a full-time student. Each law school has different entrance requirements and cut-off dates, and most schools release entrance statistics for the students who were accepted the previous year. On [pages 20 and 21](#) of this guide, you will find a summary of the average entrance scores of students from last year for several law schools across the country.

Once you have determined which schools you are going to apply to, you will need to prepare and gather the required documentation to submit your application. The majority of law schools in Ontario require you to submit the following with your application:

- LSAT score;
- Undergraduate transcripts;
- A personal statement;
- List of employment and volunteer experiences;
- List of academic achievements;
- List of extracurricular activities;

- Research and publication achievements; and
- Reference letters.

After you have gathered all of the required documentation and submitted your application, you must wait until the schools have made their admission decisions. Some schools offer early acceptances that require a response from you within a prescribed period. Once you receive your acceptances, you may select your school of choice and begin your law degree.

Step 4: Write the Licensing Exams

After obtaining your law degree (Juris Doctor, or JD), you must complete the licensing exams, also called the bar exam, in the province or jurisdiction where you plan to practise law. Typically, most law students will complete their JD in April, write their Ontario licensing exams in June, and then complete their experiential training.

In Ontario, the licensing exam consists of two open-book exams: the barrister exam and the solicitor exam. On each exam, students are given 4.5 hours to work through 160 multiple-choice questions. The licensing exams are administered by the Law Society of Ontario (LSO) and can only be written at certain times throughout the year.

Step 5: Complete your Experiential Training

Every candidate wishing to practise law in Ontario must complete the mandatory experiential training requirement after completing their legal studies. There are currently three ways in which candidates can complete this requirement: articling, the Law Practice Program, or the Integrated Practice Curriculum. Articling is the most common option and entails working under the supervision of a licensed lawyer for eight-, nine-, or ten-month term to gain practical experience as a working legal professional. The Law Practice Program (LPP) was introduced in 2014 as an alternative to articling and allows candidates to complete a 4-month training course followed by a 4-month work placement. And finally, the Integrated Practice Curriculum (IPC) is a law school degree program that incorporates experiential training into traditional law school coursework. The IPC is currently only offered through the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University and the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Toronto Metropolitan University.

Step 6: The Call to the Bar (Become Licensed as a Lawyer)

In Ontario, the Call to the Bar is a formal ceremony held by the Law Society of Ontario in which you become officially licensed to practise as a lawyer. Most law schools within Ontario will begin to notify you during your third year of studies about what documentation is required in order to prepare for your Call to the Bar. You must have successfully completed your law degree, your experiential training, and the licensing exams in order to become licensed as a lawyer in Ontario. For more information about the Lawyer Licensing Process, visit the LSO's website at <https://lso.ca/becoming-licensed/lawyer-licensing-process>.

C. THE LSAT

i. Structure and Purpose of the Test

Nearly all law schools within Canada and the United States require the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) as one component of a student's admission file. The LSAT is used to measure skills that are considered to be critical for success in law school: critical reasoning, reading comprehension, and persuasive writing.

The LSAT consists of four 35-minute sections of multiple-choice questions and an unscored writing section. The multiple-choice sections include: one reading comprehension section, two logical reasoning sections, and one unscored section of either reading comprehension or logical reasoning. The unscored section is used to pretest new questions for future LSAT sittings. The placement of the unscored section varies and is not revealed to candidates until they receive their scores. All the multiple-choice sections are focused on testing a candidate's ability to think critically, analyze and evaluate the reasoning and arguments of others, and review complex written passages.

▲ IMPORTANT: As of August 2024, the LSAT no longer contains an analytical reasoning section, commonly known as "logic games". For more information about this change, visit www.lsac.org/lSAT/lSAT-changes-coming-august-2024.

The writing section of the LSAT, known as argumentative writing, is a 35-minute unscored section that candidates can complete remotely (via online proctored exam software) up to 8 days before their LSAT test date. The aim of the argumentative writing sample is to assess a candidate's ability to construct cogent arguments based on various evidentiary sources. Candidates will be given a debatable issue and three or four perspectives on that issue that provide additional context. Candidates must draft an argumentative essay that reflects their own position on the issue and also addresses some of the ideas or arguments presented by the other perspectives. This gives candidates the opportunity to construct an original thesis and defend it based on their own judgment and evaluation. The argumentative writing sample is currently an unscored section, but copies will be sent to any law schools that have received your application. LSAT scores are not released unless the argumentative writing portion has also been completed.

For the 2024-2025 cycle, the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) is administering the multiple-choice portion of the LSAT both in-person at testing centres and remotely. For more information on test formats for the current cycle, please visit: www.lsac.org/lsat.

The reading comprehension section measures a candidate's ability to read, with understanding and insight, lengthy and complex texts similar to those that will be encountered in law school. The reading comprehension section of the LSAT contains four sets of reading questions, each consisting of a selection of reading material followed by five to eight questions. The reading selection in three of the four sets consists of a single reading passage; the other set contains two related shorter passages for comparative reading. Comparative reading questions ask candidates to analyze the relationship between passages. All of the passages in the reading comprehension section are drawn from a wide range of subjects, including the humanities and social sciences, biology and physical sciences, and areas related to law. Often, the passages are densely written and contain sophisticated arguments. Candidates must carefully and accurately read the passages and answer questions about topics including, but not limited to: the main idea, information that can be inferred, the structure of the passage, analogies to arguments in the passage, and/or the author's tone.

The logical reasoning section measures a candidate's ability to examine, analyze, and critically evaluate arguments in ordinary language. The questions are based on short arguments drawn from a range of sources, including newspapers, magazines, scholarly

publications, advertisements, and informal discourse. Although only few arguments actually contain law-related subject matter, the arguments mirror legal reasoning. Each logical reasoning question requires you to read and understand a brief passage and then answer one (sometimes two) questions about it. The questions are designed to assess a wide range of skills involved in thinking critically, with an emphasis on skills that are central to legal reasoning. These skills include recognizing the parts of an argument, recognizing similarities and differences between patterns of reasons, reasoning by analogy, recognizing misunderstandings or points of disagreements, identifying flaws in arguments, and identifying explanations.

ii. Studying for the LSAT

In order to best prepare for the LSAT, it is recommended that you complete practice tests and sample questions to get an idea of the structure of the test. The LSAC has developed an extensive platform of resources called LawHub that gives you access to four full Official LSAT PrepTests on the same interface that is used to administer the LSAT. You can access this material with your LSAC account and learn more about preparing with LawHub at <https://www.lsac.org/lawhub>. You can also find additional practice materials at <https://www.lsac.org/lsat/lsat-prep/prep-books>. Completing timed practice tests is the best way to improve your score and train yourself for test day. Be sure to also attempt a writing sample section under time constraints. By timing yourself, you will be able to determine how much time you can afford to spend on each question, as well as which sections and question types you should spend additional time practising. Practice tests will also help you to become acquainted with the test format and instructions, as well as the user interface, so these won't disrupt you on test day.

You may also consider enrolling in an LSAT preparation course. These courses typically offer a series of sessions over the course of a month or two and include prep materials such as practice exams, sample questions, and strategies on how to answer the types of questions found in each section of the exam. Some courses provide online-only sessions, while others include in-person lessons with an instructor. Most courses also provide a mock exam during the final session or class. Some of the companies that provide LSAT prep courses include Kaplan Test Prep, Harvard Ready, Oxford Seminars, and The Princeton Review. Some law schools, such as Osgoode Hall Law School and the University of Toronto,

also offer free LSAT prep courses to students with financial needs. It is important to do your research and investigate whether a prep course is the right study method for you. Visiting or calling the prep course companies you are considering before signing up is a good way to assess whether the learning environment and strategy is the right fit for you. Prep courses are by no means required for the LSAT and many students have successfully written the LSAT without completing a prep course.

It is important that you start studying for the LSAT as early as you can. By exposing yourself to the test questions early on, you will have more time to develop strategies and understand how the test works. You should also try to identify your weaknesses and focus on those areas in your studies—remember that it is what you do *in between* practice exams that helps you raise your score each time you write. Understanding what type of learner you are is also vital. If you are someone who needs to be in a classroom setting, then taking a prep course is probably the best route for you. If you are an interactive learner who prefers self-paced study, then an online course or self-taught approach might be best.

iii. Writing the LSAT

The LSAT costs roughly \$325CAD, or \$238US, to write. It is only offered at certain times throughout the year, so ensure you give yourself enough time to write the exam and complete the application process prior to any application deadlines. Many law schools require that the LSAT be taken by January at the latest for admission in the fall. However, we suggest taking the test earlier, such as in summer or fall of the previous year, rather than waiting until January. That way, if you are unsatisfied with your initial test score, you are able to retake the test during later sittings in October/November, before law school application deadlines.

As noted earlier, the 2024-25 LSAT will be administered both in-person and remotely. While students currently have the option to select the method that works best for them, this may change in the future. Whether you write the LSAT in-person or remotely, the test is administered through the LSAC's LawHub portal. At in-person test centres, you will be provided the equipment (i.e., computer) necessary to complete the test. If you are writing remotely, you will have to use your own personal computer or laptop to access LawHub. This eliminates the need for No. 2 pencils, highlighters, or other stationery.

If you are writing in-person at a test centre, make sure you are familiar with the location and how long it takes to get there. Aim to arrive 30 minutes early and bring a valid photo ID, along with your LawHub username and password (memorized!). You will be able to store any electronic devices, food, and/or beverages at the centre. If you are writing remotely, you should also aim to check in at least 30 minutes before your exam. Ensure that your computer meets the system requirements for the proctoring software and that it is plugged into a power source. Whether you are writing in-person or remotely, you will not be permitted to use any electronic devices for the duration of the exam or during the 10-minute intermission after section two. Make sure you review *all* of the LSAT exam policies and procedures before exam day, available here: <https://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat>.

You can expect to receive your test score approximately two to three weeks after writing the test. The LSAC publishes a score release date for every sitting of the exam, so you will know well in advance when you can expect your score. There is no pass or fail outcome for the LSAT. Instead, the test is scored on a scale ranging from 120 to 180, with 180 being the highest possible score. Your score is calculated based on the number of questions answered correctly; there are no penalties for incorrect answers. Therefore, be sure to answer all questions, and take your best guess if you find yourself running out of time. All questions are weighted the same. If you do not get your ideal score after the first attempt, you can always rewrite the test. However, keep in mind that law schools will have access to your complete test record and not just your highest score.



D. RESEARCHING LAW SCHOOLS

i. Ontario Schools and Studying Out of Province

There are many law schools in Ontario, as well as several in other provinces. The full list is as follows:

Law Schools in Ontario

- [Osgoode Hall Law School](#) (York University)
- [Western University Faculty of Law](#)
- [Queen's University Faculty of Law](#)
- [University of Ottawa Faculty of Law](#)
- [University of Windsor Faculty of Law](#)
- [University of Toronto Faculty of Law](#)
- [Bora Laskin Faculty of Law](#) (Lakehead University)
- [Lincoln Alexander School of Law](#) (Toronto Metropolitan University)

Law Schools in Other Provinces

- [Schulich School of Law](#) (Dalhousie University)
- [McGill University Faculty of Law](#)
- [Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law](#)
- [Université de Montréal Law Faculty](#)
- [University of Alberta Faculty of Law](#)
- [Peter A. Allard School of Law](#) (University of British Columbia)
- [University of Calgary Faculty of Law](#)
- [University of Manitoba Faculty of Law](#)
- [Université de Moncton Faculté de Droit](#)
- [University of New Brunswick Faculty of Law](#)
- [Université de Sherbrooke Faculté de Droit](#)
- [University of Saskatchewan College of Law](#)
- [University of Victoria Faculty of Law](#)

Students who plan to practise law in Ontario but attend law school in another province should keep in mind that the laws and legal procedures they learn in school will be specific to that jurisdiction. This can pose a challenge when it comes to preparing for the licensing exams in Ontario. Students who opt for this arrangement need to be prepared to dedicate additional time and effort when they prepare for their Ontario licensing exams, as there will be a steeper learning curve.

ii. Factors to Consider

When considering which law schools to apply to, there are many factors to consider. A key concern for many individuals is the cost of law school. Tuition fees for law schools across Canada vary quite greatly but law programs are generally expensive. Some schools offer scholarships and financial assistance programs to help students pay for law school. The availability of such resources can be an important factor in deciding which school to attend. Beyond the cost of tuition, you must also plan for the costs associated with housing, transportation, lifestyle, school materials, and casebooks.

The last factor to consider when researching law schools is whether the school offers any unique programs or extracurricular activities that interest you. For example, some law schools within Ontario offer dual/combined programs such as a JD/MBA or JD/MES. Some schools also offer combined programs with universities in the United States so that students can obtain law degrees in both countries. Each of the law schools within Ontario has a variety of clubs and volunteer opportunities that are unique to them, so you should take some time to visit each school's website and research what it has to offer. Talking to current students as well as alumni can also help you gain better insight into the programs that are offered.

On the following pages, you will find a quick reference guide to help you compare Canadian common law programs taught in English across a variety of metrics, including first year tuition costs, median LSAT scores, and first year class size. All of the information contained in the reference guide reflects the most recent data made available by each law school. Additionally, at the end of this chapter, you'll find links to the financing sections of each law school in Ontario so that you can obtain more information.

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL

\$25,965 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '23
162 Median LSAT **3.7** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 290

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

\$21,840 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '23
161 Median LSAT **3.6** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 189

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

\$20,198 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '23
158 Median LSAT **3.7** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 280

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

\$33,040 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '24
167 Median LSAT **3.9** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 214

LINCOLN ALEXANDER SCHOOL OF LAW

\$22,322 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '24
N/A Median LSAT **N/A** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 150

2024 Law School Comparison Chart

The University of Windsor, Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, and Lincoln Alexander School of Law do not typically publish LSAT/GPA statistics as part of their holistic admissions processes.

All median GPAs have been converted to a 4.0 scale. Additionally, tuition estimates do not include the cost of casebooks. To get an idea of the cost of physical or digital law school casebooks, visit <https://emond.ca/division/law-school>.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

\$21,094 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '23
161 Median LSAT **3.7** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 217

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

\$22,470 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '23
N/A Median LSAT **N/A** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 170

BORA LASKIN FACULTY OF LAW

\$17,989 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '23
N/A Median LSAT **N/A** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 65

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

\$11,550* Est. First Year Tuition Costs '23
*For a non-Québec Canadian
165 Median LSAT **3.8** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 179

PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

\$21,840 First Year Tuition Costs '24
166 Median LSAT **3.8** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 200

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

\$17,875 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '24
164 Median LSAT **3.7** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 128

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

\$14,165 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '23
161 Median LSAT **3.5** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: N/A

SCHULICH SCHOOL OF LAW

\$22,094 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '24
163 Median LSAT **3.5** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 170

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

\$12,264 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '24
165 Median LSAT **3.8** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 110

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

\$22,610 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '23
162 Median LSAT **3.7** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 124

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

\$17,701 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '23
161 Median LSAT **3.8** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 182

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

\$18,727 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '24
158 Median LSAT **3.4** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 126

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

\$17,631 Est. First Year Tuition Costs '24
159 Median LSAT **3.5** Median GPA
 Approx. First Year Class Size: 92

iii. Available Resources

General Application Information

- Ontario Universities' Application Centre: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas/>

School-Specific Financial Aid Information

- Osgoode Hall Law School: <https://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/programs/juris-doctor/access-and-support/financial-services>
- Western University: https://law.uwo.ca/current_students/student_services/finances/index.html
- Queen's University: <https://law.queensu.ca/programs/jd/student-support/costs-financial-assistance>
- University of Ottawa: <https://www.uottawa.ca/faculty-law/common-law/financial-aid-bursaries>
- University of Windsor: <https://www.uwindsor.ca/law/scholarships-awards-bursaries>
- University of Toronto: <https://www.law.utoronto.ca/financialaid>
- Bora Laskin Faculty of Law: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/studentcentral/financing-budgeting>
- Lincoln Alexander School of Law: <https://www.torontomu.ca/law/admissions/fees-financial-assistance>

2 APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL

A. TIMELINE OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

i. The Ontario Law School Application Service

The Ontario Law School Application Service (OLSAS) is a centralized service for all students applying to law schools within Ontario. OLSAS is operated by the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC). While OLSAS provides a single application processing service, each law school is autonomous in reaching its admission decisions. Each applicant completes one common application form and provides one set of academic documents, which are then accessible to the applicant's chosen law schools. The application website is at https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/user/login.

If you are considering law schools outside of Ontario, refer to each school's website for more information about the application process. Additionally, while preparing for the LSAT, you might come across the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) offered by the LSAC. The CAS is designed to streamline the application process for American law schools only and is not typically required to apply for Canadian law schools.

ii. Important Deadlines

When it comes to applying to law school, it is critical that you make note of important dates and deadlines for submitting the required documentation and completing your application. The usual application deadline for first-year law programs is November 1st of the year prior to your start date, although this may vary. At this time, your application must be complete, and OLSAS must have received your transcripts and reference letters. There are a few exceptions to this timeline—for example, the application deadline for the first-year French program offered at the University of Ottawa is March 1st of the same year you intend to begin school. The application deadline for the combined Canadian and American Dual JD Program at the University of Windsor is mid-April, usually April 15th.

If you are applying to upper-year programs instead of the first-year law program, then applications are due in the spring, usually May 1st.

If you are still completing coursework in the January–April semester, OLSAS must receive your final transcripts by June 30th of the year you intend to begin school. Transcripts are requested through the OLSAS online application system and sent to OLSAS from your previous educational institutions. If you run into issues requesting transcripts, contact OLSAS, your university’s Student Services department, or your academic adviser.

You must ensure that you have initiated payment of your fees by the application deadline indicated by OLSAS. The OLSAS fee is \$200CAD and an additional \$115CAD per university selected.

B. COMPONENTS OF THE APPLICATION

The following are key pieces of information that will need to be submitted to complete your law school applications on the OLSAS service.

i. LSAT

On the OLSAS website, you will be asked to enter your LSAC account number under “LSAT” in the online application. With that number, OLSAS will be able to retrieve your LSAT results. The account number is a nine-digit identification number beginning with an uppercase “L” followed by eight numbers and is assigned by LSAC. Enter the most recent LSAT date and/or the date you plan to write the LSAT. Be sure to update your application if your test date changes. Also note that the LSAT is not required if you plan to apply to McGill University or the University of Ottawa’s French programs.

Once OLSAS receives your application, it will request your LSAT scores from the LSAC. It is important that you confirm the status of your registration with LSAC, as LSAC will provide LSAT reports to OLSAS only if you are a current registrant. Also, keep in mind that some law schools require that the LSAT be written by a specific date. You can find more information under the “University Requirements” tab on the OLSAS website here: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/olsas-guide/#university-requirements>.

ii. Reference Letters

Most, if not all, law schools require that you ask individuals (i.e., referees) to provide a reference on your behalf. Referees may submit their reference letters online or by mail. If you provide an email address for your referee to OLSAS, they will be required to complete the reference online. Ensure that your referee is prepared to use the online form before providing their email address to OLSAS. Once you have added a referee’s email address, select “Send Email” to notify them about completing their online reference via a secure platform. It is your responsibility to ensure your referee receives the email and successfully submits their reference to OLSAS. If you change your mind about a referee *before* they have started their reference, you may reset your reference online.

If your reference does not have an email address or prefers to submit their reference in hard-copy format, you can download the form and provide it to them. Your referee must then mail in the form with their accompanying letter to OLSAS when it is complete. Only one version of the reference can be submitted. Remember to give your referees sufficient time to complete their reference letters and submit them to OLSAS by the deadline.

Some schools have requirements about the types of references required. For example, you may be asked to submit a reference letter from an academic source. We recommend that you choose a professor who has taught you or supervised your work. Ideally, your referee should be someone you have developed a relationship with and who can attest to your conduct as a student, as well as someone who can describe the personality traits you possess that would make you a valuable member of the legal profession.

iii. Academic Background and Transcripts

On the OLSAS application website, record the last high school you attended and list all post-secondary institutions you have attended. These include the following: community colleges/CEGEPs, universities, junior colleges, and graduate schools. You must also request official transcripts from each university, college, CEGEP, junior college, graduate school, and other post-secondary institutions at which you have registered. Note that this includes transcripts from any foreign institutions that you attended while studying abroad on exchange, as well as any institution you withdrew from. To be considered “official,” transcripts must be sent directly from the institution’s Registrar’s Office to OLSAS, be

printed on the institution's official transcript paper, or be imprinted with the school's seal and/or any appropriate signatures. Institutions may send transcripts electronically only if they have established the appropriate procedure to do so with OLSAS. OLSAS will *not* accept any photocopies of transcripts. Only one copy of your transcripts is required. If you attended or are currently enrolled at an Ontario university or college, you *must* request your transcript through your online application. By completing the online transcript request and forwarding the appropriate fees, you authorize the OUAC to arrange for your official transcripts to be sent to OLSAS, eliminating the need for you to contact the Registrar's Office directly. For more information, visit <https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/olsas-transcript>.

iv. Autobiographical Sketch & Verifiers

The autobiographical sketch (ABS) is an opportunity for you to share details of your activities and experiences in the following categories: full-time employment, part-time employment, volunteering, extracurricular activities, academic honours and achievements, and academic research work. For each activity, indicate the duration and nature of your involvement. It may be helpful to think of this section of the application as a modified version of your resumé. You should explain the role you played in each experience and highlight any unique factors or skills that arose from your involvement. All law schools use this information when making admissions decisions.

The ABS complements any personal statements you submit as part of your application. OLSAS recommends providing a full and accurate record of your experience. You should also ensure that you present the information in a clear and organized manner as law schools may take this into consideration when making admissions decisions. If necessary, use multiple entries for the same employer or activity to properly indicate changes in status or time periods. This will allow you to document any breaks in time for the activities listed, including a change from full-time to part-time employment (or vice versa).

For each activity included in your ABS, you will need to provide the name, address, and telephone number of an individual who can verify your involvement in that activity. Law schools reserve the right to confirm the information provided in this section by consulting the individuals you listed as verifiers, so be sure that you do not misrepresent or exaggerate your involvement.

v. Personal Statement & Supplemental Information

As part of the OLSAS application, you will have to submit a personal statement. The requirements for the content of a personal statement vary greatly. Some law schools may ask you to answer specific questions to form your personal statement, while others may give you more freedom to craft your own statement. It is important that you think critically and reflect on the experiences you have had, both personally and academically. Your personal statement allows law schools to get a glimpse of who you are as an individual beyond your academic accomplishments (e.g., LSAT score and GPA). If you have endured personal hardships or had unique experiences that have influenced your academic journey or future professional goals, it is important that you find a way to weave them into your responses. Instead of reiterating the items on your resumé, focus on sharing your story. Ask yourself: What makes you unique? Did a particular experience spark your passion for the law? What do you hope to achieve with a career in law?

Once you've narrowed down what you want to talk about in your statement, make sure you give yourself enough time to actually write it. It may take several days, even weeks, to craft a compelling personal statement—one that is clear, cohesive, and free of errors. You might also want to account for time to allow a friend or family member to proofread your statement to ensure that it is well-written and impactful. Make sure to give yourself enough time to tailor your personal statement to fit the requirements of each law school. Keep in mind that the personal statement, and any other application materials, must be completed without the use of generative AI technology.

This section of the OLSAS application also provides you space to attach any supplemental information. This may include documentation that supports any academic performance issues or absences that you wish to explain to the admissions committees.

C. ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS CHART

The following chart provides some of the entrance requirements for each law school within Ontario for the 2023 application period. It allows you to compare the schools based on acceptable LSAT scores, minimum undergraduate study requirements, alternative study options (e.g., part-time or half-time), referee letter requirements, and any application categories that you may want to consider.

	LSAT	Minimum Undergraduate Study	Alternative Study Options	Referees	Application Categories
Osgoode Hall Law School	Earliest accepted score June 2019; latest accepted score January 2024; highest score used.	JD requires three or more years at a recognized university in a degree program; JD/MA requires the completion of a 4-year honours degree in philosophy.	Extended-time	2 letters required, at least 1 academic.	General, Indigenous
Western University	Earliest accepted score June 2019; latest accepted score January 2024; highest score used.	Requires 3 years of full-time (or equivalent) undergraduate university study.	Extended-time	2 letters required, at least 1 academic (unless in Mature category).	General, Access, Indigenous, Mature
Queen's University	Earliest accepted score June 2019; latest accepted score January 2024; highest score used.	Requires 3 or more years of undergraduate study; completion of 4-year degree recommended and required for combined programs.	Part-time (up to 5 spaces available)	1 academic reference; maximum 3 letters may be submitted.	General, Access, Black Student Applicant, Indigenous
University of Ottawa (English Programs)	Earliest accepted score June 2019; highest score used.	Requires 3 or more years of full-time undergraduate study; degree completion is strongly encouraged.	Half-time (granted on an ad-hoc basis)	2 letters required, at least 1 academic.	General, General with Special Circumstances, Access, Indigenous, Mature

	LSAT	Minimum Undergraduate Study	Alternative Study Options	Referees	Application Categories
University of Windsor	Earliest accepted score June 2019; latest accepted score January 2024 for JD, April 2024 for Dual JD; highest score used.	Requires 3 or more years of undergraduate study; completion of 4-year degree recommended and required for Dual JD.	Half-time	2 letters required, 1 academic and 1 non-academic.	General, Indigenous
University of Toronto	Earliest accepted score June 2019; latest accepted score January 2024.	Requires 3 years of undergraduate study; most admitted students have completed a 4-year degree.	Half-time	Not required.	General, Indigenous, Mature
Bora Laskin Faculty of Law	Earliest accepted score June 2019; highest score used.	Requires 3 or more years of full-time undergraduate study; degree completion is strongly encouraged.	N/A	2 letters required, at least 1 academic.	General, Access, Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, Métis), Mature
Lincoln Alexander School of Law	Earliest accepted score June 2019; latest accepted score January 2024; highest score used.	Requires 3 years in an undergraduate degree program at a recognized university.	Extended-time (accommodation only)	2 letters required, 1 academic strongly suggested.	General, Access, Indigenous

For a more detailed overview of these entrance requirements, make sure you visit each law school's website. Additionally, OLSAS updates its law school program requirements every year. The OLSAS website provides additional information including class sizes, joint degree offerings, and academic minimums (if applicable). You can access this information here: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/olsas-program-requirements>.

D. WHERE AND HOW TO APPLY

i. Applying Online

The law school application process is quite lengthy and the exact amount of time required to complete your application will depend on the number of schools you apply to. Generally, you should allow for 5 to 25 hours to prepare your application. You can begin the process by creating a username and password on the OUAC website: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/>. You will need these credentials to create and update your application.

Your application will not be submitted until you click on “Verify and Submit” and complete the submission process. Once you have submitted your application, OLSAS will forward it to all of the requested law schools, regardless of your qualifications and the completeness of your application. After you have submitted your application, you will not be able to make changes to the following information: academic record (except to add an institution), transcripts (except to add requests), prerequisites, school submissions, ABS and verifiers, and status in Canada. Therefore, you should ensure that your application is complete and up-to-date before the application deadline. Each Ontario law school has its own admissions requirements. Be aware of any variations in admission requirements for different schools, and make sure you have provided all of the requisite information and documentation before submitting your application to OLSAS.

After submitting your application, you will receive an OUAC/OLSAS reference number. You will also receive a confirmation when you successfully submit changes to your application. Once your application is submitted, you will be able to monitor the status of your documentation in the “Document Tracking” section. It is your responsibility to ensure that OLSAS receives all supporting documentation (e.g., reference letters) by the applicable deadlines.

ii. Application Cost

As noted above, the cost of applying to law schools entails a flat application service fee of \$200CAD to use the OLSAS system, plus an additional \$115CAD fee for each law school that will receive your application. Some schools also charge a fee for transcript requests.

OLSAS has outlined these fees on its website. Keep in mind that you must initiate your payment in full by the application deadline to avoid any issues with submission.

If you pay a fee and then wish to withdraw your application, you will not receive a refund. For information on how to waive a law school’s \$115CAD fee on the basis of financial need, consult the individual law school’s section on the OLSAS online application, or contact the law school directly. Take note that the following forms of payment are accepted: credit or debit card, online banking or e-transfer, or Flywire (for international payments only). For more information about payment options, visit <https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/olsas-fees>.



3 CHOOSING A LAW SCHOOL

A. RECEIVING OFFERS

Law schools may make offers of admission any time after your application is received. To respond to an offer of admission, you must log into your OLSAS account. After you submit a response, you will be locked out of your application for one business day. Only one offer of admission may be accepted at a time. It is important to note that once you provide a firm acceptance to a law school's offer, your other choices will be marked "Decline: No Further Consideration." Your applications to any other Ontario law schools will be cancelled, and you will be removed from all wait-lists.

You also have the option of providing a "provisional acceptance" to an offer. If you decide to give a provisional acceptance, you must indicate which other choices you wish to remain active. If you do not indicate that you still wish to be considered for a specific choice, it will be marked as "Decline: No Further Consideration." Provisional acceptances to first-year programs will automatically become firm at the beginning of July. Any time you make a change to your account, by accepting or declining an offer, you will need to click "Review/Submit" before exiting and follow through with the "Submit" process. You will be given a confirmation number after exiting and making changes.

If you receive more than one offer of admission, you must make a decision. This can be a difficult decision to make, and this chapter will cover some important factors to consider when making your choice. Some schools will include perks in their offers, such as entrance scholarships, which may only be available upon a firm acceptance to the school by a certain date. Be sure to consider each offer you receive carefully and keep track of any important deadlines that are outlined.

B. VISITING LAW SCHOOLS

Visiting the schools that you have applied to is a great way to determine whether you can see yourself attending those schools and living in the surrounding areas. If you are able to visit schools *before* you apply, you can weed out the schools you are not interested in

3 CHOOSING A LAW SCHOOL

attending. This can save you a lot of time and money when it comes to the application process. If you are unable to take such an approach prior to applying, it is highly recommended that you at least visit the schools where you've received an offer of acceptance.

Signing up for a campus tour is a great way to get a feel for a school's educational environment and have a chance to speak with representatives from the school about programs offered and extracurricular activities. Campus tours give you a first-hand look into life at each law school and provide you with a solid understanding of the schools' environments. Most law schools in Ontario offer prospective students the opportunity to schedule campus tours led by current law students. These tours allow you to learn about the law school's facilities, the structure of the law program, and other unique opportunities offered at the school. A campus tour also allows you to ask any questions you may have regarding the program, as well as to receive advice from someone currently enrolled in the school's law program. Most schools include information about signing up for campus tours in their offers of acceptance.

Another great way to gain a better understanding of a law school that you are considering is to attend a lecture. It is usually easy to find an ongoing lecture when wandering through the school and most professors won't mind if you pop in for a few minutes to listen. Just remember to be courteous and ensure that you do not cause any disruption when entering or exiting the lecture hall. It is recommended that you sit near the back, if possible, to avoid causing any distraction to the professor or students. However, don't worry if attending a lecture is not an option for you. Most law schools participate in recruitment events across the province that provide applicants with opportunities to speak to staff and students about the school and program. Below is a list of links from a schools in Ontario that provide more information about recruitment events:

- Osgoode Hall Law School: <https://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/programs/juris-doctor/juris-doctor-admissions/admissions-events-and-student-ambassadors>
- Western University: https://law.uwo.ca/future_students/jd_admissions/recruitment_events.html
- Queen's University: <https://law.queensu.ca/admissions/jd/visit-book-a-tour>
- University of Toronto: <https://www.law.utoronto.ca/admissionevents>

C. CONSULTING WITH STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Another great way to get more information about a law school is to go directly to the source and talk to current or past students. Most students and alumni are more than willing to talk about their experiences and can provide useful insights into their everyday lives at law school. If you sign up for a campus tour, you will be put in touch with a current student who can answer many of the questions you have regarding the law school you are considering. If you are looking to speak to current students without attending a tour, many law schools have “student ambassadors” who have volunteered to speak to prospective students who have questions about the law program or the life of a law student at that school. Contact Student Services/Academic Services at the law school you are interested in to find out how you can connect with a current student.

Once you have been put in touch with a current student, it is a good idea to ask them any questions you have about the program and school. Some common questions to ask are:

- How is the first-year curriculum structured?
- What extracurricular/volunteer opportunities are offered at or unique to the school?
- Are there placement programs or experiential learning opportunities offered?
- Can I afford the cost of tuition?
- How does the student balance school and a social life?
- What are their suggestions on where to live on- or off-campus?
- What are some courses that are highly recommended and unique to the school?
- What professors are highly rated?

You can also learn a lot about a particular school by speaking to alumni. Alumni can not only give you insight into what it is like to attend the school, but also where your degree can take you once you have graduated. Most law schools have a list of alumni that have volunteered to act as mentors to students currently attending law school. Some schools may be able to put prospective students in touch with these individuals for insight into their educational and employment experiences.

It is also strongly recommended that you reach out to friends and family members who have attended law school. People within your existing network may be more willing to discuss their experiences with you in an open and honest manner. Speaking to a variety of people, including those who have attended schools other than the ones you are

considering, can provide you with a wealth of knowledge before you even begin your legal studies. These conversations can help you develop a better understanding of what to expect from your legal education and career.

Below are some resources to help you get into contact with current students and alumni from Ontario law schools:

- Osgoode Hall Law School: <https://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/programs/juris-doctor/juris-doctor-admissions/contact-us/student-ambassadors>
- Western University: https://law.uwo.ca/future_students/jd_admissions/student_ambassadors.html
- University of Toronto: <https://www.law.utoronto.ca/jd-admissions-help>
- Lincoln Alexander School of Law: <https://www.torontomu.ca/law/admissions/admissions-events>
- Bora Laskin Faculty of Law: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/law/admissions/recruitment-events>

D. ACCEPTING AN OFFER

If you receive offers from more than one law school, determining which school is right for you can be stressful and difficult. Most Canadian law schools have a positive reputation, and many people will say that you can’t go wrong in choosing to pursue a legal education within Canada. However, there are some important factors that you should consider when determining which law school is the right one for *you*.

One of the most important considerations is location. Are you prepared to uproot your life and move to a new city for the next three years? If the answer is no, then you have likely narrowed down your choices. It is also important to consider the cost of moving and living in a new city, should you choose to relocate. Consider whether you would live on- or off-campus, and inquire with the school about the housing options available. If you don’t move, is there a school within driving distance of where you live? Consider the cost of commuting by car or public transit and whether or not this is a feasible option for the next three years. Ideally, your living situation will provide you with a sense of comfort while you are studying. Law school can be demanding and stressful, so ensuring you have a comfortable living situation can help you feel less overwhelmed.

Consider the type of law that you want to practise. Certain schools have reputations for specializing in certain areas of the law. This is often because of location or the combined programs that are offered at the school. You should also contemplate whether you would be interested in doing a combined degree. Researching the faculty members at each school is a good idea, as this is a factor that can play a part in which school you choose, particularly if you are interested in a certain area of the law. If you aren't sure which area of law you want to practise in, that's fine too. First-year programs tend to be generalized to give students broad exposure to many different areas of law. If this is the case for you, try to select a school that has a wide variety of course options so that you are not limited when you do decide which type of law you want to practise.

Another important consideration is the cost of tuition for each school and whether or not it is feasible for you to attend that school. Most schools offer scholarships, grants, and bursaries that can help ease the financial strain. Awards with monetary compensation may also be available to you after your first year. Certain schools may have job opportunities for students, which may also help if you are planning to work while attending law school.

Take a look at the specific opportunities and courses offered at each school. Some schools offer placement programs, research projects, advocacy competitions, intensive courses, workshops, and clinical education opportunities that provide unique and invaluable experiences. Be sure to research the opportunities available to you and what is required from you to participate.

Remember that only one offer of admission may be accepted at a time. If you decide to provide a provisional acceptance because you need more time to decide or because you want to wait to see if you get an offer from another school, you must indicate which other choices you wish to remain active. If you do not indicate that you wish to be considered for a specific option, it will be declined. Provisional acceptances will automatically become firm at the beginning of July, and most schools require you to have made a decision by this time. In their letters of admission, some schools will indicate whether they require you to reply by a certain date, as well as if any grants or scholarships are being offered to you. Take notice that some schools offering early acceptance and scholarships require you to provide a firm acceptance *before* the July deadline.

E. ONTARIO LAW SCHOOLS

i. Key Highlights and Student Insights

Below are some key highlights and unique characteristics of each of the law schools in Ontario. Some schools offer insight into their law programs through feedback and comments from past and present students. Links are provided below for you to access these comments. Please note that the following is not a complete representation of each law school, and it is recommended that you visit the website of each school you are considering in order to gain a full understanding of what each school has to offer.

Osgoode Hall Law School at York University

Osgoode offers a number of joint and combined programs, such as JD/MBA, JD/MES (Master of Environmental Studies), JD/MA Philosophy, and JD/LLB (Bachelor of Civil Law). It also offers a broad range of courses covering almost all areas of the law. Osgoode is known for its clinical and intensive programs, such as the following: the Advanced Business Law Workshop (Corporate Finance); the Advanced Business Law Workshop (Mergers and Acquisitions); the Anti-Discrimination Intensive Program; the Community and Legal Aid Services Program; the Criminal Law Intensive; the Disability Law Intensive; the Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinical Program; the Feminist Advocacy (Ending Violence Against Women) Clinical Program; the Investor Protection Clinic; the Immigration and Refugee Law Intensive; the Innocence Project; the Intellectual Property Law and Technology Intensive Program; the Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources, and Governments; the International and Transnational Law Intensive Program; the Osgoode Mediation Clinical Program; the Osgood Business Clinic; the Poverty Law Intensive at Parkdale Community Legal Services; and the Wrongful Conviction Clinical Program.

To find out more about each clinical and intensive program, visit <https://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/programs/juris-doctor/jd-academic-program/clinical-and-intensive-programs>.

To find out more about life at Osgoode Hall, including data about the class of 2026, visit <https://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/life-at-osgoode>.

Western University Faculty of Law

Western Law is known for its ambition to be the pre-eminent law school in Canada focusing on business law in the global environment. Accordingly, it is home to the combined JD/MBA and JD/HBA (Honours Business Administration) programs offered through the Ivey School of Business, as well as the Western Business Law Clinic. Western Law also offers first year students the unique option to take corporate law in their Winter term. Western Law has also developed several curricular streams that provide students with informal guidance on the courses and co-curricular activities that they may wish to pursue in light of their interests. Students do not formally enroll in the streams; the streams simply provide advice for navigating a course of study in a specific area of the law. They also provide suggestions on the types of experiential learning, clinical work, research, or advocacy opportunities that can enhance students' understanding and skills. The curricular streams offered include business law; criminal law; government and public administration; intellectual property, information and technology; international law; labour, employment, and social justice; litigation; and universal or specialty practice.

To find out more about the unique opportunities Western has to offer regarding business law, visit https://law.uwo.ca/future_students/business_law/index.html.

To find out more about the curricular streams, visit https://law.uwo.ca/future_students/curricular_streams/index.html.

Queen's University Faculty of Law

The law program at Queen's University is known for its wide range of clinical opportunities. The school operates five legal aid clinics focusing on the areas of prison law, family law, elder law, business law, and poverty law. These clinical opportunities allow students to gain experience providing legal assistance to low-income residents. Queen's also offers mooted programs, two law journals, extracurricular placement opportunities, and a wide range of internship and externship opportunities. Queen's Law also offers a number of combined programs, such as the BComm/JD, MBA/JD, JD combined with a graduate diploma in business, MA Economics/JD, Master of Industrial Relations/JD, and a Master of Public Administration/JD. There is also a combined Civil Law/Common Law joint program offered.

To find out more about the legal clinic opportunities, visit <https://www.queenslawclinics.ca>.

To find out more about the law program at Queen's University, visit <https://law.queensu.ca/programs/jd/student-experience>.

University of Ottawa Faculty of Law

The Common Law program at the University of Ottawa (uOttawa) is known for its expertise in dispute resolution, environmental law, international trade law, business and human rights law, technology law, public law, and Aboriginal law. The law school also has a top mooted program and offers a unique experience to students by way of its location in the national capital. A wide variety of legal clinics also operate in conjunction with the law school, providing students with a unique hands-on learning experience. The clinics include the University of Ottawa Community Legal Clinic, the uOttawa-Ecojustice Environmental Law Clinic, the Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic, and the Equality Law Clinic. uOttawa is also home to the Ian G. Scott Courtroom—a fully functional courtroom where sitting judges hear regular cases. The University of Ottawa also offers a French Juris Doctor program, as well as a Civil Law program, for those wishing to practise law in Quebec.

To learn more about the Common Law program at the University of Ottawa, visit <https://www.uottawa.ca/faculty-law/common-law>.

To learn more about the Civil Law program at the University of Ottawa, visit <https://www.uottawa.ca/faculte-droit/droit-civil>.

University of Windsor Faculty of Law

The law program at the University of Windsor is shaped by a strong focus on access to justice and transnational law. The University of Windsor offers a unique program allowing students to earn joint Canadian and American dual JD degrees. It also offers other unique degree programs, such as a combined MSW/JD, combined MBA/JD, and Master of Laws

program. When it comes to upper-year course offerings, students at Windsor Law are allowed, with permission, to enroll in courses that are taught in other faculties at the University of Windsor and certain courses that are taught at the law schools at Wayne State University and the University of Detroit Mercy for credit toward their JD degree. The law program at the University of Windsor also offers a number of clinical and experiential learning opportunities where students can gain hands-on legal experience, including a number of social justice fellowships, the Class Action Clinic, the Mental Health Justice Clinic, and the Transnational Environmental Law and Policy Clinic.

To learn more about the clinical and experiential learning opportunities offered at Windsor Law, visit <https://www.uwindsor.ca/law/341/clinical-and-experiential-learning>.

To learn more about the joint Canadian and American dual JD program, visit <https://www.uwindsor.ca/law/370/canadian-american-dual-jd-program>.

University of Toronto Faculty of Law

The law program at the University of Toronto is made up of an exemplary group of international faculty members. It also offers a variety of clinics and public interest opportunities, such as Downtown Legal Services, Advocates for Injured Workers, the Barbara Schliker Commemorative Clinic, the International Human Rights Clinic, the Health Equity and Law Clinic, the Constitutional Advocacy Clinic, and the Aboriginal Legal Services Clinic. The Faculty of Law also has a number of special programs available to students, including the Health Law and Policy Group, the International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Program, the June Callwood Program in Aboriginal Law, and the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies. A variety of combined degree programs are also offered, such as JD/MBA, JD/MA Criminology, JD/MA Economics, JD/PhD Economics, JD/MA English, JD/MA European and Russian Affairs, JD/MGA (Global Affairs), JD/MI (Information Studies), JD/PhD Philosophy, JD/PhD Political Science, JD/MPP (Public Policy), and JD/MSW (Social Work).

To learn more about the clinics and special programs offered at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, visit <https://www.law.utoronto.ca/centres-programs>.

To hear from now-graduated students of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, visit <https://www.law.utoronto.ca/admissions/why-u-t>.

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law of Lakehead University

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University serves Northern Ontario as an innovative regional law school. It offers students a unique hands-on learning experience that makes them eligible for licensing directly after graduating. Students at Lakehead partake in the Integrated Practice Curriculum, which enables them to meet the Law Society of Ontario's experiential training requirement during their studies. The program at Lakehead has a unique focus on Aboriginal and Indigenous law, natural resources and environmental law, and sole/small-town practice. The school also has a Community Legal Services Clinic that students can participate in, as well as a Pro Bono Students Canada chapter and a law journal.

To find out more about the Integrated Practice Curriculum, visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/law/curriculum/ipc>.

To find out more about the Faculty of Law at Lakehead through student experiences, visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/law/student-profiles>.

Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Toronto Metropolitan University

The Lincoln Alexander School of Law fosters a culture of innovation and advocacy to reimagine legal education in pursuit of a more just society. The school was founded on four pillars: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Access to Justice; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; and Academic Excellence. Lincoln Alexander's JD program also fulfills the requirements for the Law Society of Ontario's Integrated Practice Curriculum, allowing students to gain meaningful practical experience while pursuing their degree. The school also offers a number of unique experiential learning opportunities, including the Refugee Law Team, the Fair Change Community Services Clinic, the Legal Innovation Zone, and the Slingshot Clinic x Lincoln Alexander School of Law.

To find out more about the Integrated Practice Curriculum, visit https://www.torontomu.ca/law/program/juris_doctor_program.

To find out more about experiential learning opportunities, visit <https://www.torontomu.ca/law/students/experiential-learning-opportunities>.

4 SUCCESS IN FIRST YEAR

A. PREPARING FOR FIRST YEAR

With your course selections made and the first year of law school quickly approaching, you may experience some anxiety and anticipation surrounding the unknown. The important thing to remember is that you've made it this far. You successfully wrote the LSAT, applied to law schools, and got accepted—you will succeed. The following are some tips and tricks to help you prepare for your first year of law school; however, remember to take some time to relax and enjoy the summer too. It is important to catch up with friends and family, celebrate your achievements, travel, and read (for pleasure!). Don't worry about cramming your brain full of legal knowledge or studying ahead what you think you might need to know.

i. Know How YOU Learn

You've probably heard it before: "There are many different types of learners." This is one of the most important things to remember during law school. Unfortunately, many law school curricula are geared towards auditory learners, with most learning occurring through lectures in which professors verbally convey content to students. Some professors provide lecture slides to students, which allows for visual learners to follow along with the content. Some law schools also provide experiential learning opportunities that allow for students to see how actual legal practices develop in real time and provide kinesthetic learners with hands-on learning.

You may find yourself trying to change your approach to studying and learning in an attempt to adapt to an unfamiliar environment and because you feel you are being closely compared to your peers. It is important to remember that the approach to learning and studying that you have implemented thus far has proven to be successful—you have made it to law school! Depending on what you studied during your undergraduate degree, learning the law can feel like learning a second language. A large amount of new content will be thrown at you at in a short period of time, and your tried-and-true study method can serve as a solid foundation with which you can tackle new ideas and concepts. It is vital that you use the approach that works best for you.

4 SUCCESS IN FIRST YEAR

ii. Orientation Week

As the start date for law school approaches, you will likely be flooded with information via email/mail regarding Orientation Week. Depending on the law school you attend, Orientation Week can span from a few days to almost two weeks. You may be eagerly anticipating or nervously dreading this upcoming series of events. However, finding time to participate in at least a few events is important, so that you can get a feel for the school environment and meet your peers. Most of the activities will be social outings aimed at getting new students to interact with one another outside of a classroom context. These activities can include scavenger hunts, sporting events, barbecues, karaoke, pub nights, and more! During this time, you may also have opportunities to mingle with upper-year students and perhaps even some faculty members, which is a valuable opportunity to start establishing a network.

iii. Textbooks

For most courses, you will receive your book list on the first day of class or the week preceding it. While the bookstore may seem like the most convenient option for purchasing your books, you can likely find better value by ordering your textbooks directly from the publisher. At Emond, we sell our casebooks online at www.emond.ca for prices that are equivalent to the used copies sold at school bookstores, and we offer free shipping within Canada. We also sell digital versions of our casebooks and bundled print and digital combinations. These options can be a huge help if you want to travel light on your way to and from class. If you are considering purchasing digital versions of your casebooks, be aware that some classes have open-book exams: you may wish to also have print copies of the books to bring with you into exams.

B. STRUCTURE OF FIRST YEAR

When it comes to the structure of your first year of law school, you won't have much choice over your courses. Depending on the law school you attend, you may have the option of choosing between a seminar or two, but for the most part, you will be given a pre-set course schedule. Most law schools divide first year into two semesters, with some courses running the full year. All schools will provide you with a diverse group of introductory-level courses to get you acquainted with the different areas of law. No matter which school you attend, you will have courses focused on the following areas of study during your first year of law school: criminal law, contract law, tort law, constitutional law, legal research and writing, property law, and civil procedure.

Orientation Week usually begins the last week of August, with classes beginning the week after that. Most law schools offer two Reading Week breaks: one during the beginning of November and the other in mid-February. First-semester classes end at the beginning of December, with exams running the second week of December. The second semester usually begins the first week of January and ends at the start of April, with exams running through the middle of April. For exact dates, search for the "Academic Calendar" on your law school's website.

C. STUDENT SERVICES

Your school will have a number of services available to assist you with the transition into first year and the rest of your law school experience. These services are meant to be utilized and are there to help you through some of the challenges you might encounter while pursuing a legal education. You may have found that you did not use such services during your undergraduate degree; however, law school will be different from any other educational experience you have had. The services offered by the law school are specifically crafted to address the needs of students in the Faculty of Law. Below are some of the most common resources and services that are offered by Student Services at most law schools in Ontario.

i. Financial Assistance

As previously mentioned, it is important to consider the financial assistance and resources that are available to you when choosing a law school. Pursuing a legal education is not a cheap endeavour and the financial burden that accompanies law school can cause students a great deal of stress. Fortunately, many law schools in Ontario offer bursaries, grants, and scholarships, as well as assistance with applying for OSAP and other government loan programs. Most law schools have a dedicated financial department, with advisers that can meet with students to discuss their options and help them set up payment plans and professional lines of credit. The majority of law schools will provide you with information regarding tuition and finances between the time you accept an offer and Orientation Week. Some schools run seminars and workshops during Orientation Week to assist students with planning and managing their finances throughout law school.

ii. Mental Health Resources

Other important resources offered by law schools are the student counselling services and mental health resources. The first year of law school can be a steep transition for some, and everyone will experience stress at some point. It is vital that you talk to someone—a friend, family member, peer, or school staff member—if you are feeling overwhelmed. Law school is a unique experience that not everyone can relate to, and talking to someone who has gone through or is also going through the same experience can be very beneficial. Most law schools have a Student Peer Network or a Student Success and Wellness Group that provides services, workshops, social events, and professional counselling services to students throughout the year. You will likely learn about the different services available to you during Orientation Week, so make note of the services that are available and where to go should you need them.

iii. Mentoring

Another useful service often offered by law schools is mentoring. Most law schools provide mentoring opportunities in which first-year students are paired with an upper-year law student. Mentoring is a great way to ease the transition into first year and can help to provide insight on what classes will look like, the teaching styles of professors, study tips, and emotional support. Some schools also offer opportunities for students to sign up to be paired with mentors from the legal field, who are past alumni of the school. This mentoring provides students with guidance on how to plan for their future careers and can lead to opportunities for students to shadow lawyers and gain first-hand insight into the legal profession. You will likely learn about the mentoring opportunities available to you during Orientation Week, but if not, be sure to contact Student Services at your school to inquire.

D. GETTING INVOLVED**i. Extracurriculars and Clubs**

During Orientation Week, you will learn about the many extracurricular opportunities available to you while attending law school. Getting involved at law school is important in order to network, gain experience, and get exposure to real-life legal practices that might not be provided during your formal studies in the classroom. Be sure to join at least one club, clinic, or initiative during your first year of study. You can always get more involved during your upper years.

You can learn about the different opportunities available to you by visiting Student Services or talking to upper-year mentors. Additionally, many law schools run club fairs during Orientation Week (or the first few weeks of school), which allow students the opportunity to talk to representatives from the different clinics and clubs. While it is important to get involved, be careful not to spread yourself too thin or put undue pressure on yourself. Continue to maintain relationships outside of school and spend time on the hobbies you enjoy. A healthy and balanced lifestyle is key for success in law school!

ii. Thinking Ahead

Be sure that you are genuinely interested in the extracurriculars that you take on. Avoid signing up for activities solely for the sake of padding your resumé. Clubs and extracurriculars can be a great way to gain experience working in different areas of the law and can help you determine which area of law you might want to pursue. Clinics provide hands-on learning experiences not available through lecture courses and can perfectly complement what you are learning in the classroom. No employer is going to fault you for joining a specific club or clinic, even if you end up realizing it is not an area you wish to pursue in the future. Many of the extracurricular activities offered during law school provide students with transferable skills that can be applied to almost any job that you pursue using your legal degree. You will come to realize that your time is precious during law school, so be selective, do your research, and sign up for clubs and clinics that you are truly interested in. If you know which area of the law you are interested in pursuing, talk to your mentor, upper-year students, or alumni to gain insight into what extracurriculars might best prepare you for scoring your dream job.

E. LECTURES AND EXAMS**i. Structure**

One of the biggest adjustments associated with law school is the exams. You are likely most accustomed to the forms of assessment used during your undergraduate degree, which probably involved a variety of different methods—exams, papers, seminar participation, presentations, and so on. When it comes to law school, there are fewer opportunities for assessment, and your entire grade for a course may rely on a single exam or paper. However, some schools do have courses that incorporate an assignment as well as an exam. Exams tend to be the preferred form of assessment and provide instructors with the most direct way to compare students in order to mark on a curve. After all students complete an exam, the marks are collected and compared to one another so that they can be adjusted if necessary. This is to ensure that grades fall along a predetermined distribution.

Law school exams will either be open-book or closed-book. A closed-book exam is the more traditional approach that you are likely used to from your undergraduate degree. With a closed-book exam, you are expected to know the content inside and out and are not allowed to bring any materials into the testing area with you. Because law school is content-heavy and involves a lot of reading and writing, open-book exams are fairly common. Most courses will end with a final open-book exam, where students are allowed to bring in textbooks and notes to help them answer questions. Although this may sound great, you still need to be sure you know the content and have a deep understanding of what was taught, as you will find that time flies quickly during the exam and you will not have time to look up the answer to every question. The more organized and succinct your lecture and reading notes are, the more helpful they will be when it comes to the exam.

When you get to law school, you will hear about something called a “summary” almost immediately. Summaries will be discussed in more detail below, but they refer to a concise compilation of the key concepts and ideas taught throughout the course, as well as references and excerpts from supporting texts and materials. Summaries are many students’ best friends when it comes to open-book exams.

Law school exams are typically administered in a lecture hall and written on your own computer using exam software. Most law schools do offer a separate computer lab environment for students who do not have their own laptops. Students also have the option to handwrite their exams. As many students opt to bring their own laptop for the exam, Student Services will send out emails prior to the exam period that instruct students on how to set up the exam software. Students are required to download the software onto their laptops, and they will be provided with access codes at the time of the exam, which will be taken in a lecture hall. Depending on the software used by your law school, you probably won’t be able to access any other programs while using the exam software. For this reason, any materials that you plan to take into the exam should be in hard-copy format. Be sure to check your computer before exam time to ensure that it is working properly and that all software are up to date.

ii. Tips and Strategies

When it comes to preparing for exams, one of the most important things is to stay organized. You will find that the content taught in first year is dense and complex, and it may seem overwhelming when you begin studying for exams. The best way to approach exam preparation is to begin early: start building summaries and taking notes in an organized fashion from day one. Additionally, stay on top of your readings and be sure to compile or cross-reference your reading notes with your lecture notes to ensure that you have a comprehensive batch of material at exam time.

Whenever your professor mentions the exam, a tip, or a key point, be sure to write it down and highlight it for review later. Some law schools and student groups provide access to databases in which students can locate and download previous student summaries and practice exams for courses taught by specific professors. Using your own notes and building your own summaries will help you learn the material and digest the content. However, cross-checking your notes with those of another student will help to ensure that you are not missing any key concepts.

Taking a practice exam is also a good idea and can give you a feel for the way that a certain professor structures their exams. It is also a good idea to conduct a mock exam for yourself using your summary (if the exam is open-book) so that you can assess how useful your summary is, or whether it needs to be edited. Taking a practice exam will also prepare you for the timing of the exam so you can learn to pace yourself appropriately when answering questions. Be sure to inquire with your professor, Student Services, or a mentor as to whether practice exams are available.

iii. Summaries

As soon as you begin law school, you will become familiar with the term “summary.” Chances are that everyone around you will be equally confused as to what these are and how to acquire them. A summary is a study tool that most law students create for each course in order to assist them on the exam (especially open-book exams).

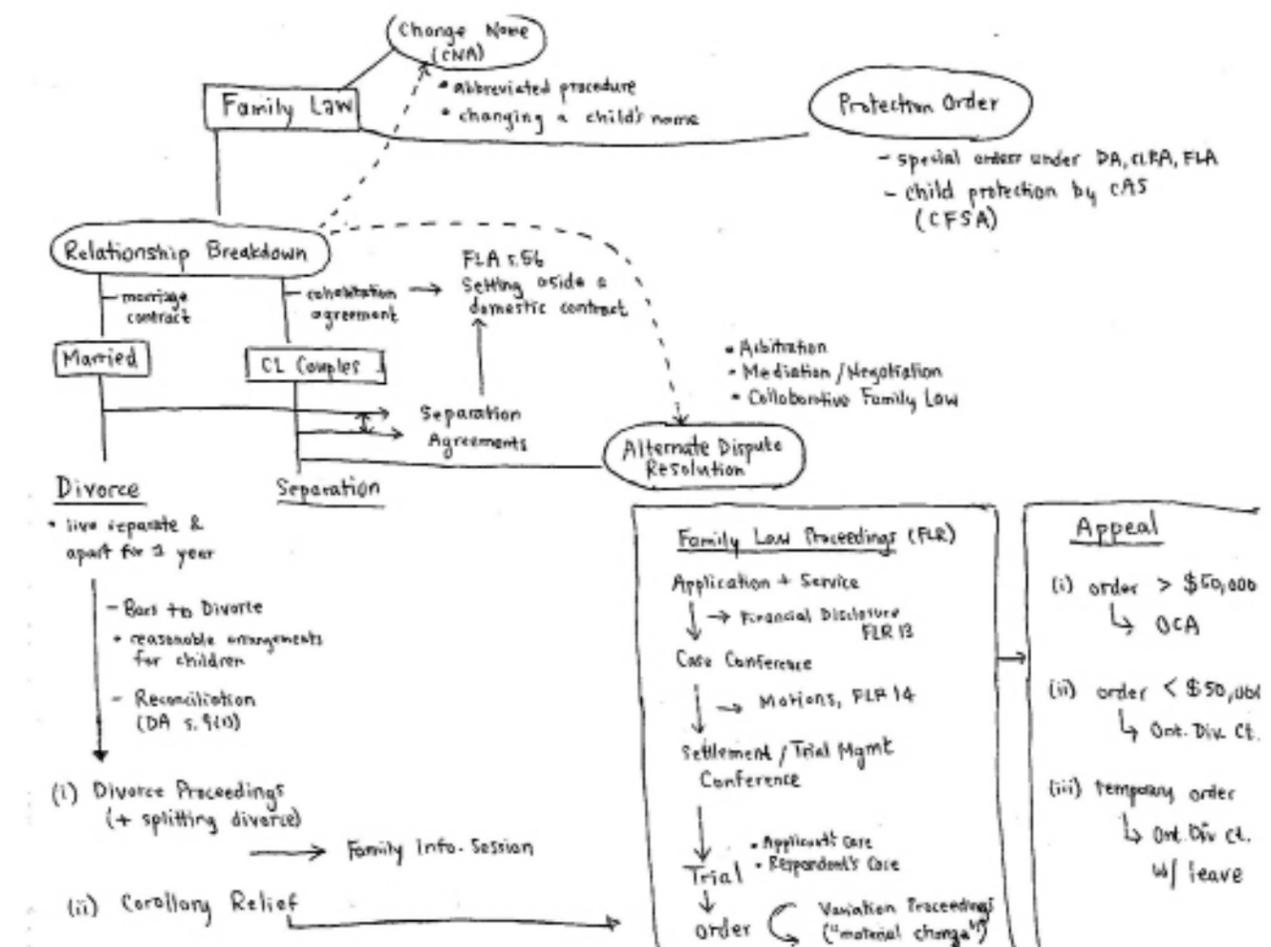
A summary is typically created by compiling both lecture notes and reading materials together into a single document that includes a table of contents. Students may insert charts, tables, and definition sections into the summary to help convey key concepts and material in a more concise, easy-to-read format. A summary helps you organize your notes for the exam and allows you to easily access any key concept, chapter, or specific section quickly, which is especially helpful since you will not have a lot of time during the exam to go hunting through your materials. Students will often print and bind their summaries so that they can take the hard copy into the exam and reference it while answering questions. Depending on the structure and duration of the particular course, some students also find it beneficial to create a “short summary”—basically a higher-level version of a regular summary, with only key concepts and page references cited, or very short sentences pulled from reading materials. Depending on how well you know the material, these more condensed summaries may provide a faster, more efficient way for you to locate answers within your materials during the exam.

Ⓢ DID YOU KNOW: Emond’s Casebook+ program features a wealth of useful resources for law students, including a how-to video on building your own summary. Learn more at emond.ca/casebook-plus.

iv. Case Briefs and Mind Maps

In addition to summaries, other study strategies can be used to assist you during exam time. One of the first things you will likely learn in your legal research and writing class is how to create a “case brief.” Case briefs are a great way to organize and summarize any case law that you are required to read for your courses. If you get into the habit of creating briefs as you read through cases, you will have an easily accessible outline of the important parts of each case for future reference. Case briefs can then be built into your summaries or accompany them when it comes to preparing for exams. Case briefs contain a summary of the key facts of the case, the outcome, any legal rule/law that emerged as a result of the case, the reasoning for the outcome, and the analysis of the law that the judge went through in order to reach the outcome. As the name suggests, case briefs are typically short and should not contain more detail than necessary to understand the case.

Creating “mind maps” is another great way for you to organize key concepts and content in a comprehensive and easily accessible format. Mind maps are great tools for visual learners, as they allow a student to see how concepts interact and fit together. When it comes to legal content, mind maps are especially useful for organizing procedural content, such as criminal procedure or civil procedure. Mind maps also allow you to demonstrate the connection between concepts or the procedural routes taken to achieve a specific outcome. Below is a mind map for family law in Ontario that may help you get a sense of how to build your own:



This mind map may not reflect the current state of the law in Ontario and has been included for reference purposes only.

F. UPPER-YEAR COURSE SELECTION

While your first year of law school is fairly general and is often scheduled for you, your second and third years of law school will offer opportunities to pick courses and build your own schedule. Although choosing your upper-year courses is not something you need to be concerned about during your first year, you should pay attention to which courses you enjoy, and the ones you do not enjoy. Once you have an idea of the areas of law that interest you, you can explore the courses your school offers in those areas. You should aim to take at least a few courses that you have a genuine interest in, even if you don't expect to practise in those specific areas. You may also want to consider courses based on their evaluation style. For example, if you want to write legal academic papers, you could enrol in seminar courses or research projects rather than exam-based courses.

We would advise against taking courses simply because they are covered on the bar exam, unless you think they are going to be especially difficult for you to learn *and* comprise a large part of the exam (e.g., civil procedure, real estate, criminal procedure, and family law). There are plenty of resources available to help you learn the subject matter for the bar exams, including Emond Exam Prep's substantive preparation course, which offers a crash course in the exam subject matter *without* requiring the commitment of a full term at law school. You can find more information at <https://emond.ca/store/courses/barrister-and-solicitor-course>.

5 ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

A. GENERAL COMMENTS

Shortly after starting your first year of law school, you will hear about something called "OCIs" or "on-campus interviews." The OCI process provides students with an opportunity to apply to summer jobs in the legal field and involves learning interviewing skills and how to tailor your resumé for these jobs. For many students, just the thought of OCIs causes a great deal of stress and anxiety. However, it is important to relax and remind yourself that even if you do not secure a summer job working at a law firm after your first year, you will be just fine. There are typically very few job opportunities available to first-year law students, and it is normal for the majority of law students to enter second year without having worked at a law firm or in the legal field. If you are one of the lucky ones who lands a job working at a law firm, for the government, or doing legal research, you will be well on your way to building your resumé and gaining valuable experience. If not, there are plenty of other summer job opportunities available to second-year students, which may lead to an articling job in the future. However, it is important to remember that it is still entirely possible to secure an articling position without having worked a summer job after first or second year.

B. OVERVIEW OF THE ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEW (OCI) PROCESS

i. Structure of the Application Process

The Law Society of Ontario (LSO) website provides valuable information about the OCI recruitment process for firms/organizations in Toronto. Different timelines and rules govern the processes in place in different cities (e.g., Toronto, Ottawa, London, etc.). Toronto has a large and quite extensive recruitment process, as does Ottawa, whereas other jurisdictions in the Greater Toronto Area may post job opportunities in a less predictable fashion.

Visit <https://lso.ca/becoming-licensed/lawyer-licensing-process/articling-candidates/finding-a-placement/2024-toronto-summer-student-recruitment-procedures> to learn more about the Toronto summer student recruitment procedures.

If you are seeking job opportunities in smaller jurisdictions, it is important that you directly contact the firm or organization you are interested in to gain more information about their summer student recruitment process. By doing this, you will ensure that you do not miss any important deadlines. Many medium- to large-sized firms have information on their websites indicating whether or not they hire summer students and, if they do, how to apply.

It is also a good idea to directly reach out to smaller firms and organizations to inquire about whether or not they take on summer students, as they may not be participating in the formal recruitment. Some firms do not know if they will be in a financial position to take on a student by the time they are required to confirm their participation in the formal recruitment process. Most law schools also provide students with access to a list of the firms and organizations that are participating in the recruitment. As well, Student Services usually provides students with updates on deadlines and important dates for how/when to apply to the job postings.

In Toronto, all firms and organizations participating in the formal recruitment will conduct OCIs on the premises of your law school, at a location nearby, or virtually. If you are notified that you have been selected to interview, you will sign up for a time slot that has been blocked off for the OCIs taking place at your school. As indicated on the LSO's website, there are very strict rules in place as to when the firms can reach out to students and contact them about the process, as well as when firms can provide offers to those who have interviewed.

For job opportunities in the summer after your first year of law school, applications are usually due at the end of January or early February. Interviews will then be conducted over the course of one week in the middle of February. For job opportunities in the summer after your second year of law school, applications are usually due at the end of August or early September. Interviews are conducted over the course of one week at the beginning of November.

ii. Interviews

The OCI process is heavily regulated, so interviews can only be conducted over the course of one week and firms are limited to a certain amount of time with each candidate. Most law schools have an online system that allows students to view and accept offers from firms and book their interview times. If you are fortunate enough to have multiple interviews, remember not to overbook yourself or schedule your interviews too close together. If you can, try to schedule interviews on different days or far apart on the same day so you have time to decompress and prepare between interviews. Interviews typically last between 15 and 30 minutes. The firms and organizations participating in the recruit in-person may have their own room or sectioned-off booth where they conduct their interviews. Be sure to arrive early, well in advance of your first interview time, so that you can check in and get a sense of where each firm/organization is located. Firms that regularly participate are those that work in different areas of law in private practice, as well as government agencies and organizations.

When preparing for interviews, it is always a good idea to do your research. Once you know which firm(s) you are going to interview with, be sure to spend some time on their websites to get a feel for the practice and the type of work that they do. If an area of work is particularly interesting to you, come up with some questions or discussion points that you can use if the opportunity presents itself during the interview. Be sure to look at the different associates and partners that work at the firm and read through their biographies (if available) so that you can get a sense of who might be interviewing you, as well as the firm culture. Some firms indicate on their website which lawyers are in charge of recruiting students, and they will likely be conducting the interviews. You can also use LinkedIn or other online platforms to see if there is a junior associate or articling student at the firm. Reach out to them and start networking. Meeting with someone at the firm who was recently in your shoes can greatly assist you in preparing for the interview and perhaps get you connected with other lawyers in the firm/organization.

You might also be able to do some research online to find out what kinds of questions are likely to be asked during the interview. Many of the larger firms specializing in private practice provide an outline of how they structure their interviews and the types of questions that may be asked. Be sure to ask Student Services if they have any guides or

materials to assist with interview preparation. They may have examples of interview questions or they might be able to match you with an upper-year student who has previously worked with or interviewed at the firm. For example, interviews with government entities like the Crown Attorney's office are very structured. Schools often have access to guides that outline the types of questions that have been asked in the past. Some schools also provide students with mock interview workshops where staff will review your resumé and cover letter, ask you questions, and provide feedback in order to prepare you for your interviews. Mock interviews are an excellent way to practise your skills and build confidence.

iii. Networking and Social Events

During interview week, some firms might invite candidates to a social event, meal, or reception with members of the firm in order to get to know them better. The LSO has formal rules and procedures around when such socializing is allowed to take place and when the firm(s) and candidates are to cease communication with one another prior to offers being made. When scheduling your interviews during interview week, be sure to consider whether you are going to be invited to a social event and consider how much time this might take up in your schedule. Depending on the firms/organizations that you are interviewing with, you may have to choose your top picks and turn down interviews with others. Many consider these social events as a sign that the firm is highly interested in you. Therefore, attending the event or meal can be very important. The interview itself is important, but showing that you are committed to that particular firm and that you are highly interested in working for them is also important. Additionally, the social events allow you to interact with other members of the firm who were not in attendance during the interview. If you reached out to any junior members of the firm prior to your interview, you may see them again at the event and can continue to build your network. Remember to treat any social events as a second interview, and therefore always conduct yourself in a professional manner and dress appropriately.

C. TIMELINES AND IMPORTANT DATES

Below are the timelines and important dates for some of the more popular recruitments that take place within Ontario. This section is not a representation of all recruitment processes in Ontario, and it is strongly recommended that if you are applying to firms/organizations in jurisdictions outside of the major cities listed below, you contact the firms/organizations directly to inquire about their summer recruitment processes. The exact dates included below are for the 2025 summer hiring cycle and may change. For up-to-date information, consult the LSO's website at [https://lso.ca/becoming-licensed/lawyer-licensing-process/articling-candidates/finding-a-placement/2025-toronto-summer-student-recruitment-proced-\(1\)](https://lso.ca/becoming-licensed/lawyer-licensing-process/articling-candidates/finding-a-placement/2025-toronto-summer-student-recruitment-proced-(1)).

i. Toronto Recruitment

First-Year Summer Students

- Application Deadline: January 22, 2025 at 5 p.m.
- Call Day for Interviews: February 4, 2025 at 8 a.m.
- Interview Week: February 18, 2025 at 8 a.m. – February 20, 2025 at 3 p.m.

Second-Year Summer Students

- Earliest Application Deadline: July 24, 2024 at 5 p.m.
- Call Day for Interviews: October 22, 2024 at 8 a.m.
- Interview Week: November 4, 2024 at 8 a.m. – November 6, 2024 at 3 p.m.

ii. Ottawa Recruitment

Many firms and organizations located in Ottawa participate in a formal recruitment governed by the legal community in Ottawa. Dates and times for applications and interviews are set by this community and may be subject to change each year. These dates are usually not far off from the Toronto recruitment deadlines. For information on important dates and timelines, visit the website of the firm/organization that you are interested in, or be sure to visit the Student Services or Career Development office at your school to inquire about the Ottawa recruitment process.

D. RESUMÉS AND COVER LETTERS

One of the most important parts of the OCI process is your resumé and cover letter. At this point in your life, you have likely applied for jobs and have a version of your resumé to work from. There is no single right way to construct or organize your resumé; however, you will want to ensure that the information on it is updated to reflect your most recent accomplishments in law school, as well as your involvement in any clubs or extracurriculars that you have joined since beginning your first year. The Career Development and Student Services offices at your school will likely offer resumé-building workshops and mock interview sessions prior to the start of the OCI process; these can be of great assistance in helping you prepare for applying and interviewing. Many of the law firm/organization websites offer tips on how to prepare for OCIs and on what is required in your application. Some websites also have examples of resúmes and cover letters from previous successful applicants, so you can get an idea of how you should structure your application materials. For example, Fasken has a section on its website that provides guides for prospective students regarding cover letters, resúmes, and interviews.

Visit <https://www.fasken.com/en/careers/lawstudentshub/toronto> for more information on how to structure your cover letter and resumé.

Your cover letter should be no longer than a single page and your resumé should be limited to two pages. Be succinct and concise when writing your cover letter. Only include the most recent and relevant experiences on your resumé if spacing is an issue. On the next page is an example of how you could structure and organize your resumé

Sample Resumé

Jane Doe
 333 Street Road, Toronto, Ontario X1X 1X1
 Tel: 111-111-1111 • Email: jane.doe@email.ca

EDUCATION

Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University **2016 – Present**
Juris Doctor Candidate 2019

Carleton University, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) **2011-2015**
 Major in Communication Studies, Minor in Political Science
 Dean's Honours List 2015

- Completed 3rd year exchange program at University of Leeds, Leeds, UK
- Entrance Scholarship

LAW RELATED EXPERIENCE

ABC Wealth Management – Estate & Trust Services, Toronto **Summer 2017**
Summer Wills Administrator

- Reviewed client files, including Wills, Powers of Attorney, Codicils and Letters of Wishes to ensure Royal Trusts' internal Will System was up-to-date
- Became familiarized with the Will drafting process, the role of Executors and Estate Trustees and the nature of the fiduciary relationship between Royal Trust and Will clients
- Engaged with current clients who have appointed Royal Trust as Executors in their Will to obtain outstanding information and to strengthen the relationship

Immigration Services Association of Nova Scotia, Halifax **September 2016 – April 2017**
Pro Bono Student

- Researched government regulations pertaining to family sponsorship to help clients reunite with their families
- Assisted clients with immigration paperwork such as Travel Documentation applications, permanent residency card amendments and family sponsorship applications

ABC Limited Partnership, Toronto **Summer 2016**
Summer Student with the Legal Department

- Assisted with litigation proceedings by preparing documents for Small Claims Court, drafting letters to clients and lawyers and taking notes during settlement conferences
- Researched and drafted a legal-marketing manual in accordance with the *Competition Act*, the *Consumer Protection Act* and a Competition Tribunal Consent Agreement
- Created a consolidated lease for the office building including all recent amendments

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

French Restaurant, Toronto **December 2015 – March 2016**
Bilingual Hostess

- Worked alongside the restaurant Managers to schedule reservations and meticulously managed large customer crowds at an upscale French restaurant

Sample Resume (Cont.)

Jane Doe, Page 2 of 2

Coffee House, Ottawa
Barista

September 2014 – April 2015

- Achieved the Dean's Honour List while working 15 hours a week as a barista at a busy campus coffee shop

Reliance Comfort Limited Partnership, Toronto
Summer Student - Analyst in Strategic Initiatives

Summers 2013, 2014

- Conducted research on processes at Reliance and made recommendations to improve
- Analyzed and assessed customer satisfaction surveys and summarized results
- Developed and implemented goodwill price adjustment policy and process

Harbourfront Centre, Toronto
Sports Camp Counselor

July 2012 – August 2012

- Collaborated with other counselors to organize the day of activities for the campers
- Directly responsible for one-on-one supervision of a camper with autism

Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood
Ski Instructor (Part Time)

December 2008 – March 2011

VOLUNTEER WORK**The Future of Food Law & Policy Conference, Dalhousie University**
Volunteer

November 2016

- Assisted setting-up and registering attendees
- Attended numerous panels and presentations

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ottawa
Go Girls! Facilitator

October 2014 – May 2015

- Facilitated group activities and discussions for girls in grade 6 promoting active living, nutrition and a positive outlook on life

Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities, Ottawa
Volunteer Note taker at Carleton University

2011 – 2015

Toronto Western Hospital*Co-op Student Volunteer (Hand Therapy Clinic)*

October 2009 – June 2010

- Assisted therapists with various tasks as required

INTERESTS

- Alpine skiing – skied throughout Canada and the U.S., as well as in New Zealand
- Soccer – played intramural in undergrad and at law school
- Weight lifting
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Cooking shows

6 THE ONTARIO LICENSING EXAMS

A. OVERVIEW

The Ontario bar exams consist of two open-book licensing exams: the barrister exam and the solicitor exam. Each exam is 4.5 hours long and is composed of 160 multiple-choice questions. The exam questions are designed to assess a candidate's competence in a variety of subject areas. The barrister exam is divided into sections that cover civil procedure, criminal procedure, family law, and public law, while the solicitor exam covers real estate, estate planning, and business law. Both exams include practice management and ethics and professional responsibility questions scattered throughout.

Students who have registered to write the Ontario bar exams will receive study materials from the LSO six to eight weeks before their exams. These materials are approximately 1,600 pages in length (including both barrister and solicitor content) and they contain all the information required to pass the exams. Students must independently read and study this material to prepare for the exams, and many students prepare additional reference materials such as indexes and summaries. Students have a total of three attempts to pass each exam during the three-year licensing term and must pass both exams to be Called to the Bar in Ontario.

B. EMOND EXAM PREP

As you begin preparing for the Ontario bar exams, you will likely have many questions about how to study effectively, what types of reference materials and study aids you'll need, and what to expect on exam day. Emond offers a variety of exam preparation resources at <https://emond.ca/emond-exam-prep>, including review courses, flashcards, practice exams, and tutoring.

📌 **DID YOU KNOW:** Emond has a Comprehensive Manual with insightful strategies for the Ontario licensing exams. Get a FREE copy at emond.ca/Store/Books/The-Comprehensive-Bar-Exam-Preparation-Manual.

**LAST BUT NOT LEAST,
GOOD LUCK!**





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