

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. What are Loyola's application requirements?

A complete file consists of the following:

- A completed application through lsac.org (Law School Admissions Council).
- A current Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score.
- A complete CAS report which includes all prior undergraduate transcripts and a cumulative GPA calculation by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC).
- A personal statement, 2-3 pages in length.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university (or three fourths of a bachelor's degree if applying for our Early Admission Program, see below).
- Two letters of recommendation (limit of three).
- Resume (optional, but highly recommended).
- Electronic certification.

All documents should be uploaded and attached to the application form for electronic submission.

2. What is the median LSAT/GPA?

Our median LSAT is a 151, and our median GPA is a 3.15

3. How can I apply for scholarships?

Loyola does not have a separate application for scholarships. Entering students are considered for Dean's Scholarships during the application process based on merit, experience, service and diversity.

4. Is there a priority deadline for scholarship consideration?

There is not a priority deadline for scholarship consideration however, we encourage applicants to apply early.

5. When is Loyola's application deadline?

Loyola has a rolling admissions process; therefore, we will accept applications from October 1st until August 1st.

6. *How many letters of recommendations am I allowed to submit?*

Applicants are required to submit two (2) letters of recommendation, but we will accept a maximum of three (3) letters. LSAC evaluations are allowed, but none are required at this time.

7. *What is an addendum and when would I write one?*

An addendum is a separate statement that is typically attached to the application to explain any discrepancies or perceived weaknesses in GPA, LSAT scores, or other areas of the application file. Applicants also submit addendums to update the Admissions Committee on any changes to their application or to rectify an omission from the application.

8. *What is a Character and Fitness statement?*

A Character and Fitness statement explains any infraction, whether academic, occupational or criminal, that an applicant has incurred prior to and/or during the application process. A Character and Fitness statement should be attached to an applicant's application, if an answer of "yes" is given to any Character and Fitness question on the application. This also includes infractions that may have been "expunged" from an applicant's record.

Note: The duty to disclose character and fitness issues continues throughout the application process, following acceptance, and during a student's tenure at Loyola.

9. *Should I only submit a resume if I have legal work experience?*

No. All applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a resume regardless of legal work experience. Applicants are encouraged to include internships, volunteerism, student organization involvement, any positions of leadership, and academic honors/recognition.

10. *Do I have to submit a transcript if I only attended a college/university for a semester?*

Yes. You must submit an official transcript for any college/university where you were enrolled and completed courses for undergraduate studies. This applies even if the courses were transferred to a university and are reflected on the university transcript.

11. *Do I have to submit my graduate school transcript?*

It is not mandatory that an applicant submit their graduate school transcript; however, any graduate school transcript received will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee.

12. Should I enroll in the Civil Law or Common Law division?

Students who are interested in practicing law in the State of Louisiana upon graduation are encouraged to enroll in the Civil Law division. Students who are interested in practicing in other states are encouraged to enroll in the Common Law division. Although students must choose a division to enroll in, students have the opportunity to earn a [Civil Law or Common Law Certificate in the division they do not select](#). For example, a student enrolled in the Common Law division may obtain a Civil Law Certificate in addition to their J.D. after completing the requisite coursework outlined by the College of Law.

13. Does Loyola offer an early admissions program?

Yes. Loyola's 3+3 Program does allow applicants who have completed three-fourths of their undergraduate degree requirements to be admitted to the law school. Applicants to this program must have higher entering credentials than those who will be entering law school with an undergraduate degree, and they must receive written approval from the dean of their college. At this time, only a student at Loyola University New Orleans is eligible to apply for the 3+3 Program. Additionally, Loyola students in the University Honors program will require additional approval by the University Honors program director and may have additional requirements that must be completed prior to the start of the senior year to be eligible for the 3+3 program.

14. What are the requirements for transfer students?

A complete file consists of the following:

- A completed transfer application through lsac.org ([Law School Admissions Council](#)).
- A complete [CAS](#) report which includes all prior undergraduate transcripts sent by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) to Loyola College of Law Admissions office.
- A personal statement, 2-3 pages in length.
- Letter of good standing and class ranking from current law school.
- Law school transcript (full 1st year of grades required).
- Statement explaining desire to transfer.
- Resume (optional, but highly recommended).

Grades below a 'C' will not be considered for transfer. All documents should be uploaded and attached the application form for electronic submission.

15. Why is my cumulative GPA lower than the one on my transcript?

LSAC converts grades to a standard 4.0 system in order to give law schools a uniform basis for comparing applicants.

16. Who can write a letter of recommendation?

Letters of recommendation should be academic or professional in nature, meaning that the writer should either be a professor that taught the applicant in one or multiple courses, or the writer should be someone that has worked closely with the applicant in a workplace setting. Personal letters of recommendation are not recommended.

If you are currently a student or have recently graduated, at least one letter of recommendation should be from a professor. However, if you have been out of school for several years, it is acceptable for an employer to write a letter of recommendation. One academic letter submitted with one professional letter is acceptable.

17. Does Loyola average LSAT scores?

No. Loyola does not average LSAT scores. It is Loyola's policy to take the highest LSAT score.

18. Should I take an LSAT prep course?

Prospective students are not required to take an LSAT prep course. However, LSAT prep courses are recommended in helping prospective students prepare for the LSAT.

PROGRAMS LOYOLA OFFERS

1. What joint degree programs does Loyola offer?

Loyola offers a

- Juris Doctor (JD)/Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Juris Doctor (JD)/Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- Juris Doctor (JD)/Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP)

Loyola offers the JD/MBA program with Loyola University College of Business and the JD/MPA and JD/MURP programs with the University of New Orleans.

2. If I want to enroll in the JD/MBA program, do I have to take the GMAT?

Yes. Students pursuing a JD/MBA must take the LSAT and GMAT and be accepted into each program.

3. If I want to enroll in the JD/MPA or JD/MURP program, do I have to take the GRE?

Yes. Students pursuing a JD/MPA or a JD/MURP must take the LSAT and GRE and be accepted into each program.

4. *Do I have to apply to the joint degree programs separately?*

Yes. Students pursuing a joint degree must take the LSAT and GMAT or GRE, apply to each program, and be accepted into each program. Students pursuing a joint degree should contact the different offices for information.

5. *Do I have to apply to both programs the same year? Can I get into law school and then apply for the Master's program the next year?*

No. Students pursuing a joint degree do not have to apply to both programs the same year. A student may begin law school and apply for the Master's program during their first year of law school.

6. *Does Loyola offer a Part-Time program?*

Loyola offers three (3) Part-Time programs

- Part-Time Civil Law Evening
- Part-Time Civil Law Day
- Part-Time Common Law Day

7. *What if I am licensed to practice in another country?*

If a person has practiced in another country, they may be eligible for Advanced Standing Admissions if they are seeking to obtain a U.S. law degree. Also, persons who have practiced in another country may apply for our one year LL.M. Program in United States Law.

8. *When do applicants qualify for advanced standing?*

The advanced standing J.D. program offers students, who have already received their law degree and practiced in another country, the opportunity of earning a U.S. law degree in less than three years. After transcript review, up to 30 credit hours of advanced standing may be awarded toward a J.D. from Loyola for a student that obtained a law degree and practiced outside the United States. Applicants for advanced standing admission must generally follow the same application procedure as an applicant for initial admission. Application requirements are as follows:

- Paper application (request through the Office of Admissions).
- TOEFL score.
- Personal statement.
- Law school transcript (must be translated and submitted through a credential evaluation service).
- Undergraduate transcript(s).
- Two letters of recommendation.
- Resume.

A student that has attended a non-ABA school and has practiced in the legal field, may also apply for advanced standing, should they desire to obtain a J.D. from an ABA-accredited school. Applicants must contact the Office of Admissions to obtain a paper application and further instruction.

9. What Certificate Programs does Loyola offer?

Loyola offers seven (7) Certificate Programs

- Certificate in Civil Law
- Certificate in Common Law
- Certificate in International Legal Studies
- Certificate in Environmental Law
- Certificate in Taxation
- Certificate in Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in Social Justice

10. Does Loyola offer an LL.M. Program?

Loyola offers an LL.M. in United States Law. Application requirements are as follows:

- Submit a complete LL.M. application. Application available at www.lsac.org or on our website, <http://law.loyno.edu/llm-united-states-law>.
- Earn a first degree in law from an institution outside of the U.S.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation.
- Current curriculum vitae.
- Transcripts from all colleges, universities, and law schools attended.
- TOEFL or IELTS score required unless proficiency in English is clearly demonstrated to the director of the LL.M. program. Minimum TOEFL or IELTS scores may be found on our website, <http://law.loyno.edu/llm-united-states-law>.

Students may enroll in August or January. August priority application deadline is May 1; January priority deadline is October 1.

11. What is different about Loyola's Skills Program?

The Office of Skills and Experiential Learning (OSEL) was created in 2011 as part of a larger initiative to modernize and expand opportunities for students to learn essential lawyering skills. We are extremely proud of our longstanding history of skills courses taught by dedicated practitioners willing to instruct, coach, guide, advise and mentor. All students must complete eight skills courses before graduation, however, OSEL encourages students to take more.

Loyola's Skills Program has adopted a "Practice Tracks" approach. Over the course of two years, students participate in a series of experientially based skills classes offered in a chronological manner that allows students to understand the natural progression of a case or matter. It is designed to build expertise in practical aspects of four (4) different practice areas: Civil Litigation, Criminal Practice, Transactional Practice, and Social Justice.

12. What clinical programs does Loyola offer and when can students participate?

Loyola offers nine (9) clinical programs ranging from: Children's Rights, Community Justice, Criminal Defense, Family Law, Immigration, Criminal Prosecution, Technology and Legal Innovation, Workplace Justice, and Environmental Policy.

Students can participate in a clinical program during their 3L year.

13. Does Loyola have an externship program?

Yes. Loyola's Externship Program permits students to receive academic credit for working in selected legal placements, attending and participating in a bi-weekly class, maintaining a journal based on the experience obtained in the externship placement and producing a portfolio of their work based on their legal research and writing. Externship opportunities are available during fall and spring semesters as well as during summer months.

14. What is the Street Law Program?

Street Law is a course designed for law students who are interested in teaching inner-city middle school and high school students about law-related issues. Students attend the local public school classrooms twice a week to discuss legal rights, responsibilities and practical legal problems.

15. Does Loyola offer a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)?

Yes. Loyola's LRAP is available for Loyola College of Law J.D. Program graduates who work full-time as attorneys in government or nonprofit jobs throughout the United States. Employment in private law firms, teaching positions, animal rights organizations, etc. do not qualify under the program guidelines.

16. What is the Incubator Program?

The Incubator Program is a new program beginning at the College of Law in January 2015. The program received a special grant from the American Bar Association, and the College of Law is one of seven schools selected across the country as grant recipients.

The Incubator Program is an opportunity for Loyola Law School graduates who are engaged (or seek to be engaged) in a full time, social justice oriented solo practice in the Greater New Orleans area. Participants will receive instruction, case referrals, mentorship, peer feedback, and access to a wide variety of resources including office space. With a requirement that at least 1/4 of time be spent on cases that fall into the “justice gap,” participants will accept pro bono referrals for individuals who are at or below 200% of the poverty line and will receive a \$6,000.00 stipend to support the year of pro bono work. Admission to the Louisiana bar is a requirement of the Program, although applications may be submitted before bar passage is confirmed for the summer 2014 bar.

The program will begin January 2015 and run through December 2015.

17. How do you apply to for the Incubator Program?

The preferred method for submitting an application is electronically through the [online form](#). The application deadline is October 20, 2014.

THE WAITING PROCESS

1. Why does my status say incomplete?

There are multiple reasons why your status may indicate that your application is incomplete:

- Your letters of recommendations have not been received by LSAC.
- Your letters of recommendations have not been assigned to Loyola New Orleans College of Law on LSAC.
- Your application is missing a Character and Fitness explanation.
- Your application is missing an official undergraduate school transcript.
- Your application is missing a current LSAT test score.
- LSAC is in the process of completing your CAS Report and sending it to the College of Law.

2. After I submit my application, how long does it take before a decision will be rendered?

A decision will be rendered 2-3 weeks after your file has been completed, unless additional information or evaluation is required by the Admissions Committee.

3. What if I am waitlisted?

If an applicant is waitlisted, they are encouraged to submit a Letter of Continued Interest to the Admissions Office. If space is available in the entering class, the Admissions Committee will review waitlisted applicants to make additional offers. The number of candidates who are placed on the waitlist and who are

offered admission from the waitlist varies from year to year. A student on the waitlist may withdraw from the waitlist at any time by emailing Law Admissions at ladmit@loyno.edu.

4. *Is the waitlist ranked?*

No, the waitlist is not ranked.

5. *Why would my evaluation time take longer?*

An applicant's evaluation time may take longer if information is missing from the applicant's file. This can include letters of recommendation, transcripts, or a character and fitness statement. Once all requisite materials have been received, a decision will be rendered within 2-3 weeks.

An evaluation time may also be extended because the Admissions Committee requires additional information or meeting time to discuss files before rendering their decision.

6. *What if I apply and decide to retake the LSAT?*

If an applicant applies and decides to retake the LSAT, they may make the Admissions Office aware of the new test date in writing **prior** to a decision being made on the applicant's file. If a decision has been made on the applicant's file, the Admissions Office will not change the decision based on the new LSAT score.

I'VE BEEN ACCEPTED! WHAT'S NEXT?

1. *Where do most students live?*

The most common areas that students live are in the Uptown and Warehouse District areas, which are close to campus. Some students also live in the Metairie and Harahan areas. Because living arrangements are each student's own responsibility, we highly recommend that you visit neighborhoods you are considering both during the day and at night, and that you choose a location where you feel safe. New Orleans is a city made up of patchwork neighborhoods, and it is important to have a full understanding of the area where you choose to live.

2. *How can I find a roommate?*

Admitted students will be given access to our Housing and Facebook Pages. The Housing Page includes a number of resources to help students find housing. Students may connect with each other in the Facebook Group to find roommates.

7. Where do I send my immunization records?

Admitted students must complete the [Immunization Compliance Form](#) and have it signed by a physician. The completed form can be mailed or faxed to [Student Health Services](#).

Loyola University New Orleans
Student Health Services
6363 St. Charles Ave.
Campus Box 179
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504)865-2393 (Fax)

8. When will I receive my schedule?

Schedules for incoming 1Ls are prepared for you and will be accessible in mid-July.

9. How do I get a Loyola email address?

Loyola email addresses are typically given to the incoming class in mid-July. Students must first submit all requisite documentation that is requested at the time of admission in order to receive an email address.

10. Should I purchase a laptop?

Deciding to purchase a laptop is a personal decision. The law school does not recommend any particular laptops. Many students utilize laptops in preparation for class and exams as well as for taking exams. There are hardware and operating system requirements that are needed to support the [Exam4 software](#) that is used for exams.

11. How much are seat deposits?

Admitted students planning to attend Loyola in the Fall are required to pay a **nonrefundable** seat deposit of five hundred dollars (\$500). Payments may be made in full or paid in \$250 increments.

12. How do I pay deposits?

Seat deposits may be paid by check or credit card. Credit card payments must be made online. Links will be provided in offer letters and admissions emails.

13. Are deposits applied to tuition?

Seat deposits are applied to the first year's tuition. However, if a student later decides not to attend Loyola, the seat deposit will not be refunded.

14. Does Loyola have an Open House?

Yes. Loyola hosts an Open House for admitted students. This event is typically held in March.

15. How do I meet other admitted students?

Students may meet other admitted students at the Admitted Students Open House that is typically held in March at the law school. Also, every year the Admissions Office creates a Facebook group for the new entering class. Once an applicant is granted admission, they can request to join the group and are able to connect with their future classmates.

16. When is orientation?

Mandatory orientation is held the week prior to the beginning of classes. Admitted students will receive additional information on exact dates and times in their acceptance packet.

FACTS ABOUT LOYOLA

1. What is the average age of the College of Law students?

The average age of law students is 26.

2. How diverse is Loyola's student body?

The College of Law is 54% Male and 46% Female. 31% of students are from diverse backgrounds, and 31% reside outside of Louisiana, including foreign countries.

3. Does Loyola grant deferred admissions?

Deferments are granted on a case-by-case basis. Admitted students seeking deferment should submit a statement to the Admissions Office detailing their request for deferment.

4. Does Loyola conduct interviews?

No. The College of Law does not conduct interviews. However, should an applicant wish to ascertain additional information or discuss certain facets of his or her case presented in a face-to-face meeting, the Admissions Office is always pleased to discuss the application process for informational purposes.

5. Does Loyola have a summer conditional program?

Though we have offered a conditional program in the past, we are not currently offering a summer conditional program.

6. *Can I sit in on a class?*

Yes. A prospective student may request to sit in on a class by contacting the Admissions Office at (504)861-5575 or via email at ladmit@loyno.edu.

7. *How do I schedule a campus visit?*

A prospective student may schedule a campus visit by contacting the Admissions Office at (504)861-5575 or via email at ladmit@loyno.edu.

8. *Can I talk to a current student?*

Yes. The Admissions Office can place a prospective student in contact with a current student.

OTHER NEED TO KNOW INFORMATION

1. *How much are tuition and fees?*

For full time students, tuition and fees is \$43,380/year. For part-time students, tuition and fees is \$32,342/year.

2. *What do student fees cover?*

Student fees cover General Fees, Information Technology, Publications (Fall only), Student Bar Association (1st year Law students), Law Examination fee, and Graduation Fee.

3. *How do I apply for a student visa?*

If you are coming to Loyola University from outside the United States, you will need to have a F-1 student visa or J-1 exchange visitor visa to enter the United States. Students applying for an F-1 or J-1 visa must show sufficient funds to provide for educational, living, and personal expenses for one year before Loyola University will issue the necessary I-20 document. Upon admission, information will be sent to any student requiring a student visa, so that required documentation may be completed and submitted to our Center for International Education.

4. *Does financial aid cover living expenses?*

Financial aid may cover living expenses, if the applicant chooses to apply for Federal Direct and/or Graduate Plus Loans. Depending on scholarship awards, Direct loans may cover the balance of tuition and/or living expenses. A Graduate Plus loan can cover the balance of tuition and living expenses that are not covered by scholarship or Federal Direct loans.

5. *Does Loyola offer summer grants or paid internships?*

The Gillis Long Poverty Law Center offers a Summer Internship program that provides opportunities for first and second year Loyola College of Law students to work as interns in Legal Services Offices in Louisiana and throughout the United States. The internships are for a period of 10 weeks during the summer. Stipends are provided to the participating office for student salaries by the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center.

6. *Are international students eligible for financial aid?*

International students are not eligible for federal loan assistance. However, international students are eligible to receive scholarships from the College of Law.