

Law

What is Law?

Law is the profession of interpreting laws, applying them to client situations and providing legal advice. It involves informing clients of their legal rights and responsibilities and providing representation in situations such as negotiations, courts, and tribunals. The legal profession also involves a significant amount of research and preparation of legal documentation and contracts. There are many areas of specialization, including business law, tax law, intellectual property law, criminal law, family law and labour law. (UTM "Preparing for Law" Tip Sheet)

What are the common academic requirements for Law programs?

- Three years (15 credits) in any undergraduate program in university, although most law schools prefer a completed degree
- A cumulative GPA of A-
- LSAT score at a minimum is the top 70-85th percentile

Where can I study law?

There are 7 law schools in Ontario, and they are:

- Lakehead University
- Osgoode Hall Law School of York University
- University of Ottawa (offered in both English and French)
- Queen's University
- University of Toronto
- Western University
- University of Windsor

Be sure to visit each university's website for more information on their program and specific admission requirements.

How do I apply?

The application process is centralized through OUAC's Ontario Law School Application Service (OLSAS): www.ouac.on.ca/olsas
Applications are typically due at the beginning of November every application year.

Looking for Related Experience?

Review the *Volunteering and Internships tip sheets*, attend a *Work Search Strategies* workshop or speak with a Career Counsellor or Career Strategist.

Start Early!

Law schools require a high GPA. Many look for demonstrated interest in legal matters on your application.

Improve your GPA:

Visit the AA&CC and the Centre for Teaching & Learning to improve your academic skills.

Cultivate References:

Get to know your professors. Their research is interesting! Professors who know you fairly well are able to write strong reference letters for you.

Get Involved:

Join volunteer and co-curricular activities that demonstrate your skills and ongoing interest in a career in Law.

Typical Application Timeline

Begin 1 year prior to your desired Fall start:

- August – Create your OLSAS account.
- October – Complete the online application.
- By November – Submit all supporting documents.
- April – Admission decisions are made, conditional on academic performance.
- June – Submit final transcript to confirm strong academic performance.

Application Components

- Autobiographical Sketch
- LSAT Score
- Personal Statement
- References
- Official Transcript(s)

Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

- Administered by Law Schools Admissions Council (LSAC)
- Standardized multiple choice examination designed to measure skills essential for success in law school
- Offered 4 times a year: February, June, September, and December
- Six 35-minute sections:
 - Logical Reasoning
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Logic Games
 - Experimental
 - Variable section
 - Writing Sample

Personal Statement

Admission committees are looking for statements that demonstrate:

- Your interest in law, future goals and career plans
- Why their school fits your goals and career plans
- What you will contribute to the program in terms of experiences, related knowledge, and personal characteristics
- Your commitment to your community, shown by involvement
- Writing ability

How to become a lawyer in Ontario?

Completion of:

- Law degree from an accredited institution
- Skills and Professional Responsibility program
- 10-month articling experience under the supervision of a qualified lawyer, OR an 8-month Law Practice Program
- 2 full-day 6-hour multiple choice Bar Exam

Paying for a Law Program

Annual tuition for Ontario students ranges \$16,000-30,000. Remember to ask about scholarships and bursaries! You might also find financial support via tools like www.esdc.gc.ca/en/student_financial_aid/scholarships.page

Where can I find more information and resources?

Ontario Law School Admission Services

www.ouac.on.ca/olsas

Law Schools in Canada

www.universitystudy.ca/search-programs

Law Schools Admissions Council

www.lzac.org

The Law Society of Upper Canada

www.lsuc.on.ca



Application & Personal Statement Resources

- Effective Admission Letters (U of T Writing Centre): www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/admission-letters
- Purdue University Online Writing Lab: owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/01/
- CTL's Graduate School Application and Personal Statement Assignment Calculator: ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/assignmentcal

The AA&CC can help!

Attend the Graduate & Professional Schools Fair (October), go to a *Preparing for Professional & Graduate School* workshop, meet professionals in the field through Extern, or speak with a Career team member to learn how to get relevant experience!

Please note: While this tip sheet aims to ensure accuracy, requirements do change. Consider it a starting point for your further research. Visit individual law school websites for detailed, up-to-date information about admission requirements and application procedures.