Applying to Law School Timeline

Here are some recommended timelines and factors to consider for students who are preparing to apply to law school:

For students who are applying Early Decision (ED):

- **JAN-MARCH:** Start researching law schools
- **MARCH:** Begin preparing for the LSAT Exam
- **JUNE:** Take the LSAT Exam
- **JUNE-JULY:** Consider retaking the LSAT, narrow down schools
- **SEPT:** Retake LSAT, start law school apps, and ask for LORs
- **OCT:** Apply for financial aid
- **NOV:** Submit Early Decision Applications
- **DEC:** Submit most applications
- **JAN-MARCH:** Submit other apps and hear back

For students who are not applying Early Decision:

- **APRIL-JUNE:** Start researching law schools
- **JUNE-AUG:** Study for LSAT Exam
- **SEPT:** Take LSAT and start law school apps, ask for LORs
- **OCT:** Apply for financial aid, consider retaking LSAT
- **NOV:** Retake LSAT
- **DEC-MAR:** Submit applications

- There is no “right” timeline. Your timeline should be based on your own circumstances.
- It is recommended that students start preparing to apply to law school at least one year prior to when they want to go.
- How long is it going to take you study for the LSAT? (one year vs three months)
- Consider how heavy or how flexible your academic load is for spring quarter. If you want to apply ED, it is recommended you start studying for the LSAT during spring quarter.
- Please note that LSAT test dates vary year to year. Plan your timeline accordingly to these dates and to register in a timely manner.
- Ask yourself if you would you benefit from studying for the LSAT during the summer when you have more time and less things to juggle?
- Is there a school you want to apply early decision to? Remember, early decision admissions are binding.
Example of Common Timeline for students who want to start law school after they graduate:

Your Timeline: