

HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND PRELAW CENTER

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QUESTIONS TO ASK LAW SCHOOLS

Law Days, Law Forums and law school open houses or visits provide excellent opportunities to talk personally with law school representatives about specific issues. We hope this guide helps you to prepare as effectively as possible for your conversations with law school representatives.

If you have particular questions of your own, ask them. This shows that you have already invested some time and energy in learning about their law school. Remember that you will meet a variety of representatives: some professors, perhaps a dean or two, recent grads, and many professional admissions officers. You'll meet those who love their school and maybe even one or two who don't like their job on that particular day. At law fairs, many representatives will be in the middle of long and tiring recruiting trips.

Your thoughtful preparation, genuine interest, and engaging personality, as well as your intelligent questions, will be very much appreciated. In exceptional cases, a positive review from a recruiter (yes, these people are also paid to recruit bright and capable students) can make the difference in admissions.

We hope these suggestions help you prepare appropriately. If you need assistance as you prepare, please contact a HPPLC Prelaw Advisor:

ADMISSIONS--Focus on ways to interpret the data you collect beforehand. Distinguish yourself by NOT asking about their average LSAT and GPA—this information should be readily available in their literature!

- How does your law school review applications?
- What percentage of applicants was admitted in recent years?
- Is there an advantage in applying early? If so, by when?
- When does it start getting to be too late to submit applications? Will you take results from the February LSAT?
- Does your school have "early action" or "early decision"?
- When do you typically let applicants know about admissions decisions?
- How do you evaluate multiple LSAT scores?
- How important is it for students to have a law-related internship or job before law school?
- How many transfer students have been accepted in recent years? What criteria are used?
- What percentage of the students worked between college and law school? What is the average age?
- Does your school offer a conditional summer program for applicants whose GPA/LSAT credentials are below the norm? If so, what admission criteria are used? What % typically are admitted?

CURRICULUM--Find out all you can about the curriculum, particularly beyond the first year.

- How is the first year program organized?
- What clinical opportunities are offered at your school? Is participation competitive or open to all?
- Do you offer a part-time option? Can first year students start other than in the fall?
- Do you offer law school study abroad programs?
- Describe areas of specialization in course offerings. What joint degree programs are offered?
- How are students selected for law journals or law review? What % participate?
- What is your faculty-student ratio? How would you describe faculty-student relationships?
- How are students chosen for law reviews/moot court/trial teams?

SPECIALTIES--Investigate what the school means when it says it offers special programs.

- For specialized areas of practice (tax, environment, sports, etc.), how many courses are offered in that area?
- How often are these courses offered? Every year, every two years?
- Is participation in specialty areas and organizations open to all or is it limited? What are the bases for selection?
- How does your program specifically differ from other schools' programs?
- Are there special relationships with firms are interested in employing graduates with these skills?

HOUSING--Investigate the housing situation on- and off-campus.

- Is graduate/law student housing available?
- Is off-campus housing available near the law school?
- Does the law school help students to find housing/roommates?
- What is the average cost of off-campus housing?
- Is parking difficult? Is there a public transportation system?

FINANCIAL AID--Determine how much law school will cost and what assistance is available.

- What should I anticipate that it would cost over three years to attend your law school? (include cost of living and potential tuition increases)
- How do most of your students pay for law school?
- How much scholarship money is available?
- What criteria are used to award merit-based and need-based scholarships? Is parents' income considered?
- How many awards are continued throughout the three years of law school? If continuation of the scholarship is based on maintaining a certain GPA, how many students maintain the GPA?
- What loan assistance/repayment programs does your school offer, if any?

AMBIANCE--Encourage the representative to talk about specific qualities of their school.

- Does the representative see ways in which the school differs from other schools? (This question *really* gives them the opportunity to talk about the wonders of their schools.)
- What schools/areas do students typically come from?
- Is there a part-time, summer, or night program?
- What is the attrition rate for first year students? What % leave for academic reasons?
- What percentage of the faculty and student body are women? Minorities?
- What is the attrition rate for first year students?
- Describe the physical location of the school. Is the area safe? Is a late-night escort service provided?
- When your students say what they like about your law school, what things are frequently mentioned?
- What complaints do your students have about your law school?
- What student groups are active at your school?
- How competitive are your students with each other?
- How accessible are faculty?

CAREER SERVICES--Investigate placement opportunities for graduates of the law school.

- Where do the students find employment? (locally, regionally, nationally)
- I want to start my career in [XX City]. How many graduates found employment there last year?
- Is there a network of contacts which could help me obtain jobs in a particular geographical area or in an area of law in which I am interested?
- Is the school committed to those students who are interested in public interest careers? Is there any loan forbearance for such careers?
- How many firms interview at the school and from what parts of the country?
- What percentage of students *seek* and *get* clerkships? Where are the clerkships located?
- Are clerking opportunities available in your city for students during the school year?
- What percentage of your third-year classes have jobs lined up by winter break?
- What resources do you provide for minority students?
- What percentage of jobs does the career placement office secure for students, and how many students find jobs on their own? How many full-time employees work in the placement office?

We encourage you to use e-mail to ask questions, check your recommendations, and to communicate with our prelaw advisors. Send e-mail to an individual prelaw advisor or to hplc@indiana.edu. Please check the HPPLC Web site for notices of upcoming meetings, campus visits by admission representatives, and other items of interest.

This document has been prepared for Indiana University - Bloomington students by the Health Professions and Prewlaw Center. Please note that specific requirements and policies can change at any time without notice. Students are responsible for obtaining the most current information directly from the application services, schools, and programs in which they have an interest.

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