

# PRE-LAW



## LSAT PREPARATION

Preparing to take the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) is one of the most important steps toward your law school application. Contrary to popular belief, your LSAT score isn't the be-all and end-all of your getting into the law school of your dreams – other factors are really important, too – but it's mighty significant.

There is no one “right” way to prepare: everyone's learning style and study habits are different. But there are a few principles you need to be aware of. One: you'll need to start preparing sooner (ahead of actually taking the test) than you probably expect. Two: there is simply no substitute for taking as many practice tests as you can. Three: most law school applicants take the LSAT two or three times (law schools will only see your best score and won't know how many times you took the test to achieve that score), which again means starting sooner than you may be expecting in order to be confident you've given yourself every opportunity to achieve your best score through multiple testings.

### **Basics**

The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) administers the LSAT. There is no single more important source to learn about the test – upcoming dates of test opportunities, how to register, ways of taking it, and so on – than the LSAC website. You'll need to register with LSAC anyway to apply to law school, and should have done so well before the point of application. Take time to study the LSAT section of the LSAC website very carefully. You'll also see that they offer some practice tests; take advantage of that. (Go to [lsac.org](http://lsac.org), register if you haven't already, and then explore under the LSAT tab).

### **Timing**

Assume you are planning to apply to law school in your senior year of college (in fact, more people apply after college graduation than apply during college, but let's assume for a moment that you'll apply as a senior). Law school applications open in the early autumn (think beginning of September) and you will want to have all your credentials in order before then. (You could in theory wait till you have the results of a fall test date – usually this means September or October – but that's cutting it pretty close.)

That means you would want to achieve a high score at latest during one of the summer test-taking opportunities (usually this means June or August), and that might mean taking your first test in the spring (usually April), in order to give you the chance for one or two retakes to satisfy

yourself of your best score. That in turn means that you should be planning to begin your preparation for the LSAT during the winter or very early spring preceding the autumn when you'll apply. If you plan to apply after graduation the timing would be similar: begin prep the winter before the fall in which you apply.

### **Preparation**

Most people preparing to take the LSAT choose to work with one or more of the firms that offer test prep, whether via online/real-time courses or printed/digital prep materials, or both.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: This site does not, as a matter of principle, recommend any particular LSAT-prep company. Just about all are good, but they tend to have different looks and feels, and it is really useful for you to explore that factor before making a decision. Also – let's be blunt – they are in the business of selling you a service, which means spending money. For all these reasons, if this site were to endorse any one particular company, it might seem to imply that we are giving an implicit guarantee of your best results (for a price) and we cannot do that: again, learning and study styles are different from person to person and no one size fits all.

That aside, in recent years CUA students have tended to deal with Kaplan, Princeton Review, Khan Academy, and TestMasters most often.

BEAR IN MIND: we have relationships with some of these firms, and they – along with LSAC – offer workshops, information sessions, trial tests, and other facilities (mostly online) from time to time over the course of the academic year. To learn about these opportunities sign up for the Catholic University pre-law email list (see top of main page of this site). It is really important that you avail yourself of these opportunities as often as you possibly can.

### **Books**

The following consistently rank high among reviews. I suggest you look at at least a couple, read reviews, and determine which might fit your learning style. Many offer online supplements (in some cases for extra charges). BE AWARE that many appear in a new edition each year (and this is partly owing to changes in the LSAT itself): be sure you are looking at an up to date edition.

*LSAT Premium Prep* (Kaplan Test Prep) by Kaplan

*The Princeton Review LSAT Premium Prep* by Princeton Review

*TestMasters LSAT Course Manual* by TestMasters (note: this is intended as an accompaniment to their for-fee prep course)

*The PowerScore LSAT Bibles* [note: more than one separate book, as of right now (2025) two, each focusing on a different section of the LSAT: logical reasoning and reading comprehension] by PowerScore

### **Prep providers**

The websites for the LSAT prep companies mentioned above are (bear in mind, these are subject to change but a little Googling will get you there):

Kaplan

<https://www.kaptest.com/lsat>

Princeton Review

<https://www.princetonreview.com/law/lsat-test-prep>

Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/lsat-prep>

TestMasters

<https://www.testmasters.net/lsat-prep-courses>

Most of these offer free sample classes so you can get an impression of the look and feel of what they offer. It is not always obvious, by scrutinizing their websites, how to take advantage of this option (and this guide deliberately does not include links because they're subject to change), so you may have to poke around their sites. If in doubt, consult the pre-law advisor.

Also, from time to time free sample classes are available by arrangement with the Catholic University pre-law advisor, and when that is the case you can learn about those opportunities from the pre-law advising email list (see the website for how to sign up). TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE.

And finally, please don't hesitate to ask the pre-law advisor for an appointment to discuss any or all of these options.

Final note: if you are going to make use of one of these prep providers, it is really important to try to get a sense of how they "feel", so trying them out before you make a final decision is the best possible advice we can give.