

# Admission- Law

## A. First Year

There are two categories for admission into first year, General and Discretionary. The Admission Committee - comprising the Assistant Deans, faculty members and third year law students will decide how many offers to make in each category. In no case will the number of students admitted in the Discretionary category exceed 25% of the class.

### Deadlines for First-Year Applicants

Application and Transcripts - November 1 for studies commencing the following September.

Last LSAT score accepted - February test for studies commencing the following September.

### General Category

Normally, at least a three-year undergraduate degree is required, although the majority of admitted students will have a four-year degree. A competitive candidate will have an overall average of A- (80% - 84%) (GPA 3.7), and an LSAT score above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile. The Admissions Committee considers the highest LSAT score and cumulative GPA but gives greater weight to the last two full years of undergraduate university study.

The Admissions Committee considers factors other than grades and LSAT scores, including employment, personal achievements, and success in community and public service, business, athletics, or the arts. A full course load throughout the candidate's academic career, enrolment in honors programs, research and writing experience and graduate work are also very positive factors.

### Discretionary Categories

All applicants who apply in one of three discretionary categories (Aboriginal, Access, or Mature) must provide evidence confirming the basis of their application. Three years of full-time (or equivalent) undergraduate university study is required for candidates applying in the Aboriginal or Access categories and a minimum of two years of full-time (or equivalent) undergraduate university study is required for Mature candidates. The Admissions Committee may interview applicants in the discretionary categories.

### Aboriginal

The Faculty of Law recognizes that members of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities are not represented adequately within the legal profession and, therefore, strongly encourages applications from these groups. Aboriginal candidates may be admitted unconditionally, or subject to the successful completion of the Summer Native Law Program at the University of Saskatchewan. Upon successful completion of the program, credit will be given for Property Law. A competitive candidate will have an overall average of B+ (78% / GPA 3.3) and an LSAT score above the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile.

### Access

Access applicants are those whose academic performance was affected by a proven disadvantage that may include, but is not limited to, cultural, financial, medical or physical or a learning disability. Candidates must describe how the disadvantage has affected their academic record, and provide supporting references and documentation. Applicants with disabilities should provide full documentation from qualified professionals on their disability and its effect on their academic record or LSAT score. A competitive candidate will have an overall average of B+ (78% - GPA 3.3) and an LSAT score above the 65<sup>th</sup> percentile.

### Mature

Mature candidates must have at least five years of non-university experience since leaving high school, and must have attended university for two years or possess a university degree. A competitive candidate will have an overall average of B+ (78% / GPA 3.3) and an LSAT score above the 65<sup>th</sup> percentile.

### **EXTENDED-TIME JD PROGRAM**

The Extended-Time JD Program is available to students who have been admitted to the JD Program. The program is designed for students who cannot manage a full-time program. Application to the Extended-Time JD Program should be made at the same time as the application for admission to first year law.

Applicants are required to meet the existing admissions criteria. In addition, all applicants must establish that it would be very difficult to attend law school full-time because of family responsibilities, health issues, disabilities, financial necessity, or other special circumstances. A statement outlining why a student may not be able to carry a full course load should be included in the Personal Statement.

Incoming first-year students in the Extended-Time JD Program are required to take Orientation to Law and the Legal System, Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy, and two core courses.

Students in the Extended-Time JD Program are required to complete the program within six years. Students will be allowed to transfer to full-time attendance and full-time students who meet the eligibility criteria will be allowed to transfer into the extended time program.

Extended time students are eligible for any entry scholarships or bursaries that are not restricted to full-time students, as well as any prizes or awards in individual courses.

### **Candidates from Accredited Degree-Granting Institutions**

Candidates with acceptable standing at accredited degree-granting institutions may be considered for admission provided that the content of studies completed is equivalent in content to the courses offered by Western, and to the requirements of the program to which the student has applied. The university will review other candidates on an individual basis. Admission in all cases is competitive.

### **B. Admission to Second and Third Year**

There are three categories of applicants for admission to second or third year: Transfer, Advanced Standing and Letter of Permission. All upper-year applicants apply to the Faculty of Law through the Ontario Law School Application Service. An LSAT is required for all upper-year applicants.

The Faculty of Law does not admit National Committee of Accreditation candidates.

A major consideration in the admissions decision is the availability of places in the Faculty.

Applicants seeking admission to the second or third year of the program must submit: complete official transcripts of all university work undertaken; the results of the LSAT; and two letters of reference from the applicant's law professors. Official transcripts must be sent directly from each university attended by the applicant to the Ontario Law School Application Service.

### **Deadline for Second Year Applicants:**

Application and transcripts - May 1 for studies commencing the following September.

### **Transfer Applicants**

Students currently enrolled in the first year at another Canadian law school may be admitted to the second year of the program as transfer students. If admitted, applicants who successfully complete the last two years of the program will be eligible to receive the Juris Doctor (JD) from Western University. Given the limited number of spaces that are available, consideration will be given to the best qualified applicants and those applicants who, for compassionate reasons, seek a transfer to Western University.

### **Advanced Standing**

Students who have successfully completed part or all of their legal education outside Canada may be considered for admission with advanced standing. Except in extraordinary circumstances, a student will not receive more than one year's advanced standing. If admitted, students will be required to satisfy the program requirements of the Faculty. Upon successful completion of the program, students are eligible for the degree of Juris Doctor (JD) from Western University.

The granting of advanced standing and the extent of credit to be given are at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

### **Letter of Permission**

Students currently enrolled at a Canadian law school can apply to study for one academic year at Western on a letter of permission. Typically, these requests are made by second-year students, seeking to study at Western in their third year.

Transcripts should be sent directly from the undergraduate institution and law school to Student Services (Admissions), Faculty of Law, Western University, London, Ontario, N6A 3K7

Students who have been granted permission to register on a letter of permission do not receive the Juris Doctor degree from Western University.

### **C. Law School Admission Test (LSAT)**

The Law School Admission Test is required for all applicants, although the LSAT need not have been written before applying.

For first-year applicants, the February LSAT is the latest acceptable test session for admission the following September; and

For upper-year applicants, the June LSAT is the latest acceptable test session for admission the following September.

Details about the LSAT, including registering for the test, may be found at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).

Test centres are located in major cities in Canada and the United States, as well as in many other countries. The test is usually given four times a year in most Canadian Centres - in June, October, December and February.

### **D. English Requirements**

Each student granted admission to Western must be proficient in spoken and written English.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language are required to achieve a satisfactory score on one of the following tests:

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Test of Written English (TWE). This test is offered on several dates in a number of places in Canada, the United States and elsewhere. The TOEFL/TWE Bulletin of Information and registration material may be obtained from:

Test of English as a Foreign Language  
Box 899-R  
Princeton, New Jersey  
08541, USA  
<http://www.ets.org/toefl>

Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB). This test is offered in Canada, the United States and elsewhere. Arrangements can be made by contacting:

The English Language Institute  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
48104, USA  
<http://www.cambridgemichigan.org/melab>

International English Language Testing Service (IELTS). This test is offered in British Council Offices outside Canada and the United States. Arrangements can be made by contacting the British Council Office or:

The IELTS Liaison Officer  
British Council  
10 Spring Gardens  
London, England  
SW1A 2BN  
<http://www.ielts.org>

It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit proof of English proficiency, as stated above, to the Admissions Office before an offer of admission can be made.

## **ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

### **A. Application Procedure**

All Ontario law school applications are processed through the Ontario Law School Application Service (OLSAS). For full details about the application process and the Faculty of Law's specific requirements please consult the OLSAS Instruction Booklet, available at: [www.ouac.on.ca/olsas](http://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas)

Ontario Law School Application Service  
Ontario Universities' Application Centre  
170 Research Lane  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1G 5E2  
Telephone: 519-823-1063  
Fax: 519-823-5232  
E- mail: [olsas@ouac.on.ca](mailto:olsas@ouac.on.ca)  
Web: [www.ouac.on.ca/olsas](http://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas)

The completed common application form must be received by OLSAS on or before November 1 11:59 pm EST for first year and on or before May 1 11:59 pm EST for second or third year for studies commencing the following September.

For further information, please contact the admission office.

Faculty of Law  
Room 222 - Josephine Spencer Niblett Building  
Western University  
London, ON N6A 3K7  
519-661-3347

[lawapp@uwo.ca](mailto:lawapp@uwo.ca)  
<http://www.law.uwo.ca>

## **JD/HBA COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM**

### **Admission to the Combined Program**

Students must apply to the Faculty of Law for admission to the combined program. They may apply after they have been admitted to the HBA program until May 1 following completion of HBA1. Early applicants may be granted conditional admission. All applicants must meet Faculty of Law admission requirements. To be eligible for the combined program, students must have a cumulative, weighted average of 80.0% in HBA1. In addition, candidates must meet the minimum LSAT requirement established by the Faculty of Law Admissions Committee.

Entrance into the combined degree program is competitive and limited. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee a position in the combined program.

## **JD/MBA COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM**

### **Description**

The combined JD/MBA program is administered on behalf of the Richard Ivey School of Business and the Faculty of Law by the two Program Directors, one of whom is appointed by the Business School and the other by the Faculty of Law. This combined program is designed for students who envision a career in those areas where business and law interact, and has a maximum enrolment of 10% of the MBA class entering in the spring cohort. The program allows students to complete both the JD and MBA degrees in three academic years instead of the normal four years required if the JD and MBA degrees are taken separately.

### **Admission**

Applicants to the combined program must apply separately for admission to the JD and the MBA programs by the deadlines established for the Faculty of Law (November 1) and the Richard Ivey School of Business. A joint committee appointed by the Faculty of Law and the Richard Ivey School of Business decides whether applicants who are admitted to both programs and who have indicated that they wish to be considered for the combined program will be admitted to it. An applicant may seek admission to the combined program either when applying for admission to the two individual programs or during the first year of the JD program. However, as enrolment is limited, students who apply to enter the program after completion of the first year of the JD program have no assurance that they will be admitted to the combined program

### **Application Information**

A completed application for admission to the JD/MBA program consists of three parts:

1. An application to the Faculty of Law for admission to the JD program.  
DEADLINE\* FEBRUARY 1.
2. An application to the Richard Ivey School of Business for admission to the MBA program.  
Prerequisite: Undergraduate degree.  
DEADLINE\* JULY 1 (for applicants in Canada and the United States)  
MAY 15 (for applicants outside Canada and the United States)
3. An application to the JD/MBA program.  
DEADLINE\* APRIL 1.

Application forms for the joint program are available from the Admissions Officer of the Richard Ivey School of Business and should be submitted to that School.

The only entry date for the JD, MBA or JD/MBA programs is in September of each year.

There are two possible routes leading to a completed application for the JD/MBA program. An applicant may submit all three applications prior to first year, meeting all deadlines above. Alternatively, an applicant may submit an application for admission to first year studies in either the JD or MBA program and, if admitted, submit the remaining applications during that year. However, as enrolment is limited, students who apply to enter the program after the completion of one year in either the JD or MBA program have no assurance that they will be admitted to the joint program.