

Boston University Law School Interview:

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1.) Everyone knows that both the application process as well as law school itself are a very grueling process that isn't meant for everyone. Based on your knowledge of the law school application process, how could an undergraduate student, say sophomore or junior year, with an interest in law determine if law school is indeed the correct career path for them?

Well, there are a variety of things, to be quite honest. It is not a requirement at all for college pre-law students to take undergraduate law courses, although for some people, it might be a good way to see if law school is indeed the right choice for them in the future.

What I personally recommend is to try and talk to people who are currently attorneys, either through personal connections or maybe through the career center at your school. They are a good resource in regards to obtaining information about law school. Also see if you can schedule visits or get informational interviews at the law schools that you are interested in applying to, maybe sit in on a first year class, or attend the various law fairs that are offered around Boston every year.

One more thing would be to look for opportunities to work in a law firm during the summer, or at least in some sort of legal setting. It's not necessary for the application process to do things like this, but it is a great way to get a feel for the profession and see if this is indeed what is right for you.

2.) If LSAT score and GPA were irrelevant, describe the type of applicants you like to see apply to your school?

This is a tough one to answer, as GPA is not and can never be irrelevant. Undergraduate academic performance is actually the most important facet of a student's application to law school, so please keep this in mind. But after GPA and LSAT score, I would say the third most important and significant piece of an application is the Personal Statement. What we would like to see here is how an applicant sees themselves—what have their experiences been like, and what is their motivation to study law. We would like to see people that have thought this out carefully, and then have allowed this to come through in the application.

We want to see someone who has done research, spoken with attorneys, has carefully thought it out and has done the research, and WANTS to have a career as an attorney. This is very important that we see this in the application. We want to see people that want to be here and that display a passion for law. Law school is NOT for someone who is not sure and wants to test it out. That is something that people should sort out

BEFORE enrolling in law school, as this is such a huge commitment of time, effort, and money.

3.) How important are one's undergraduate extra-curricular activities in relation to GPA and LSAT scores?

Although extra-curricular activities are important to an extent, they are not nearly as important as undergraduate grades and LSAT scores. The best advice I can give on this is if you are a freshman, sophomore or junior, and are indeed interested in law school, do not participate in extra-curricular activities to the point where your grades will suffer, as they would never compensate for a lower LSAT score or GPA.

4.) Approximately when should undergraduate students begin the law school application process, and what have you determined to be useful in terms of a student preparing for law school as an undergraduate?

I'd say the fall of your senior year is the time to start making decisions and to begin the application process to law school. Here at Boston University Law, we do rolling admissions. So unlike most undergraduate admissions processes where there is one set due date and decisions are also sent out all at one time, BU Law starts sending out admissions decisions by December. People are welcome to apply up until March 1st of the following spring, but I recommend NOT waiting until February to do so. Sending in your application by December or January might give an applicant a little of an advantage, as the earlier you apply, the less number of applicants there are for you to compete with.

Definitely take the LSAT the June before senior year, or even the October of your senior year (this way, you get a chance to know if you want or need to take it again), and be sure to NOT leave anything up until the last minute. Law school applications are obviously something that you want to dedicate as much time, commitment, and focus to as possible.

5.) Based on your experiences in the law school admission process, how strongly would you recommend a student taking an LSAT prep course, if at all?

I don't strongly recommend LSAT prep courses because they tend to be expensive. But it's very important for people to familiarize themselves with the test before they proceed to take it.

I think that buying a prep book at a local bookstore is perfectly fine, as long as it enables you to have a good sense of what sort of questions are on the test. Also, make

sure that you have taken simulated practice tests as well before taking the actual test itself. You can do this through a prep course or on your own. It's in one of those ways that you will be able to get a good feel of what the test will be like before you actually take the real thing.

6.) Courses such as Intro to Business Law, Constitutional Law, Psychology and Law, and Cyber Law For Business, as well as others, are offered to undergraduate students here at Boston College. How beneficial do you perceive these classes to be, or are more writing and analytical courses to be preferred?

It is perfectly okay to take these classes, but it's not mandatory in applying to law school. It's a great way to get exposure to classes that pertain to law though.

What I do recommend is taking classes that are heavy in reading, writing, and research. It's important to take classes that help to develop these skills, as they are what will be needed to be successful in law school. I especially recommend this for someone who might be taking classes in the hard sciences (or take at least one class that is heavy in reading, writing, and research, as science classes are nothing at all like law school classes and do little to help prepare someone for law school).

7.) Are there any general closing comments you would like to add?

These are all great questions for undergraduate students to be asking. Typically, people like me are always willing to talk to students about thinking about law school and going to law school. If the BC Bellermino Pre-Law Council is ever interested in having an event and would like us to come out there to talk, we would be more than welcome to do so.

We also have half-day open houses here at BU Law School on Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings. Just pick a day that is convenient, and we would be more than happy to accommodate students from your school. Part of this Open House experience is sitting in on a 1st Year Class, where you would be able to talk to students personally about their experiences in law school. We hope to see Boston College students visiting sometime soon. And please be sure to check out our website at <http://www.bu.edu/law/>.