

Standards and Process for Reviewing Applications

The Admissions Committee will undertake a flexible, highly individualized, and holistic review of each applicant's file, giving serious consideration to all of the ways that an applicant will contribute to an academically excellent and diverse educational environment. This policy does not limit in any way the broad range of qualities and experiences that may be considered valuable contributions to student body diversity, and it gives all applicants the opportunity to highlight their own contributions to excellence and diversity.

The School of Law receives applications from many more qualified students than it can enroll. To decide which students to admit from each year's pool of applicants, the Admissions Committee relies heavily on each applicant's undergraduate grade point average and Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT) scores as important indicators of intellectual vitality, academic promise, and the likelihood that an applicant will succeed in law school. In addition to this and other indicators of academic promise, the Admissions Committee considers other factors by which applicants differ from one another, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, geography, viewpoint, undergraduate school and field of study, graduate school experience, community and campus service, potential service to the law school's student body, potential for service to the legal profession and community, work experience, economic background, military service, having lived or traveled widely abroad, fluency in languages other than English, having overcome adversity or hardship, successful previous careers, and other individual qualities and experience associated with such factors.

Specifically, the Admissions Committee adheres to the following procedures in reviewing applications to the Law School:

1. Each application is individually evaluated on the merits of the file as a whole.
2. Only qualified applicants are admitted. A qualified applicant is one whom the committee believes is fully capable of meeting our academic standards for graduation.
3. Race and ethnicity are not assigned a predetermined comparative or quantitative weight, nor do they trigger automatic entry or a separate admissions process.
4. In order to achieve substantial representation of minority groups, the Admissions Committee considers race and ethnicity as a "plus-factor" in the individualized consideration of applications.
5. All applicants compete for all seats in the class. The Admissions Committee does not set or strive to achieve any targeted number of quota of students or offers of admission for any particular race or ethnicity, nor are those factors considered in a mechanical or quantitative fashion, nor are they considered in isolation from all other academic and nonacademic factors. No seats are reserved for any racial or ethnic group. The Admissions Committee does not apportion the offers it makes with respect to race or ethnicity.
6. Each applicant has the opportunity to demonstrate his or her contribution to the diversity of the student body through a specific question to this effect on the application, a personal statement appended to the application, and the submission of letters of recommendation and a resume.

7. The Admissions Committee may rely on presumptive admissions and denials of admission, based solely on academic standards, so long as every such file receives full review by professional staff, the results of such review are reported to the committee as a whole, and any professional staff or committee member can obtain regular committee consideration of any candidate who is presumptively admitted or denied on this basis.