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## Applicant Categories and Eligibility Criteria

There are 2 major categories for admission into first year: General and Discretionary.

### General Category

We require a minimum of 3 years of full-time (or equivalent) undergraduate university study, although the majority of admitted students have a 4-year degree. We define 1 year of full-time study as 10 semestered courses.

To be a competitive candidate in the General category, you should have a cumulative average of A- (80-84%) (GPA 3.7) and an LSAT score above the 80th percentile. However, meeting these thresholds does not guarantee admission.

The Admissions Committee considers the highest LSAT score and cumulative GPA, which is based on all undergraduate university courses you received grades for. This includes grades obtained during spring and summer terms and grades obtained on academic exchanges. However, if your cumulative GPA is not competitive, we will give greater weight to your last 2 years of full-time (or equivalent) undergraduate university study (defined as a minimum of 20 semestered courses).

While academic performance and LSAT scores weigh heavily in the Admissions Committee's decisions, we also believe that achievement in other areas may indicate potential for success, and therefore applications are reviewed holistically.

The Committee also considers factors, such as employment, personal and professional achievements, extracurricular engagement, volunteer activities and other life experience. A full course load throughout your undergraduate academic career (5 semestered courses per term) is preferred. Research and writing experience, and graduate work are also very positive factors.

### Discretionary Category

We require a minimum of 3 years of full-time (or equivalent) undergraduate university study if you apply in either the Access, Black or Indigenous category. We require a minimum of 2 years of full-time (or equivalent) undergraduate university study if you apply in the Mature category.

Moreover, you must provide evidence confirming the basis of your application. The Admissions Committee may interview applicants in the discretionary categories.

#### Access

Access applicants are those whose academic performance was affected by a proven disadvantage that may include cultural, socio-economic, medical or physical barriers, or a learning disability.

As an Access applicant, you must describe how the disadvantage affected your undergraduate academic record, including the timeline, and provide supporting documentation. It is up to you to determine what documentation best supports your claim as described in your Personal Statement.

If you have a disability, you are required to provide full documentation from qualified professionals on your disability and its effect on your academic record or LSAT score(s) and indicate whether you received accommodations during your program of study.

You must upload all documentation to support your access claim through Secure Applicant Messaging (SAM) in your OLSAS application. If you do not provide supporting documentation for your Access claim, you will be assessed as a General applicant.

Although your grades may have been affected by a proven disadvantage, you must show evidence of your potential to succeed at law school. This requires at least 1 academic year of competitive grades among 3 years of full-time (or equivalent) undergraduate university study.

You will receive special consideration for your LSAT score(s) only where there is a causal connection between the disadvantage you are claiming and your LSAT performance.

#### Black

Black applicants are individuals who self-identify as members of the Black community. The Faculty of Law recognizes that such individuals are not represented adequately within the legal profession and strongly encourages applications from members of this group.

Applications from Black candidates will be reviewed holistically, informed by the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. Candidates may use the optional essay to discuss lived experiences, which will be given additional weight during the review process. We are striving to have all applications in this category assessed by at least 1 Black reviewer (among 2 reviewers).

#### Indigenous

Indigenous applicants are individuals who are members of First Nations, Inuit or Métis communities. Candidates applying in this category must provide evidence confirming the basis of their application.

The Faculty of Law recognizes that Indigenous individuals are not represented adequately within the legal profession and strongly encourages applications from members of this group.

Applications from Indigenous candidates will be reviewed holistically, informed by the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization. Candidates may use the optional essay to discuss lived experiences, which will be given additional weight during the review process.

Indigenous students may be admitted unconditionally or subject to the successful completion of the Indigenous Law Centre Summer Program at the University of Saskatchewan.

#### Mature

To be considered a Mature applicant, you must have at least 5 years of non-university experience since leaving high school (before admission), which need not be consecutive, and a minimum of 2 years full-time (or equivalent) undergraduate university study.

You should also submit a detailed resumé of your work and other experience, which must be uploaded through SAM in your OLSAS application.

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Previous Year Applied

**Western University Student Identification Number**

If you previously applied to Western Law or another program at Western, provide the year of application. If you are unable to provide your Western Student ID Number, the year you applied will be sufficient.

Personal Statement

The **Personal Statement (maximum 5,000 characters)** is an opportunity for you to help the Admissions Committee get to know you better. Please tell us about yourself and why you want to go to law school. Providing examples and context where needed, and writing with an authentic voice, will be helpful.

**Note:**While you may wish to use the optional essay to expand on something you mentioned in your personal statement, we recommend that you do not repeat what is in your optional essay in your personal statement.

Optional Essay (available to all applicants; maximum 2,000 characters)

At Western Law we value diverse perspectives, experiences and backgrounds. We also appreciate that people take different paths to law school. With that in mind, is there any additional information you would like us to consider when reviewing your application?

If you are applying in the Black or Indigenous category and would like to provide context, you may do so in the Optional Essay.

Access Applicants Only (1,000 characters)

Discuss the disadvantage or barrier you are seeking special consideration for, which may have affected your academic studies or LSAT score(s). Include specific information relating to the timeline, if applicable. Supporting documentation to support your Access claim is also required.

**Note:** While others may review your Personal Statement, it must be written by you alone. Extensive editing or rewriting by others is **not** permissible. When you submit your Personal Statement to Western University Faculty of Law through OLSAS, you are confirming that you are the true author of your Statement.