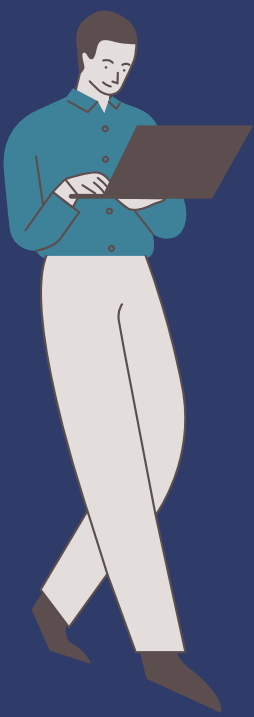


Standardized Tests

Remember the ACT and the SAT? You probably took one or both of these exams for entrance to college. Law school has a similar standardized testing requirement for admission.

Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)



This exam tests reading comprehension, reasoning, and writing. The LSAT consists of four sections, three of which are scored. Students take the exam at home with an online proctor. The LSAT combined with undergraduate GPA is an excellent predictor of first-year law school grades for most test-takers.

Cost to Take: \$220

Score Range: 120-180, sections not individually scores

Score Expiration: 5 years

Pros: All law schools accept this exam, merit-based scholarships and fee waivers are often given based on LSAT scores

Cons: Only offered a few times each year, so you need to plan ahead

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

The GRE is a more general exam that tests analytic writing, reading comprehension, and quantitative reasoning. Most graduate programs require or accept this exam, so if you're not set on law school, this may be the exam for you to look into taking. It can be taken at home or at a testing center.

Cost to Take: \$220

Score Range: Depends on section

Score Expiration: 5 years

Pros: Can be used for more than law school, easier to register for last-minute

Cons: Not every law school accepts GRE, disaggregated scores may reveal weaknesses in particular skills



Other Standardized Tests



In an effort to make law school more accessible, some law schools may accept other exams, like the GMAT, or your old SAT or ACT scores, in special circumstances. As always, you should research the school's requirements before applying, and follow their instructions.

Are Tests Optional?

You may have seen recent news about the ABA removing the standardized test requirement. It's important to know that no changes are likely to be made until the 2025-2026 academic year at the earliest, and individual law schools can still require an exam for admission to their program. For now, we recommend planning to take a standardized test if you plan to start law school before 2026.



Additional Considerations and Resources

Here are some additional questions to ponder as you reflect on which test to take, when to take it, and how many times to take it:

- How much time can I devote to studying for an exam right now?
- Can I afford to take, or retake, an exam?
- How much money, if any, can I spend on test prep?
- Do I want an exam that I can use for other graduate programs?
- Am I certain that I'll be applying to law school in the next five years?
- Do I need accommodations for a standardized test?
- How do schools treat multiple scores or multiple test types?
- When is the latest time I can take an exam for admission in the cycle I plan to apply?

For More Information:

LSAT: <https://www.lsac.org/lSAT>

GRE: <https://www.ets.org/gre.html>