

# **Salisbury University Law School Admission Handbook**

**By**

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Salisbury University Law School Admission Handbook  
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## Section I -- Should I go to Law School?

This is a question which deserves serious thought. If you want to practice law in any of its forms, then law school is virtually a necessity. If you need a law degree for another vocational endeavor (e.g. legal reporter, as an adjunct to an accounting degree) law school may also be a good choice. Depending on your purposes, however, you may want to alter your choice of attending law school or of the kind of law school you wish to attend.<sup>1</sup>

During times of economic downturn there are always an upswing in applications for educational opportunities, most significantly for graduate and professional schools. This is true for law schools. If you have decided because of the economy and the lack of employment opportunities to go to law school you may want to rethink your decision. The number of applications to law school have increased in the past year and are likely to do so again this year.<sup>2</sup> This means for many or most schools, entrance requirements have increased. Application to law school, never mind law school itself, is a time consuming and stressful process. Law schools in their application process also evaluate an interest in law and if you are applying to law school because you have nothing else to do, this may show and hurt your chances. Law school is also a difficult place to mark time. You will likely finish school with a significant amount of debt (often \$100,000+). Unless you go to an elite school, law school is not the ticket to an immediate high salary that many imagine. Leaving law school before the end of the three years will also leave you with debt and no degree and, therefore, little or no benefit. Law school is therefore a poor choice if you are not committed to becoming a lawyer.

If you were planning on going to law school anyway, but originally had the plan to take some time off and get an interesting job, or make some money, then it may be in your interest to go to school now rather than mark time sitting at home or getting an unfulfilling or low paying job.

In other circumstances you will still likely want to take time off before beginning the application process. Some of these

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<sup>1</sup> For more information see the below "Where should I apply."

<sup>2</sup> Applications for admission to the entering class for law schools in 2009 increased approximately five percent from applications for the 2008 entering class.

conditions where you should delay or even forego your application to law school include weak credentials. If your qualifications are poor, but you still want to go to law school, you may wish not to apply while you are finishing college. Instead you might want to gain additional experience and credentials and apply in a few years.

Indeed, if you do not have a sense about what role you want your degree to serve in your future plans, choosing a law school, getting through the admittance process, and the school itself will be difficult. Even with a clear plan, **going to law school does not guarantee a good job after graduation.** Without planning employment becomes even more difficult. This does not mean you need to give up on becoming a lawyer. You may want to delay entrance into law school until a later date, however. Despite the desire of many to pursue law school directly after the completion of their undergraduate education, it is not uncommon to enter law school after a few, or even many, years after undergraduate education. If your undergraduate record is not good, moreover, this will increase your chances of attending a good school. Unless you are committed to law school with good credentials, your best plan is likely to wait.

## Section II -- How do I structure my undergraduate education to prepare for Law School?

### A. Choice of undergraduate institution.

The most important thing no matter where you go to school is to get good grades. This is because your undergraduate grade point average (UGPA) along with your score on the law school admissions test (LSAT) is one of the two largest factors in determining admissions. Sometimes students ask if it matters that they go to Salisbury University rather than Johns Hopkins when competing for admissions slots. The answer is that it is unlikely to make a difference. It can make a small difference, however, depending on the law school and all other things being equal. *That difference, however, may be positive or negative, so it is difficult to factor into any plan.*

Each university has its own admission's committees and admissions policies; however, most schools draw their classes from a wide variety of undergraduate institutions and view a 3.5 UGPA as a 3.5 UGPA. This is especially true because the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS) standardizes grade point averages across different schools so that individual law schools are not forced to compare schools with different scales on unequal footing (this is explained below). Still, students that go to particularly prestigious universities or ones which have reputations for lower average grades may be given priority among broadly similar applicants. This is likely to be more apparent in the more elite institutions. The reason for this is that for schools like Stanford or Yale, in which many if not most of their applicants have extremely high UGPAs and LSATs, it becomes difficult to choose among the applicants. Additional factors, including undergraduate institution, can be weighed, therefore, in an attempt to distinguish the applicants. In other situations it is less likely to make a difference. The advantage of an undergraduate institution is not always clear, moreover. It is possible, for example, that coming from Salisbury University may be an advantage over Harvard because you are the only applicant from Salisbury and there are dozens from Harvard. This all assumes that applicants have the same credentials. Please be aware, that if your UGPA is even slightly lower or higher, or your LSAT score is one point higher or lower, your application may be viewed differently. Sometimes **very** differently.

The chance of school choice making a difference in admission is extremely small, therefore, and it is best to ignore any difference. Much more important is to maintain a high UGPA and do well on the LSATs. Any disparities can be overcome by superior credentials and these are the factors that essentially determine law school admittance.

## B. Major

Choice of a major is in some ways similar to the choice of undergraduate institution. Most law schools are more concerned with the skill set you obtain in your undergraduate education, rather than the major you choose. Your preparation should help develop reading skills, writing skills, and help you think analytically and clearly.

The American Bar Association which accredits and oversees law schools notes on its website that it does not recommend any undergraduate majors or group of courses to prepare for a legal education. Students are admitted to law school from almost every academic discipline. You may choose to major in subjects that are considered to be traditional preparation for law school, such as history, English, philosophy, political science, economics or business, or you may focus your undergraduate studies in areas as diverse as art, music, science and mathematics, computer science, engineering, nursing, or education. Whatever major you select, you are encouraged to pursue an area of study that interests and challenges you, while taking advantage of opportunities to develop your research and writing skills. Taking a broad range of difficult courses from demanding instructors is excellent preparation for legal education.

This is good and succinct advice.

In a 1995 survey of law school admission deans, only 6.5% claimed that an applicant's choice of major had "a great deal of influence" on the admissions process. Choosing a major strategically, moreover likely has drawbacks which override any positive viewpoint of admissions officials. You will likely do better in classes and majors you enjoy. Also for the small possible difference in the admissions process, the changing of a major seems drastic. Successful candidates for admission to law

schools are drawn across all majors (yes, even things like biology and engineering).

This being said, some preferences do exist. In the same study noted above (please remember this is approximately fifteen years ago and style and fashion change, but this survey seems to still represent the current trends) the most favorably viewed major was that of English, presumably because it leads to a development of reading and writing skills which serve law students very well. Philosophy, economics, and political science were also frequently cited positively. This does not mean you should switch your major away from less desirable fields. Indeed, having an unconventional major may help you in the admissions process by adding to the diversity of the incoming class. A particular admissions committee may decide that you, as a biology major may be providing the perspective that their school's students need in their classes and may be given preference over an English major given your **broadly similar credentials**. Students sometimes wish, however, to either double major, minor, or focus a concentration in one of the more favorable fields. Only do this, however, if you believe it still not damage your credentials. While philosophy might be seen as positive from the standpoint of a particular admissions committee if you will get a 3.7 UGPA in Chemistry and a 2.8 UGPA in Philosophy, you should not major, minor, or double major in philosophy. For a possible benefit at the margins (something which might get the admissions committee in your favor if all other things are equal) you have put yourself in a lower category and made it harder for you to gain admittance. Essentially law schools are most concerned that its students have broad training which will enable them to do the work necessary.

So what major should you choose? Choose something which you find interesting; this should increase the likelihood of achieving good grades. You should also choose something which serves career purpose that you desire. Remember that not everyone who initially believes they will go to law school does indeed, attend law school. Some who do attend, moreover, do so after a considerable amount of time has passed after their undergraduate education. Given this your best choice is to choose your most favored major and then follow the course suggestions in 'D' below.

### C. Why is there no prelaw major?

Prelaw majors are now viewed with disfavor by most law school admission's committees and, therefore, will likely hinder your admittance to law school rather than help it. It is true that years ago such majors did exist (perhaps they still do at some schools) but they are uncommon now.

For both Salisbury University and most law schools, undergraduate majors must have legitimate undergraduate purposes, not merely designed strategically. Indeed, one often majors in biology or chemistry, but not pre-med. Law schools generally like to see a broad education rather than a specific one as they believe that such an education is more likely to be a good preparation for law school.

The American Bar Association notes that, "there is no single path that will prepare you for a legal education." It also notes that some students come "directly from their undergraduate studies" but some "begin their legal education significantly later in life, and they bring to their law school education the insights and perspectives gained from those life experiences. Legal education welcomes and values diversity and you will benefit from the exchange of ideas and different points of view that your colleagues will bring to the classroom." A prelaw major would deprive the law school of this diversity. It would also not prepare student for careers before law school.

"Law" classes are taught differently in an undergraduate setting, where the purposes are different than in law school which has a more professional and technical focus. Law schools, while wanting to see that potential students have an interest in law, also want law students to be trained in the law in the law school style. For this reasons prelaw majors are often looked on with disfavor by law school deans.

Salisbury University provides prelaw resources for prelaw students while encouraging them to major in whatever is most beneficial for them. These services include a prelaw adviser, prelaw seminars, and career counselors to try to help you gain law school admission and practice the career of your choice.

### D. What classes should I take?

In addition to your major (and minor or concentration) you need to pursue a broad curriculum. Here you have an advantage by your education at Salisbury University. The extensive general education requirements mean that it is easy to fulfill the broad education most law schools want. This does mean, however, that you need to take your general education requirements seriously, as these classes show you have the



preparation law schools desire, and because there is a significant effect on your UGPA.

Law schools generally like to see some classes in English, including writing and literature. Classes in American history, political science, psychology, sociology and economics are also seen as desirable. Also seen as desirable are classes in communications and philosophy. Since much law is actually business law you also may find an accounting and business administration class helpful. You should also try to show that you have an interest in the law. To fulfill this you may want to take a couple of classes that deal with the law. It does not matter if these classes are in the department of political science, philosophy, or in business. Taking at least one and probably a couple of these classes will show that your interest in law is serious.

You do not necessarily need to take all these courses, but the less conventional your major is e.g. chemistry, the more important your performance in these broad areas become. It shows you have the required skill set to complete a law school program.

In addition, do not shrink from challenging classes. Law schools become concerned and look unfavorably on a student who appears as if she or he is avoiding challenging classes in her or his undergraduate career. You need to take some courses which appear challenging and do well in these classes. For this reason you should avoid more than one or two pass/fail classes and try to limit these to your first three semesters.

You may also wish to enroll in a legal or political internship. Interning for a law firm, elected official or nonprofit organization, can help students develop legal research and writing skills as well as build contacts for future job prospects during and after law school. See Intern Coordinator, Dr. Adam Hoffman for more information.

Essentially your transcript should show an interest in law and things related to it, but should also reflect your individual interests. Your transcript should indicate what makes you different from other applicants.

E. What skills should I develop for law school?

1. General Knowledge

The American Bar Association recommends that for success in law school, you should have an understanding of certain knowledge areas. Please be aware this knowledge need not be obtained through university level courses. The ABA, however, recommends that knowledge in these areas will improve your chances of success in law school and in the practice of law. I list below some courses which may help you gain knowledge in these areas if you feel you need them, but you need not take these courses if you already have this knowledge or have other methods of obtaining the knowledge. Laws schools do not need to see any specific courses on your transcript, moreover.

The general knowledge recommended by the American Bar Association includes a "broad understanding of history" including United States history. This can be fulfilled by several courses in the history section of the general education requirements. The ABA also recommends an understanding of the American political System. Political Science 110 covers this topic and will fulfill and section IIIB requirement. The ABA recommends some "mathematical and financial skills, such as an understanding of basic pre-calculus mathematics an ability to analyze financial data." For most students the math will be satisfied by the mathematics requirement (Section IVB or the General Education requirements). You may want to supplement this with a business or accounting course. You may want to try accounting 201, or business administration 103. The ABA also recommends "A basic understanding of human behavior and social interaction." This may include a sociology, psychology, or even philosophy course. Lastly the ABA recommends "an understanding of diverse cultures within and beyond the United States, of international institutions and issues, of world events, and of the increasing interdependence of the nations and communities within our world." This can be fulfilled through a variety of courses probably most notably through a study abroad semester. It can also be fulfilled through a number of courses in political science, history, or a variety of other departments.

Again, please note, that it is not necessary to take all or any of these courses. The American Bar Association notes that these skills and knowledge can "be acquired in a wide variety of ways." While you may get some of it by taking "undergraduate, graduate, or even high school courses," you can get it through "self-learning ... in the workplace, or through various other life experiences." **THERE IS NO COURSE OR SET OF COURSES WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR LAW SCHOOL.** The same is true

for the subsequent skills which are important for law school and which may be tested in the LSAT. While they may be enhanced by certain courses, no particular courses should be considered necessary for law school.

## 2. Reading

Most students are shocked about the amount of reading required for a course in law school. Given that it is likely your whole grade will be based on one exam at the end of the course it is important that you can keep up with the reading. You also need to synthesize the important points from the copious amount of reading. Reading and synthesizing is also what most lawyers spend the majority of their time doing. If you do not have this skill it will be problematic in the long run. Reading and reading comprehension skills will likely help develop necessary vocabulary and increase your LSAT score. In addition to enrolling in classes which require a copious amount of reading, you might want to make sure you read for pleasure. This will help you gain reading comprehension skills.

The American Bar Association also notes that, "Preparation for legal education should include substantial experience at close reading and critical analysis of complex textual material." It notes that this is much of the work of a lawyer. It also notes however, that you can do this by a "close reading of complex material in literature, political or economic theory, philosophy of history." What is important is engaging the material and "critically analyzing, complex written material of substantial length."

## 3. Writing

Writing skills are important because as you progress through law school, your ability to write will have a direct bearing on your grades. Clear, concise writing, in addition, is necessary when you practice law. You will also be required to write an essay for the LSAT exam and that essay will be photocopied and sent to ALL the law schools to which you apply. Many schools are hesitant to accept a student who cannot write a clear concise and persuasive essay. A personal statement is also included in most applications and can often sway the admission's committee for the majority of applicants whose credentials put them in a category which can lead to either acceptance or rejection. The American Bar Association advises that, "you should seek as many experiences as possible that will require rigorous and analytical writing, including preparing original pieces of substantial length and revising written work in response to constructive criticism."

#### 4. Oral communication

Contrary to what you may observe on television, most of a lawyer's business is transacted as written communication. Still, it is necessary to convey ideas clearly and persuasively even if you never go inside a courtroom. You need to interact with clients and often other members of a firm. You will also likely need to express yourself in law school classes. Professors in many of these classes are not tolerant of poor oral expression.

#### 5. Research skills

Lawyers often must research various topics. You will likely need to use computer based resources such as LEXIS and WESTLAW. Feeling comfortable with using computer based data systems for research is a must. Not all research is done on the computer databases, however. Completing at least a couple of research projects while at Salisbury University will be helpful in law school.

#### 6. Additional Areas

In addition to the areas of reading skills, writing skills, oral communication, and research skills, mentioned above, the American Bar association also recommends that future law students improve their analytic or problem solving skills, their task organization or managements skills, and that they do some work in public service or the promotion of justice.

Analytic or problem solving skills is essentially working on critical thinking skills. This includes structuring and evaluating arguments. These skills are necessary for the successful practice of law and success on the LSAT exam.

Task organization or management skills are other skills necessary for a successful law career and success in law school. Obtaining information from a large variety of sources and completing major projects are essential. These skills can also be exercised by major research projects during your undergraduate education. Remember, it is common in law school for grades to be based on a single examination at the end of the semester so organization and management is extremely important.

The American Bar association also notes in regard to serving others and promoting justice that,

Each member of the legal profession should be dedicated both to the objectives of serving other honestly competently, and responsibly and to the goals of improving fairness and the quality of justice in the legal system. If you are thinking of

entering the legal profession, you should seek some significant experience before coming to law school in which you may devote substantial effort toward assisting others. Participation in Public Service projects or similar efforts at achieving objectives established for common purposes can be highly helpful.

If you choose to do an internship it could help you gain skills in this area.

F. What about extracurriculars?

Extracurricular activities are unlikely to count much, if at all, in gaining admittance to law school. On the other hand, if you are on the border line between acceptance and rejection at a particular school extracurriculars can sway the decision. They can help to indicate the well rounded individual that law schools desire. It is important to remember, however, that for most schools **extracurriculars will not compensate for even a small reduction in your UGPA.** To quote the University of Illinois Law School:

Applications for admission will be evaluated by giving significant and, in many cases, controlling weight to the applicant's undergraduate grade point average and score on the Law School Admission Test. When examining the applications of applicants whose grades and test scores do not automatically determine their acceptance or rejection, the Admission Committee attempts to identify students whose numerical records appear to underpredict their likelihood of success in law school and students whose admission would contribute to the diversity essential in achieving variety and richness in the educational experience.

In other words, engaging in extracurricular activities is likely viewed positively. They should be avoided, however, if engaging in them will likely lead to a reduction in UGPA, even a relatively small one.

### Section III -- The LSAT

Most law schools base admission on two main factors: your UGPA and the Law School Admissions Test, known as the LSAT. Schools are open about their reliance on the test. Boston University "places primary emphasis on an applicant's undergraduate record and score on the Law School Admission Test." They also consider other factors "where appropriate." Marquette Law School indicates that, "the two factors which weigh most significantly in the selection process are the academic record and the results of the LSAT. The admissions committee, however, considers non-numerical factors." Most schools have a formula which weighs your UGPA and LSAT and uses that formula to determine a certain number of automatic acceptances and automatic rejections. This is because the UGPA and LSAT taken together is the best predictor of success in the first year of law school. The rest of the applications are can be either accepted or rejected, but the higher your UGPA and LSAT the better the chance you have at admittance.

Most schools, however, will allow a low LSAT score to be overcome by a high UGPA.<sup>3</sup> The reverse, low UGPA being offset by a high LSAT, can also happen. A high LSAT does make a law school take a second look at you if you have a low UGPA, and can be part of the strategy to get you into a law school of your choice (see the sections on marginal qualifications below).

The LSAT is designed to test the skills necessary for success in law school and for use in the practice of law. If you believe you cannot do well in the LSAT because you "do not think that way," it is possible that you do not think in the way necessary for success in law school or for the practice of law. The LSAT/LSDAS information book includes a statement on the LSAT as a predictor of Law school performance. When surveying 187 law schools in 2007 LSAT score correlation to first year law school grades is as high as 56% with an average of 33%. When combined with UGPAs the correlation increased to a 46% average with a high of 65%. Essentially the predictive value of the LSAT is better than whatever else is available, especially when UGPA is included. This is one reason law schools justify its use. There is also a more crass reason as well. The LSAT

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<sup>3</sup>There are a handful of elite schools where this is not the case. Your 3.9 UGPA is unlikely to enable you to overcome a low LSAT score at these schools because most of the admitted students have high UGPAs and high LSAT. For most universities, however, there is an interplay between the two measures.

factors quite highly in law school rankings. Since prospective students and employers are attentive to law school rankings, schools will strive to achieve the highest average LSAT score of its incoming class.

#### A. When should I take the LSAT

##### 1. The June Test

In most cases the best choice is to take the LSAT at the June testing date after your junior year or the year before you wish to begin law school. The deadline for registration will be in early May. This is usually the best choice for the student wanting to attend law school immediately upon completion of his or her undergraduate education. You will receive your LSAT scores in July. This leaves you plenty of time to plan for which law schools you wish to apply, and you have plenty of time to make all deadlines. If you choose to take the June test you will also have the ability to retake the test if you wish to do so (See "If you do not do as well as you expect" below). Most students also find June a less stressful time rather than the middle of the semester in late September or early October or while planning for finals in December.

Another advantage of the June test is that many schools are in the practice of buying information from the February and June tests. You may, therefore, based on your score, get fee waivers for applications. While I generally note that that application fees are a drop in the bucket of how much you are going to end up paying for law school, a fee waiver is a nice benefit, especially if you were planning to apply to that school anyway. In addition some schools might even offer special scholarships for which you can apply based on your LSAT score. These are before the rest of your application (UGPA, personal statement, resumé) is reviewed, moreover. This possible benefit is usually lost if you delay the exam to October or December.

##### 2. The September/October Test

The next choice should be the test given in late September or early October. There is also a corresponding test date for Saturday Sabbath Observers; the deadline for registration will be approximately September 1. If you take this test you still will be able to choose your law schools and prepare applications before the end of the year. You will also know your scores when you do. It is still an adequate choice, therefore, for those willing to start school the next academic year.

There are some difficulties with the September/October test, however, which should not be minimized especially for those who are still in school. If you take the September/October test, you will need to select schools for which you would like to apply and do the applications in the second half of the academic semester when you will likely have many other things to do. If you do not do as well as you like or expect, moreover, your retake option is the December test. While most schools will still accept applications with scores from the December test, your chances of acceptance applying so late go way down (see December and February test sections below). You may also be applying too late to be considered for financial aid with the December test.

### 3. The December Test

The December test should really only be used as a last resort. There is also a December test date available for Saturday Sabbath observers; the deadline for registration will be approximately the beginning of November. December is a hard time for those who want to begin their legal studies in the next calendar year. This is also a difficult time of the year academically for students who are still in school. You will need to have selected the schools to which you are applying before the test. This means it is impossible to know your scores when you choose the schools and work on the applications. Currently you can obtain your scores online in three weeks if you have an online account. You can get your scores over the phone with a \$10 fee if you do not have an online account. Be aware if you do have an online account you must pay a \$25 one time fee to get hard copies of your information that is available online. With the December test, however, you have no fall back position, if you do not do as well as expected. You may also not have time to pursue new applications if you get an unexpectedly high or low score. As noted above, your chances of acceptance goes down the later you apply, so you are starting late with the December test. For certain schools you might also miss the financial aid deadline unless you apply without knowing your score.

### 4. The February Test

The February test may be the least used by traditional college students. There is also a February test date available for Saturday Sabbath observers; the deadline for registration will be early January. In many cases if you take the test in February you have missed the deadline to apply for fall admissions. If you are able to apply for admissions for that



academic year, your chances of admittance are lower than if you had applied earlier in the year. Almost assuredly you have missed the deadlines for financial assistance. Despite that this test is less often used, it may be a good choice for Salisbury University Juniors. Those who do not want to take the June test, can prepare over January break and then take the test near the beginning of the semester. This has several advantages, if you wish to retake the test you have the option of the June test, or the October test if the June is unsuitable for you. Law schools also often buy information from the February test. As noted under the June test information, this can also result in fee waivers for applications and other benefits.

While there may be many schools who have deadlines which allow for the February test, because of rolling admissions policies, there may be few or no spaces left. As applications come in spaces are allotted and fewer and fewer are left. The ones remaining are often held for exceptional applicants who apply. Schools want to make sure they have spots available for the applicant with a 4.0 UGPA and 172 LSAT score who applies in February. The student who is slightly above the median, however, who would be admitted in November is generally rejected in February.

5. What if I am not planning on going to law school immediately after graduation?

If you are not going to law school immediately after college, you may have more freedom to choose an LSAT not tied to the academic schedule, though you may have constraints based on your specific schedule. Still, you should make sure you take the LSAT no later than the September/October test the calendar year before you would like to enter law school. The February or June test in the calendar year before you would like to enter law school is likely preferable in case you decide to retake the test. You may have more flexibility and may choose to take the test the previous December, or even earlier, depending on your ability to prepare.

**Specific test dates, locations and registration deadlines can be found at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)**

#### B. Registering for the LSAT

The easiest way to do this is to go to <http://www.lsac.org> and follow the links. Please note to apply to law school you should also register for the LSDAS. The LSDAS also keeps your

records, transcripts, LSAT scores, and is used as a credential service, forwarding your letters of recommendation to all schools for which you apply. You can also register by mail. You can pick up the LSAT registration book from the Political Science/ Sociology office in Fulton Hall, or from the prelaw advisor.<sup>4</sup> You can also call (215) 968-1001 to register. If you do that please review either the website or the book for all the information which you need to provide and have it handy when you call.

It is in your interest to register as soon as you know your plans. The earlier you register the better chance you have at getting your first or second choice test center. If you register late you may have to take an undesirable or distant test center.

### C. Preparing for the test

#### 1. What is the test structure?

The test includes five thirty-five minute multiple choice questions and a thirty-five minute writing sample. Only four of the five multiple choice sections are graded. The other section is used as an experimental section which means questions are field tested. Please DO NOT try to guess which section is the experimental one. It is difficult to determine and test takers are notoriously bad at determining which section is the experimental one. Try to approach each section with your best effort.

The writing sample is also ungraded so there are only four graded sections in the exam. This includes one section of reading comprehension. In this section there are 4 reading passages each followed by questions about the passage. Since June 2007, one of these sections is what is known as "comparative reading." These are two shorter passages adding up to the length of one ordinary passage. Most of the questions following the passages have to do with the relationship between the passages. There is one section of analytical reasoning, commonly known as "logic games." There are four "games" per section in which you figure out logical results based on given conditions. There are also two sections of logical reasoning.

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<sup>4</sup>The LSAT registration book also includes a sample test and is worth picking up even if you register online. The last hard copy book available will be for the tests for June 2009-February 2010. After that the registration book will be available online only. The sample test is also available on line.

These question attempt to determine your ability to analyze arguments in various ways. The experimental section can be from any of these three types of sections. The writing sample is ungraded, but it is photocopied and sent to every school to which you apply. Why some schools may not pay close attention to the essay, others may. Indeed, if you are "on the bubble" at a particular school, or have a lower UGPA the school may look at the essay to see if you can construct a cogent argument.

## 2. Should I take a prep course?

It is common for students who would like to attend competitive law schools or those who have marginal credentials to take prep courses. Often, however, students, particularly who do well on standardize tests forego these courses. For those students the course is unlikely to boost your performance much more than decent self-preparation, provided one does a decent self-preparation. Good prep courses would also require you to prepare. If you are not going to do the homework and preparation that the course directs, it is less likely to help you. Courses also usually include several practice exams and many students find these simulated exams helpful. Exams under simulated test conditions may reduce your anxiety and raise your scores. Often students find that these practice exams by themselves are worth the price of the course. You need to decide your own situation. Given the high cost of prep courses, it may not be worth the money for you and should not be considered *de rigueur* especially if you do well on standardized tests. On the other hand, given the high cost of law school, prep courses are a small investment if warranted. Generally, a prep course is most beneficial for people who fit in to at least one of the following categories.

a. People who do poorly on standardized tests in general. These are people whose grades on standardized tests consistently fall short of what one would predict based on other academic measures (e.g. if your SAT scores were of a lower percentile than your GPA would indicate). If you are one of these people, learning the fundamentals of good test-taking may be helpful (this is not always the case, however, depending on your particular problem). Conversely if you have a history of doing well on standardized tests you will likely do well on the LSAT. There is a correlation between different standardized tests. Being a strong test taker makes it much less likely that a prep course will be helpful.

b. If you do not believe you have the self-discipline to prepare on your own a prep course will also likely be beneficial. Indeed, this is likely the greatest benefit of a prep course. You will need to do practice questions during the class and to do some prep work before each class meeting. The high cost also inspires people to put in effort they might not otherwise. On the other hand, if you will do preparation on your own, review the test, and practice questions of each type a prep course may not benefit you.

c. There are also psychological reasons to take a prep course. Some people find that the positive reinforcement they get from a prep course boosts their confidence. Most people do best on any test when they are relaxed and confident. Indeed, some people feel that they will be at a competitive disadvantage if they do not take a course. While this is may be untrue if you prepare on your own, if you believe it to be true, it may become true; therefore, if you believe you need a course to be relaxed and confident you may, indeed, benefit from a course.

Keep in mind that most prep courses prepare for changes in the test structure in advance. When I took the test in the 1990s, for example, there were two sections of analytical reasoning and one of the logical reasoning. It is reverse now. In mid-2007 there was also a change to the reading comprehension section adding a comparative reading passage. The good prep courses structure their courses so you will be ready for the new structure of the exams when you take them, at least a few months before the change takes place. If you study out of published books (Aarco, Baron, or the like) the publishing of the changes will not take place until a year or more (sometimes considerably more) after the changed exams are given.

d. Lastly, prep classes and study are most likely to improve scores in the "logic games" (analytical reasoning) section. Courses can teach how to do these problems for those people for whom it is not intuitive. They can also teach you some shortcuts if you find that you have trouble finishing more than one "game" or so, in the time allotted. It is the least likely to help, on the other hand, with the reading comprehension section. Reading comprehension is essentially a lifelong skill. While a course can help with test taking techniques, it is unlikely that in a short time that the course can improve your reading comprehension. You should work on this throughout your academic career. Generally the logical reasoning section falls somewhere in between the "logic games" and the reading comprehension section. Courses can help you recognize different

kinds of questions and solution techniques, but are not as teachable as the "logic games" section. Essentially, a big portion of doing well in this section is reading comprehension and, as noted above, a course cannot teach this.

To make an evaluation of how helpful a course might be in your case, you likely want to take a sample test which will initially give you a score, without preparation. A higher score would make a course likely less necessary. It will also let you know on what kind of questions you are more proficient and on what kind of questions you may need some work. This may help you decide on the necessity of a course, and help you focus your study. For your "diagnostic" test or for your self study I would strongly recommend that you use actual LSAT exams rather than books produced by companies which write their own tests. The reason is that they never adequately capture the difficulty of the real tests. They tend to give a score higher than the one you will actually receive in the exam. In addition to the exam in the test preparation booklet (also available online), you can buy additional past exams from the LSDAS website.

### 3. Which prep course should I take?

Salisbury University has been able to bring a Princeton Review Course to the Campus in the spring of 2008. We expect to have Princeton Review on Campus again in the spring of 2010. This course will be scheduled to for you to optimally take the June LSAT. Unfortunately, there are no other regular LSAT prep courses available in the Salisbury area. If the Salisbury University course does not suit your needs, therefore, you may be able to arrange for tutoring. There are, in addition, many courses which you may be able to take, by either traveling to the course or by attending the class during a school break, (there are some pamphlets available from your prelaw adviser).

The two largest Prep organizations are Stanley H. Kaplan ([http://www.kaplan.com/etc/lsat/law\\_index.html](http://www.kaplan.com/etc/lsat/law_index.html) or 1-800-KAP-TEST), and Princeton Review ([http://www.review.com/law/law\\_homepage.html](http://www.review.com/law/law_homepage.html) or 1-800-865-7737). These courses may be available in your hometown if you live on the Western shore and can be taken in the summer or in the December/January intersession. If you take the course significantly before the test, you should take a refresher course shortly before the test (this is usually part of the package). If, for example, you take the course summer before you Junior year, you should take the refresher course in January or May for the February or June

tests respectively. Princeton review also on occasion can provide a tutor for individual instruction. These tutors may be willing to travel; call for availability.

Students sometimes ask which course is better. I have some mild preferences, but the major issue is what is available in your area and what your schedule is for the class. I do, however, think it is very important that you take a class which occurs over several weeks and requires study and preparation between classes rather than the "cram" classes that occur over a day or a couple of days, typically a weekend shortly before the exam. It is difficult for the "cram" classes to really raise you score much if at all, unless you are entirely unfamiliar with the exam. While the techniques taught in these courses might be helpful, there is not adequate time for practice or review. Use this courses only as a last resort, when you need a course to help overcome test anxiety or reinforce knowledge about test questions. Any course is more effective if you prepare and understand something about the test structure and your personal strengths and weaknesses before the course, and continue to prepare and practice what you learned during and after the class.

The major issue is whether these classes will raise your score or not. If your pretest shows a score which is in the top few percentile it is difficult for a course to be of help. The course is unlikely to give you any strategy or benefit that will be able to significantly raise your score. If it does raise you score any benefit will be minimal, moreover. The reason for this is that the LSAT scores are on a logarithmic scale. A few points at the top of the scale is unlikely raise your chances at admittance. You need to judge for yourself a cutoff number at which a course might be no longer beneficial but probably somewhere in the 160s range is a good number, 165 give or take. Hopefully, an example will be helpful to explain the reasons why.

Let's say you would get 167 on the LSAT without a course. You are doing most things correct to begin with and it would be difficult for a course to give you strategies or approaches which are likely to raise your score significantly if at all. Even in the unlikely event that the course and the accompanying studying were to raise your score three points, your percentile rank would be raised from 96.4 at the 167 score to 98.4 at the 170 score. Essentially you will have moved from doing better than all but about 3000 of the 85,000 or so applicants, to better than all but about 1400 of the 85,000 or so applicants.

While this may sound like an improvement it is unlikely to make a difference in all but the most elite schools which select among these students exclusively and possibly not then depending on your UGPA.

If you compare this to the middle of the scale, however, the difference becomes obvious. In the middle of the scale, where most people lie, courses are more likely to make a difference. An additional two or three points on the middle of the scale can change the character of an application. If you were to score a 151 on your own which is slightly better than half of the test takers or the 50.5 percentile. It is more likely that a course can teach you strategies and helpful approaches, than at significantly higher scores. If your score improves, moreover, 3 points to 154, you have increased your score to the 63.3 percentile. This is quite a jump and can cause quite a difference when applying to schools, especially considering that there is usually one seat for every two test takers or so. Improving your score from 151 to 154 will essentially move you from doing better than almost 43,000 of the 85,000 or so applicants, to better than nearly 54,000 of the 85,000 or so applicants. You may want to factor in this information when choosing a course or whether to take one at all. This also shows the importance of doing an accurate pretest, to figure out where you stand.

#### 4. How should I prepare on my own?

When preparing on your own you should first take the sample test available with the registration materials and familiarize yourself with the test. You should probably prepare with old tests available from LSAT individually, in groups of three, or in groups of ten. You may also want to get one of the many prep books available to work on the different kinds of questions. These books, on the other hand, are not as good for dry-runs of sections and tests. As I noted this is because the overall difficulty of these produced books often varies, sometimes substantially, from the difficulty of the actual test giving you a false sense of your final score. You should try doing some timed sections of authentic tests and take at least one full sample test, therefore.

#### D. Taking the test

Make sure you know your testing location. If it is unfamiliar to you, you should take a practice trip. You will likely do best if you are calm and relaxed. Running late does not facilitate this mood. If the test center is far away you may want to go the day before and stay overnight. Remember, registering early makes it more likely that you will get a desirable testing location.

When you go to the test center make sure you have several number 2 pencils and erasers, your admission ticket, and a form of identification which is "positive or descriptive enough so the test center supervisor has no doubt as to the authenticity of your identification." You should likely bring a snack for the test break as well.

Please be aware anything you bring into the test must be brought in a one gallon (3.79 liter) clear ziploc bag. The only things you are allowed to put in your clear ziploc bag is LSAT admission ticket, ID, wallet, keys, hygiene products, pencil, highlighters, erasers, pencil sharpeners, tissues, beverage in plastic container, or juice box (**maximum size 20 oz**) and snack. You are **not allowed** to bring cell phones or digital watches. Indeed bringing in cell phones or digital watches is considered to be "misconduct." Depending on the proctors an action can be started against you for cheating.

#### E. Your Score

Review your score report when it arrives or when you access it on line. It will list the answer you marked and note whether it is a credited (i.e. correct) response. If any of the information is incorrect notify LSAT before the deadline. Mistakes are rare, but they have happened. You also have the opportunity to challenge any question. Again, such challenges are rarely successful, but it has happened. Please note there are two types of exams those which are "disclosed" and those which are "undisclosed." On the "disclosed" tests you will also get a copy of the exam so you can see the questions. If you take an "undisclosed" exam you do not get a copy of the exam with your answers.

If you believe after the test that you had a particularly bad performance, you can cancel your score. You can actually do this before you leave the test site. If you choose this option your test will not be graded. PLEASE RESIST THE URGE TO CANCEL



YOUR TEST AT THE TEST CITE. If you do cancel it, there is no way to get your test graded at a later date. If you do not cancel your score at the test cite, you can still get your score canceled within six days if you think it is necessary. Most likely it is NOT in your interest to cancel your score. Most people are not good predictors of their performance; you will also need to take the exam again and will likely be under more pressure if you do. If you are correct and you do get a bad score, it may not damage your chances of law school admission much depending on your UGPA and the schools to which you are applying. You are limited, moreover in the number of times you can take the LSAT. You may only take the exam three times in a period of two years. If you cancel your score, LSAC counts it as you having taken the test despite your not receiving a score. For the past several years law schools see all the scores for all the LSAT exams that you take. While some schools may take an average of the scores. Most schools take the higher score. Unless you can point to a particular problem which will not be present the next time you take the exam. You realized late, for example, you put the answers in the wrong spots, or fell asleep during the exam, it is likely not in your interest to cancel your score. If you want to cancel your score you may want to discuss this with your prelaw adviser before you do so.

F. What if I do not do as well as I expect?

You **may** want to retake the test. LSDAS notes, however, that its test shows a 90 to 95% accuracy. This means that the vast majority of retesters get roughly the same score. (NB: your actual score is reported as is a score band. This band is based on your score and the standard deviation in which it falls, i.e. it may vary in size, but in the middle of the testing range it is likely about five or six points.) It is likely that retaking the test will not be in your not result, therefore, in a higher score. Unless your pretests indicate a much higher score **and** you have taken the pretests under actual test conditions, you likely want to forego the retest.

Beginning with the application year of 2007 law services does report all scores from the last five years, not the average as was their previous practice. This does not change this advice, however. Law Services advise:

research indicates that when an applicant has taken the LSAT more than once, the average of the scores has more predictive validity than any one of the scores *unless special circumstances are present*. Otherwise, a decision to use one of the separate scores rather than the average is probably unwise

Still some law schools average scores and some schools just take the highest score in considering your application. You need to know the practice of the schools in which you are interested. Even if your desired school(s) take the higher score, if you repeat the test and get roughly the same score, as most retakers do, you will merely be confirming the LSAT score and reducing the ability of your GPA to counterbalance it. Only if there is a significant difference between the scores will the school be likely to believe the first one is a mistake or not an accurate reflection of your ability. Remember, though unlikely, it is possible that you can do worse. LSAC will send all scores from the last five years to the law schools to which you apply.

Unless you can look back on the test day and identify some special circumstances that will likely NOT be present on the retest, you should consider foregoing the retest. Examples of factors which may lean toward the retest are unusual problems with the testing center, ill health which negatively affects your performance, or lack of preparation to the extent that you were unfamiliar with the questions and were compelled to leave many blank. Essentially if you can identify a specific problem and fix it, it is likely in your interest to do a retest. If not, stay away.

There are two other situations where I would recommend taking the retest. The first is if your LSAT grade was in the bottom 20% (below 144 or so) or so than you should probably retake the test even if you cannot identify and correct a specific problem. The reason is that unless your grades are quite good, you have nothing to lose by a retest because it is difficult to get into a law school with LSAT scores this low and without compensatory high grades.

If you have a high UGPA, you are in a slightly different situation. If you get one of these low LSAT scores but have a UGPA  $4.0 > 3.7$  or even  $4.0 > 3.6$  you probably will not gain by retaking the test. You will no longer be able to get into an elite law school, but you are unlikely to be able to go even with a good retest. The competition for these schools is just too tough. You will still likely be able to go to a good law school. If you retake the test and do not do significantly better, you may have weakened your position.

The second situation where you may want to do a retest is if you have a high UGPA, are looking at elite law schools, but you get merely a good LSAT score in the 60 or 70th percentile.

Here is why. There are 3 options: you do better, you do approximately the same, or you do worse. If you do better -- great -- you now have a shot at those schools that you would like to attend. If you do the same -- O.K. -- you have not weakened your position and can still go to a good school. If you do worse -- it is not too bad -- unless you get a really bad score, 20th percentile or worse, your situation is not significantly weakened and you should still be able to go to one of your second choice law schools.

If you end up with a weak LSAT score or repeat a low LSAT score and do not have a high compensatory UGPA see the sections on marginal credentials below.

Please remember **the LSAC does not permit an applicant to take the LSAT more than 3 times in any two year period.** They advise that, **"this policy applies even if you cancel your score or it is not otherwise reported. LSAC reserves the right to cancel your registration, rescind your admission ticket, or take any other steps necessary to enforce the policy."** They do waive this policy if a particular law school requires a more recent LSAT from you, but such a requirement must be provided in writing before the test registration deadline.

Also remember, all scores from the last five years will be reported to each school. There is no way to get this policy waived. After five years, however, your scores are expunged unless you request otherwise. Most schools will not accept older scores, however. If you do extremely poorly and worst comes to worst, you can wait until the scores are removed before you reapply.

#### G. A note on cheating.

I hope this goes without saying, but **DON'T!** LSAC puts a lot of effort and money into identifying and catching cheaters. Do not give them a reason to investigate you. Do not joke about cheating or give the proctors a hard time. If LSAC finds that you have been cheating that will be reported to all law school to which you apply. They will do this forever; there is no five year expiration date on this report as there is on the LSAT. If such a report is made, it is unlikely that any law school will admit you. You are better off with a weak score and/or having to go to a less desirable law school, then you are being barred from all law schools. It is not worth the risk. Please note: **bringing a cell phone, or even a digital watch, to the test**

**center is considered misconduct and depending on the mood of the proctors can be considered cheating.** Please read the entire rules in the LSAT / LSDAS information book.

#### Section IV -- Where should I apply?

Essentially you are best off going to a more selective school rather than a less selective one. This is especially true if you are not sure what kind of job you would like after school. More selective schools give you more options. You will have increased access to summer employment opportunities, recruitment by selective firms, and, in general, find it easier to gain the employment of your choice.

On the other hand there are schools which are strong in certain fields e.g. the University of Vermont for environmental law. If you have a particular interest and know what you likely want to do after law school, you should try to go to a school which is strong in your particular interest. Still, among this group it is better to go to a more selective rather than a less selective school.

You should also apply to more than a school or two. One of the more common mistakes made by prospective law students is that they do not apply to enough schools. Very few schools can be considered 'safe.' This is especially true because the number of applications change from year to year and different schools become more competitive, while others may become less so. In the 2008-2009 application year, applications to law school rose approximately five percent. In other years they have fallen. It is often difficult to predict how your application will fare in an upcoming year. If you only apply to one or two schools when rejected by these, you have few or no options. Still, it is important to apply to schools to which you have a good chance of being accepted. While Stanford, Harvard, and Yale might give you the best chance of the job of your choice, if you have merely average to good credentials (UGPA 3.3 and LSAT 158, for example), it is probably not in your interest to apply. So what you need to do is identify the schools that you would like to attend, and that might extend to you an offer of admission.

#### A. Will I get in?

##### 1. The 25%-75% range

The best way to calculate your chance of acceptance to one of the ABA approved law schools is to examine *The Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools* available from Law Services. You can buy a hard copy from Law Services or access it through Law Services website, [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org). Click on the link for the

official guide to ABA approved law schools. The guide provides information on each law school, including the 25%-75% range for UGPA and LSAT.<sup>5</sup> For the University of Maryland full time program, for example the UGPA range is 3.43 to 3.77. This means that only 25% of the admitted students had UGPAs below 3.43 and 25% had UGPAs above 3.77. The LSAT range for the University of Maryland is 161-166

## 2. Ranges and Grids

When you examine these ranges, you must be cautious. DO NOT think that if your grades fall in these ranges you will likely be admitted. That is not the case. University of Maryland removed grids from their law school descriptions (for more about grids and their absence see below), but a comparison with the University's 2002 admission data is instructive. In 2002 the University of Maryland, had a UGPA range is 3.29 to 3.71. This means that only 25% of the admitted students had UGPAs below 3.29 and 25% had UGPAs above 3.71. The LSAT range for the University of Maryland was 155 to 162. Among the 221 students with UGPAs between 3.5 and 3.74 and LSATs between 155 and 159 who applied for admittance in 2002 only 72 were accepted. While these odds are good, nearly a third of the students in this range were admitted, there is a better chance that a student in this range will be rejected than accepted, despite they are solidly in the 25%-75% range on both UGPA and LSAT. Also, do not misinterpret the 25% mark. Although 25% of the admittees do have UGPAs under 3.29, most are likely close to that point. In addition, most will likely have compensatory high LSATs. According to the University of Maryland's published statistics, less than 2.5 % of applicants with identifiable scores below both ranges were admitted. These students, moreover likely stand out due to experience or other factors. Many of them are likely not traditional applicants.

How do you know if you can get into the University of Maryland? The 25%-75% ranges provide merely a quick guide. You can figure if your grades are above both ranges, your chances are quite good. If one of your scores is in range and the other above, or if both are high in that range, you are still competitive for admittance. On the other hand if your scores are toward the bottom of the range, or one or both of them are below the range, the odds that you will be admitted are poor.

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<sup>5</sup> After the you choose the guide to ABA approved law schools to obtain the 25%-75% ranges you chose "all law schools." You can then sort by admissions data.

If your scores are low, you probably only want to apply if the school is particularly desirable in some way. If you think you may want to apply to the school after this quick check you can access the schools entry in the *The Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools*. Each school provides a two page "Law school description." At the end of the description for the majority of schools are grids which give data on applications and acceptances (see below for what to do if there is no grid).

These grids divide applicants into categories based on UGPA and LSAT. In each category the school lists the number of applicants and the number of those applicants who have been accepted. To calculate your chances of admittance, you should find the box that corresponds to your scores. Then see what percentage of students in that category have been accepted. These are roughly your chances of being accepted at the university.

Given that many applicants who scores are between the 25% and 75% scores gain an offer of admission and many do not, here is where your application or personal story can make a difference. If you are in this category it is especially important to apply early, have strong letters of recommendation, a carefully constructed resumé, a well written and distinctive personal statement, and carefully written additional essays.

I have attached as appendices some information gleaned from the grid from George Washington University and the University of Baltimore from the last admission year (This is based on the **2008** incoming class).<sup>6</sup> The 25%-75% scores for George Washington University was UGPA 3.35-3.85 (median 3.75, please note the median is near the TOP of the range) and LSAT 163-168 (median 167, again note the median is near the TOP of the range). In the three most advantageous cells in the left hand corner of the chart (UGPA 3.75 and above and LSAT 170 and above and UGPA of 3.50-3.74 and LSAT above 175) George Washington University received 140 applications. Of those 140 who applied in this category 136 were accepted to the University. While 4 people were rejected, the acceptance rates in this category was over 95%. It is not easy to tell why those who applied in those categories were rejected. It may be because they applied late in the application year, had bad letters or recommendation, or made some bad impression on the admission's staff, such as not

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<sup>6</sup> You can find the raw data in The George Washington University Law School description in the official guide to ABA approved law schools. I have converted the numbers into percentages for explanatory purposes.

writing the essay on the LSAT. What these data show is everyone needs to take applications seriously. Still, if your credentials are in these categories you can likely consider this school a "safety school." While you are not guaranteed admission, assuming this year's application class is much like past years', and you comply with application deadlines and criteria, and have good letters of recommendation, you should be accepted. As you can see from the percentages if your LSAT scores are above 175 and have a UGPA above 3.25, or an LSAT between 170-174 and a UGPA above 3.5, or an LSAT between 165-169 and a UGPA above 3.75 you can also consider this school a safety school.

The next group of categories are ones where admittance is likely, but not safe. These are cells with a better than 50% average. These include the remaining cells where the applicants LSAT score is above 170 and the UGPA is above 2.25 or 2.50 (it is difficult to tell at this level what your chances are because the low UGPA and very high LSAT yields a low number of applications making it difficult to generalize) and 3.50-3.74 UGPA and 165-169 LSAT score. Each of these cells represents a range. If your scores are in the top of these ranges your chances are better and worse if they are in the lower part of the range. In the top part of the range your application may approach "safe status." If your scores are in the bottom part of the range, you may want to approach your application as if it is the next category, competitive.

The next group of scores would make this school competitive. This means that while most students in the range may not gain admittance, a significant number do. This is roughly where your chance of admittance would be between 25% and 50%. Students whose scores fall in this range can gain admittance with strong applications. Again, chances are better if your scores are in the top half of the range and worse in the bottom part of the range. This includes those applicants with LSAT score of 165-169 and UGPA of 2.25-3.49 and LSAT 160-164 and a UGPA of 3.75+.

If your scores fall in any of the rest of the cells, your chances are poor. If your scores are in these cells, you should consider the school a long shot. There are two kinds of long shots. The first kind is that which gives you a small but significant chance of obtaining admission, greater than 10% like students with UGPA greater 3.75 and LSAT scores between 155-159. The rest are the long, long shots, where the chance of admission



in less than 10%. The chances of getting into a school when your scores fall in a category where less than ten percent of the applicants are admitted, especially as a traditional applicant, is extremely unlikely. Please note numbers are as important as percentages. UGPA of 2.25-2.49 and LSAT of 170-174 looks promising with a 50% admission rate, but this is based on two applications, where one person managed to catch the eye of the admission's committee.

There is something to note about George Washington University's admission statistics. Overall this is a highly competitive school and has been increasingly competitive over the last few years, but for the 2008 admission year for which they publish statistics applications at George Washington University were down from 10,258 in the 2007 published grid to 8886 in 2008. The University which accepted on 20% of applicants for 2007 accepted 23% for 2008. This is an example of how things change year to year in the admissions process in ways that cannot always be predicted. While 3.3 UGPA and 152 LSAT not going to help you gain admission despite to George Washington University despite the variations of the admission year. Last year just under half of those with UGPA between 3.5 and 3.74 and LSAT between 164-169 gained admission and this year slightly more than half did (this is the most populous category of applicants). Be aware the reverse often happens that application numbers and competitiveness often rises. Applying early can safeguard you against the rise in applications. If you are in this category an apply early, you chance of admittance is likely good (sometime quite good) and if you apply after the first of the year it can be low (often approaching zero), especially if quality or number of applications rises.

If you compare the George Washington University grid with the one available from the University of Baltimore some other things become apparent. While 3.3 UGPA and 152 LSAT will fail to gain admittance to George Washington University over 99% of the time, the same scores put you in a grid where 85 or 144 applicants were offered admittance (more than 50 percent) at the University of Baltimore. Depending on your scores you may want to apply to one school or the other, both, or neither. You may also notice from examining the University of Baltimore grid that the school is putting a premium on LSAT scores. You can see this by the dramatic drop in some categories, but also the ability of high LSAT scores to override low UGPAs. Careful examination of the grids can help you glean much information,

and help you develop application strategies and find appropriate range of schools for which to apply.

### 3. What if the school does not publish a grid?

Not all schools make grids available. Indeed, the trend has been to move away from grids for more and more schools. You need to rely on other information to determine your chance at admissions. You should have the 25%-75% information available as well as information about the character of the school.

Certain schools, such as Harvard or the University of Pennsylvania do not publish grids, but are known as elite schools. Most applicants should consider these schools long shots (Harvard's 25%-75% is 3.76-3.94 for UGPA and 167-173 for LSAT, Penn's 25%-75% is 3.37-3.76 for UGPA and 165-168 for LSAT). Remember from the grids: if both your scores are in this range, it is often more likely you will be rejected than accepted. No matter your UGPA and LSAT most students will be rejected from these schools and are therefore long shots.

There are also schools that do not publish grids which are not part of the elite tier. The University of the District of Columbia for example does not publish a grid. Its 25%-75% range is quite large, however 2.8 to 3.25 for UGPA and 149-155 for LSAT). More information is also available from what the school does publish. UDC for example writes instead of a grid

The David A. Clarke School of Law prides itself on its admission philosophy, comprehensive and competitive admission process and student diversity. While applicant profile grids can be helpful to students they may also discourage some students whose numerical profiles are slightly below the school's LSAT and GPA Medians, but whose life experiences, for example, may be compelling. Numbers do not always provide an accurate picture of an applicant's potential for law study or motivation to succeed. ...The student body is a diverse and accomplished group. The age range of our students is 20 years to 62 years. The average age is 28 years. People of color comprise about half of the student body. Women comprise more than half of the students. ...The LSAT mean for the fall 2008 entering class was 152, and the 25th and 75th LSAT percentiles were 149 and 155, respectively. The GPA median and mean were both about 3.00. The student body represents strong competency and contribution potential for the study of law.

From this information you can learn a lot. You can learn that the median LSAT and UGPA 152 (slightly higher than the average test taker) and 3.00 respectively. If your scores are higher than both of these marks you can likely consider yourself quite competitive for admission. You can also learn from the profile that UDC-DCSL has many non traditional students and may focus more on experience than many other schools. They would likely view the life experience of the non-traditional student as compensation for the lower UGPA or LSAT. Indeed, they are willing to hear about "compelling" life stories and seek diversity to compensate for lower scores. This might give you an avenue to admittance which you otherwise would not have. Also if you were to follow UDC's statements over a few years you would notice changes. The average LSAT has increased and the average age decreased this shows probably a more competitive class as well.

#### 4. The LSDAS filtering program

The LSDAS also provides a filtering program that provides your approximate chance of admittance at all the ABA approved law schools currently 199. If you go to [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org) and go to the approved law school guide, choose all law schools, and then click on the LSAT/UGPA filter. You can then enter your information. For each school it compares your LSAT and UGPA to the schools median range. It also gives you your rough chance of admission. Please note this is rough. The chances of admission is always given as a range of at least ten percent and sometimes significantly more. This data, moreover is based on the information from the last application year. Each year some schools experience a change in the number or quality of their applications. Other schools (such as recently the University of Baltimore) have changes in admission's policy. The filter program does not account for this. Some Schools note, moreover, that your chances of admittance may be overestimated in this program due to the combining less rigorous part time or conditional programs into the filter, depending on the reporting habits of the school. This should give you a sense of your chances of admittance, however, especially when combined with the 25-75 range and verbal descriptions.

## B. Other factors to consider when applying

While finding a school to which you will be accepted is important, you need to narrow down your list and find a school that suits you. This means you likely want to do research into perspective schools and think about some other criteria.

### 1. Courses

When you are choosing where to apply, you should have in mind if you have any specific areas which you would like to study. Specialization is not necessary in law school, but if you have an area which you would like to study you should see if that area is covered in the schools in which you are interested. While the first year of law school includes mainly the same courses no matter the school, the second and third year allow for greater flexibility. Some schools have clinics, many more course offerings, or allow you to take some courses in their graduate divisions. If this is something which concerns you, you may want to examine the offerings at a particular school. This information can be found in at the LSAC.org website. If you click on the ABA approved law schools you will get a list of the 199 ABA approved law schools. If you click on a school in which you are interested and choose ABA Law school data, you can get a rough idea about how many courses and what kind of courses are offered at different institutions.

### 2. Attrition

Also listed in ABA law school data is the schools attrition rate. This varies from extremely low, close to zero in some schools, to quite high, such as nearly 32% attrition in Thomas M. Cooley Law School's most recent first year report (more than half of that academic). This is important for several reasons. Schools which require a certain amount of academic attrition may be competitive. Some students thrive on that competition other do not. If you think the school will be a reach and many students are dismissed for academic reasons, you may want to consider other schools. High rates of nonacademic attrition may also give you pause and require some investigation. High or low attrition rate should not rule out schools but should be part of the academic picture.

### 3. Debt

The last thing you likely want to consider is debt. Unfortunately, many students consider debt load first and then make poor choices. They even may end up with more debt based on that choice. The least expensive schools do not necessarily

give you the lowest debt load. This is for several reasons. The first is living expenses. In the ABA Law School Data, living expenses are approximated. These vary widely from school to school. For example living expenses are estimated at about \$10,000 at University of Montana, but \$23,500 at New York University. Some schools or states allow law student to get in-state tuition after a semester or a year, while others do not.

One of the other concerns about debt is the ability to pay it back. Potential law student often mistakenly choose a less expensive school, even if that school has a lower record of job placement, and will likely lead to an inferior starting salary. You are likely in a better position choosing a school with a better placement record and record of starting salary despite its higher tuition. Remember, you will likely end up in significant debt and a few thousand dollars either way is likely a drop in the bucket.

#### C. Which applications should I submit?

##### 1. For Most applicants

Once you calculate the desirability and odds of obtaining admission and at a particular school, where should you apply? For most applicants (not including those with elite or marginal credentials -- see below) you should identify at least two schools which your admittance should be considered "safe." As long as you are careful about the applications, mindful of deadlines, and procure good letters of recommendation, you should be admitted to both these schools. Be aware, it is possible you will need to attend one of the schools that you consider "safe." Do not apply to a school you consider unacceptable.

Next you should apply to at least three schools at the likely and competitive category. While you might want to apply to some "likely admission" schools, unless one of these schools is your top choice for a particular reason, you should apply to at least one or two of schools in the competitive range. If you are in the competitive range, you have the credentials to attract the eye of the admissions office if you are careful with your application and essay. If you are not applying to any likely schools, you should up the number of competitive schools to which you apply.

Applying to a long shot school is unnecessary, but desirable. This is particularly true if there is something

about the long shot school which makes it desirable other than its mere selectiveness. Suppose that you are committed to working in environmental law and your first choice is the University of Vermont (Vermont Law School). Suppose your UGPA is 3.4 and your LSAT is 148 (about the 40th percentile). This puts you in a grid where approximately 27% of the students were admitted. Ordinarily, you would not gain admittance to a school were your credentials are in this category. If you are able to show a reason for you to be the person in this category that the school should accept, then it might, indeed, be you. If you show a long standing interest and activity in environment and law, write a persuasive essay and give the University additional indicators of success (a 4.0 in the fall of your senior year can be very helpful, for example -- you may want to discuss with your prelaw advisor what you may be able to do), you may obtain admittance. If there is a reason that you want to go to that school, the application is worth the odds. Depending on your interests, you may want to apply to several of these long shot schools. Each application, however, is time consuming and sometimes costly. You must calculate these factors against the odds of being admitted. Increasingly schools are accepting online applications which are often easier to prepare and are sometimes cost free.

Ordinarily, it is not worth applying to the long, long shot schools. Usually these schools have enough selectivity that you additional qualifications do not compensate for your lower credentials. It is only worth applying to a school in this category, and it is inadvisable to apply to more than one, if you have a particular reason to apply as with the regular long shot school. You must also have some additional credential which will compel the school to take a chance on you. If you have your heart set on one of these long, long shot schools, you may wish to delay entry into law school for a couple of years to see if you cannot compensate for your credentials in some way.

If you follow this advice you will likely apply to 2 "safe schools," 0-2 "likely schools" 2-4 "competitive schools" and 1-2 "long," or "long, long shot" schools. You will have applied to at least 5 schools if you are applying to no long shot schools, and more likely 7-8 schools.

## 2. For applicants with elite credentials

If you have elite credentials and are applying to elite schools, you will need to apply to more schools. The reason for this, is no matter your credentials, you will not be more than

competitive for admittance. Yale no longer published a grid, but the last time they did According to the grid, for example only 72 of the 132 applicants with UGPA 3.75 or greater and LSATs between 175-180 were admitted, under 55%. If you are in either of the adjacent grids UGPA of 3.75+ and LSAT of 170-174, or UGPA of 3.50-3.74 and an LSAT of 175-180, your chances of admittance drop to 28.7% and 26.2% respectively. This is despite that 3.75+ is the top UGPA category and the LSAT scale has 171 and above as better performance than 99% of test takers.

Essentially the only people in the competitive category are those with the extreme top of the UGPA and LSAT scale. For all others, this school is a long shot. Still most of Yale's 318 admittees came from these long shot groups. That is the nature of elite schools. If you are applying to elite schools, you need to apply to more schools, therefore. You should apply to at least five schools in this elite category. Indeed, you may want to apply for more. You also need to apply to two safety schools as all admittance in the elite category is somewhat capricious. This means you will apply to a minimum of 7 schools, and will likely apply to more.

### 3. For those with marginal qualifications

You might not be able to find any schools which would be considered "safe." At best you will probably find schools at which you are on the low end of competitive. If you are in this category you need to apply to many schools. If you can identify ten or even fifteen schools at which you may be marginally competitive, you should apply to all of them. You should also look for schools which tout that in their admissions that look at the "complete individual" or something akin to that. You may be able to sway admissions decisions at these schools with compensatory factors.

### D. What is the best way to use application to my advantage?

Applications can be a time consuming process. It is important that you make sure applications are complete, comply with instructions and are on time. The thing that is most likely to lead to a rejection from a safety school is problems with the application. Most schools now accept or encourage online applications. You may find it easier to use the online process as it eliminates redundancy. It also makes it easier to ensure that your application is received on time.

## 1. How should I deal with open ended questions?

If you are applying to schools which are long shots for you, or for which you are poorly competitive you can also use the application to your advantage. You can do that particularly with the open ended questions and the personal statement.

Sometimes schools ask you to list other qualifications you may have. Here you should list particular skills or experience which are not mentioned anywhere else in the application. Examples include proficiency in a foreign language, international experience, particular technical skills, publications, additional educational experience, proficiency in some performing art or craft (these should be backed by performances, exhibitions or other evidence of your proficiency).

A school might also ask you to describe any special circumstances that would shed light on your academic record. It is here, especially if your credentials are weak that you can explain them and minimize their negative implications. Do not dwell on your shortcomings but try to put them into context. For example, if you had two years of a 2.0 GPA, but after taking a couple of years off have maintained a 3.4 GPA, your overall GPA will still only be about 2.7, well below the competitive category at virtually all schools. You might try writing something like this,

I know my GPA is below your median. When I started college I was not mature enough for college work. After a break I renewed my studies and since my Junior year my GPA has been 3.4. These grades are a more accurate reflection of my ability than my overall GPA.

You can also do similar things with your LSAT score. Often this information can be placed in addenda to the application. Do not dwell on shortcomings. **Do not write essays that call attention to your weaknesses.**

## 2. What if my qualifications are marginal?

The above explanations are extremely helpful if you have a poor GPA. It is also extremely helpful if you are able to put together at least one 4.0 semester. Doing so will indicate that you have the ability and the discipline to do the work when it is important. The last semester of grades that the school sees (spring semester junior year or fall senior year if you are applying for admittance immediately upon graduation) need to be as high as possible. If applying in December you may want to send your December grades with the application.



### 3. How should I construct the personal statement?

You should submit a personal statement even if it is optional (if you are clearly in the 'safe' category you MAY want to skip it, but it is better to complete it; it shows a seriousness that schools desire). If your scores clearly put you in an automatic accept, or the automatic reject categories, they might only be skimmed, but for any school where you are in the competitive or even long shot category your essay might be more carefully evaluated.

Make sure your essay is well written, clear and grammatical. If it is not, it may raise a red flag. Indeed, it might make the admission official take a second look at a student which they would ordinarily admit. Also make sure your statement is of the adequate length. Optimal length is usually between 500 and 1000 words.

Often directions for the personal statements are vague. Most times you can write about almost anything. This can be seen advantageous as you can use similar essays for all the schools to which you apply. There are more effective ways to construct personal statements, however. Write about yourself, not in the abstract, but very specifically. It is good if you can tell a story about yourself that exemplifies the qualities that make you a desirable candidate and make you different from other applicants. You want the admission's committee to remember you and be able to summarize your story. This is best done if it fits in with the character of the whole application.

What you should not do is emphasize negatives. Above I noted that making a brief statement minimizing the importance of some of your weaker qualifications is a good idea. You should not continue to draw attention to your shortcomings, however. Do not write a personal statement about your weaknesses. If you tell a story or explain personal characteristics avoid statements which might have an admissions official conclude you are of questionable character. You should endeavor to sound thoughtful, mature, and dedicated.

What you should not do in the personal statement is try to be to be clever, poetic or cute. This is NOT a creative writing assignment. You need to be serious and concise. Do not use your precious space with quotations, instead write things in your own words. Admission's officers are often turned off by the mention of television shows, movies, or other cultural

reasons for applying. Also do not tell the admission's committee about the law, though what attracts you to law school is fine.

4. From whom should I get my letters of recommendation?

Law School is an academic exercise. You should get two academic letters, therefore. Sometimes, law schools will allow more than two letters. In these cases, you might want to send additional letters from lawyers, judges, or employers if they know you well and they can comment on your personal attributes. All letters should be sent to LSDAS; you must designate which letters are primary and secondary in this case, as some schools only accept two letters. Additional letters may indicate an interest in the law, or that you are a good worker, but law schools are most concerned that you will be able to achieve in law school and be able to do the work. This is especially true for schools which are all but your "safety" schools.

If you are applying after a significant time past your college graduation and have at least two years of working experience you may want a letter from an employer if it is compelling and explains attributes which would make you successful in law school. If you graduated five or more years ago it is generally expected to get a letter from an employer or a member of the graduate faculty.

5. When should I apply?

You should apply as early as possible. Most schools have a policy of rolling admissions. To guard against the possibility of not filling the entire class, or having to take weaker students to fill that class, most schools set their automatic accept line lower at the beginning of the application year and raise it slightly as the application year passes. While this is unlikely to get you into you long shot schools, early application makes it more likely to be accepted to your competitive schools.

## Section V -- What if I do not get in anywhere?

This is unfortunate, but it does happen. Planning your applications carefully (see above) will help minimize the chances of this happening. Still, it is possible that the schools to which you applied experience an upswing in the number or quality of applications, or the grades and LSAT scores you were waiting for were not as good as you expected. If this happens to you, you are in an unfortunate situation, but you are not without options.

### A. What Do I Do if I am on the Waiting List?

Waiting lists do not guarantee admission. If you have been accepted somewhere it is likely in your interest to decline an offer of a waiting list. This is because students have been called for admission just before, or even after, classes have started, causing disruption to their lives. If you know you will not accept the spot if offered, declining the waiting list can mean a lot to a student with fewer options than you.

If you have no other choices you should try to calculate your odds of being admitted. Many law schools rank their waiting lists and will disclose where you are on the list. They might also let you know how many people they usually take off the list. Less selective schools generally take more people off the waiting list than more selective schools. If you are at or near the top of the waiting list at a less selective school, you probably have a good chance to be admitted. If you are down the list, or if the law school will not give you any information, you should try to make other plans.

Be aware some schools will allow additional material to be submitted if you are on the waiting list. If the school in which you are interested allows this carefully prepare the allotted material. Some schools redo the waiting list after their seat deposit(s) are due. Some do not rank their list but try to take someone off the list most like the replace the student they lost. You need to contact the particular school for detail.

## B. What Other Options do I have?

You still have options to become a lawyer, though the path may be more difficult. Your options include seeking a conditional acceptance, acceptance in a part time or night division program, appealing a decision, reapplying in another application year, and choosing an unaccredited law school.

### 1. Can I secure a conditional acceptance?

You might be able to secure a conditional acceptance from certain schools. Some schools, indeed, have conditional acceptance programs. Some programs will require you to attend a summer program and then admit students on a space available basis. If you successfully complete a summer program, but you are not admitted, you are in a stronger application position for next year. Others guarantee acceptance on completion. Some of these conditional acceptance programs, however, have stringent requirements for completion, while others less so. Please note: if you are not admitted some schools will consider this as a dismissal from law school which you will be required to disclose on future applications. Some conditional acceptance programs have stringent requirements for admission, only open to those of disadvantaged background, for example, or certain geographical locations. Your prelaw advisor has a list of such programs.

### 2. Should I apply to a night or part-time program?

Some schools have night divisions. These are generally, but not always, less selective than the day division. Indeed, in some cases they are more selective. You need to check the admission standards for the particular school(s) in which you are interested. Some schools allow a certain number of students after a semester or a year transfer from the night or part time divisions to the day or full time divisions. If you are not accepted to any school, you may wish to try evening divisions, therefore. Since application deadlines are often later, moreover, you may be able to still apply for the upcoming academic year. Please be aware most night divisions are four year programs rather than three year programs. You should also be willing to stay in the program for all four years because meeting transfer requirements can sometimes be difficult.

### 3. Can I start in January?

There are currently twenty-five schools in the country which allow January start dates. If denied admission for the fall you can try to apply to these schools. Class size varies as does admission requirements. You prelaw advisor has a list of these schools. Please be aware not all of these schools

admit a full classes; some only admit students on a space available basis. Do not expect admittance to these programs to necessarily be easier than September admittance, however.

#### 4. Can I appeal a decision?

Appeals rarely work, but they have worked. If you are rejected by your "safety schools," you should call the school and ask why you were rejected. In many cases the school will require that you send your request in writing. You will then be sent an explanation by the dean. This explanation can be short and not give you much information, or it might be more extensive. When you appeal you should include a note of what your UGPA and LSAT scores are. It still occasionally happens that there are mistakes in transferring scores from paper to computer. Students have been rejected because of mistaken LSAT or UGPA score. If the school indicates that you were rejected because your application was incomplete, you should see what piece of information was missing. If it is something which was out of your control you may be able to convince the school that you should not be biased by the oversight and secure an offer of admission. Even if the school places the blame on you, you will probably have a good choice of admission in the future.

In most cases, however, the appeal will be denied. You will merely be told that your scores are below what is necessary to secure admission. You may, however, find out that you were rejected due to undisclosed information which you can disclose or correct in the future.

#### 5. Should I apply again?

After you review the reasons that you were unable to secure any offer of admission, you will have a better sense about whether you should apply again. You may come to the conclusion that your scores are too low to gain an offer of admission, or at least gain an offer in the near future.

On the other hand, if you find that you overestimated your credentials, you should apply to a different set of schools. If you ran into a tough application year, you may also wish to apply again. If you choose to apply again you should try to improve your credentials in the intervening year. You may want to try to find an interesting job, or internship that can improve your credentials. You can also consider attending a graduate program. While you will likely have difficulty attending a competitive graduate program if your credentials are weak for law school, you may be able to find a program in which

you are interested. Doing well in a graduate program will make it more likely that a school will look beyond your traditional numbers. You may want to wait two years to apply because no graduate grades will be available before you apply for the next academic year, unless you attend classes over the summer.

6. Should I attend a non-accredited law school?

If all else fails you may want to consider a non accredited law school. There are a handful of non-accredited schools. Think carefully before you do this. Check the regulations for taking the bar in the state which you intend to practice. See if your attendance at the particular unaccredited law school qualifies. Also be aware that if you go this route you might never be able to practice law in another state, or may need to wait a number of years before you do so.

## Section VI -- Law School and Criminal Records

Often students want to go to law schools who have criminal records of one kind or another. This can create a problem for law school admissions.

A. Can I go to law school if I have a criminal record?

Probably. A law school will likely only not accept you if your criminal record will keep you from being admitted to the bar (unable to practice law) in the state in which the school is located. You can call the bar in the state for information. If your transgressions are relatively modest or several years ago, you can likely attend law school. Underage criminal charges are unlikely to be problematic. An underage drinking charge at the age of nineteen, or an arrest for possession of marijuana, is rarely problematic, but a long history of crime, especially if it is ongoing, is problematic.

B. What should I disclose?

The rule should be, when in doubt disclose. The most important thing is that you disclose any criminal record that you do have. Your application to law school is compared to your application for the bar. If there is any discrepancy it can keep you from practicing law. The state bar might do their own investigation. They can discover things that you think might be long gone. Just because a lawyer or judge told you that you would not need to worry about this in the future, it does not mean that the bar examiners will not find out about it. If they do it will impact negatively on application to the bar. Your failure to disclose may keep you from the bar. Much of what needs to be disclosed depends on the question. If asked if you have ever been arrested you need to disclose any arrests. If it asks for convictions, you need to disclose those.

C. Do I still need to disclose my record if it is an underage crime or it has been expunged?

While times are changing, in general if you were convicted of a crime as a juvenile it should not affect law school admissions or admission to the bar. Still you should likely disclose it on the application depending on the question. A good rule of thumb is: if in the slightest doubt disclose. You may have been advised to get your record expunged. It is unlikely that there is anything which can be expunged which will keep you from entering law school. Certain jurisdictions will automatically expunge minor drug possession charges if the offender is not caught again in a certain period of time. If

this is the case you would most likely find out about it at the time of conviction or plea bargain. In most cases however, expunging one's record requires action on your part. The procedure to expunge your record varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. You need to call the court which issued your conviction and inquire. In some cases you may need to hire a lawyer. Depending on the crime and jurisdiction you may need to wait a period of time before your record is expunged.

Even after it is expunged, however, depending on how the question is asked at the particular school, you should still disclose. **Again: when in doubt disclose.** Much of what you need to disclose will depend on the question.

Remember, even if a criminal record has been expunged, or is a juvenile charge you are better off disclosing. Your law school application will be compared with your application to the Bar. Any discrepancy discovered by bar investigators may keep you from being admitted to the bar and, therefore, ever practicing law. Things come to light in various ways even if you think they will not. You may want to get a copy of your university disciplinary record as well. You should disclose any adverse findings on that as well. The university may send those adverse findings to the law schools as well. Just because a judge or lawyer has told you, "you never need to tell anyone about this," does not mean you need not disclose. If discovered later it will be worse. You want to be viewed as honest. You also can turn the negative into a positive. Explain what you learned about the experience. Again there is very little which can be expunged or which is done as a juvenile which can keep you from law school. Law schools may be impressed by your honesty. Law schools and state bars are increasingly expecting more and more disclosure.



## Section VII -- Your Pre Law Advisor

Some departments have their own prelaw advisors. These advisors are helpful in guiding you through your major and providing information about certain courses of interests. They may also be able to provide information about connections between your major and law.

Salisbury University has a prelaw advisor for the entire university who will advise you on your undergraduate program and law school admission, regardless of major. The university's prelaw advisor is Dr. Bobbi Adams. She is located in Fulton Hall room 269 and can be reached at 410-677-5426. In Dr. Adams' office, moreover, there are also brochures and pamphlets from various law schools. If you have any additional questions about what is in this pamphlet, or about what is not, feel free to contact Dr. Adams.

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## APPENDIX

### George Washington University Admissions 2008

	3.75+	3.50-3.74	3.25-3.49	3.00-3.24	2.75-2.99	2.50-2.74	2.25-2.49	2.00-2.24	below 2.00	total
175+	94.44	100	88.88	60	87.5	100	25			87.67
170-174	97.11	94.91	83.87	75.92	44.44	44.44	50			86.71
165-169	89.6	51.18	42.32	37.64	32.46	29.62	23.07	0	0	55.9
160-164	42.24	9.27	7.85	8.36	12	9.25	0	25		17.3
155-159	17.01	5.08	3.67	5.38	3.53	2.27	0	0	0	6.68
150-154	9.85	3.83	0.85	0.95	0	4.08	0	0		2.78
145-149	2.56	2.5	0.96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.84
140-144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
139+below	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
total	49.15	21.85	16.58	12.59	10.22	7.89	3.52	2.5	0	23.03

### University of Baltimore Admissions 2008

	3.75+	3.50-3.74	3.25-3.49	3.00-3.24	2.75-2.99	2.50-2.74	2.25-2.49	2.00-2.24	below 2.00	total
175+										
170-174		50			100		0			60
165-169	100	100	100	100	100	83.33	100			96
160-164	94.44	100	92.85	100	84.61	100	66.66	0	100	92.38
155-159	100	94.66	89.36	84.37	85.45	61.76	70	40		84.77
150-154	97.87	92.39	59.02	58.33	45.37	40.32	19.44	7.69	16.66	58.05
145-149	32.14	44.44	20.32	18.88	12.5	13.88	12	5.88	0	19.09
140-144	0	6.25	4.34	9.37	2.46	1.53	2.94	0	0	3.71
135-139	0	5.55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.48
130-134	0	0	0	0	0	6.66	0	0	0	1.63
129+below			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
total	70.88	68.52	45.98	40.12	29.45	23.07	16.93	8.33	7.14	38.89