

Applying to Law School

Information about the process & how to
prepare
for your law school application(s)



Further Education team



Eden (she/her)

Lover of all thing's food! I love trying new foods, playing sports, and spending time with family and friends. I'm facilitating from the territories of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee Peoples.



Becky (she/her)

I make windchimes from thrifted materials; I love apple crisp; and swimming with my dog. I'm facilitating from the territories of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee Peoples.

What's On The Agenda For Today



Rough Timeline
of Canadian Law
School
Applications

Components
of a Law
School
Application

How To Prep
for Your
Application

Q&A

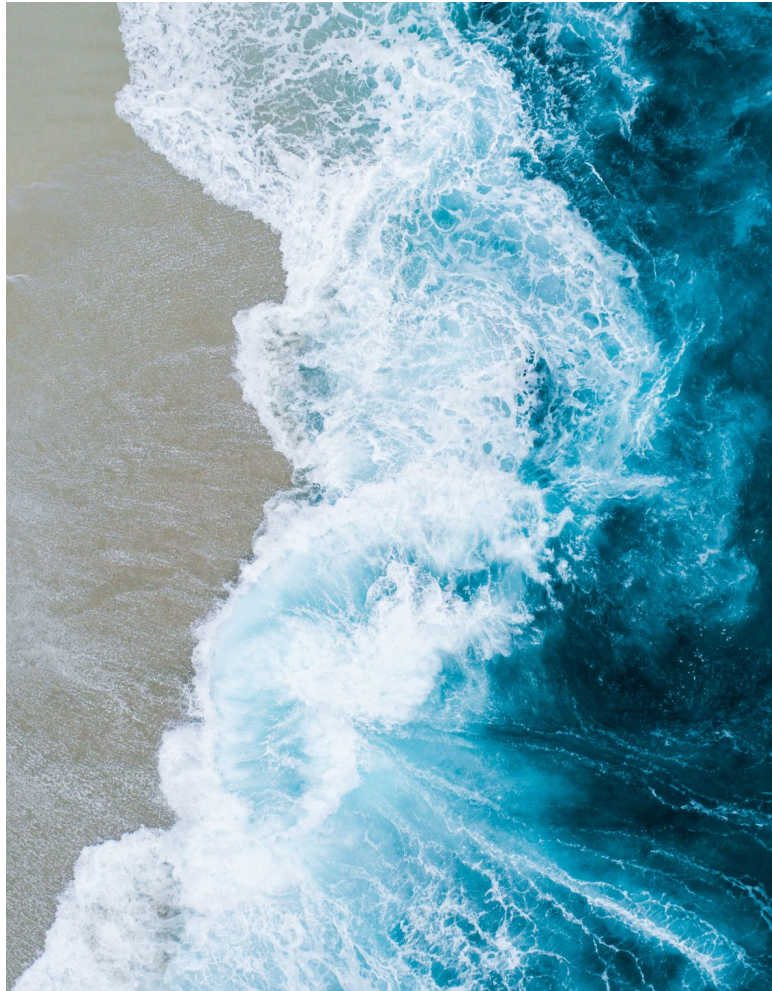
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Timeline Canadian Schools



What are the components of a law school application?

This really depends on the Canadian school!



Transcript & Grades

- GPA or average



CV/Resume



Online Application

OLSAS, UCAS, LSAC



Letters of Reference



Personal Statement



Autobiographical Sketch



LSAT Score(s)



Other

Investigate requirements!

What is a GPA?

Each individual percentage grade converted to GPA value then all GPA values combined and averaged to calculate cumulative GPA

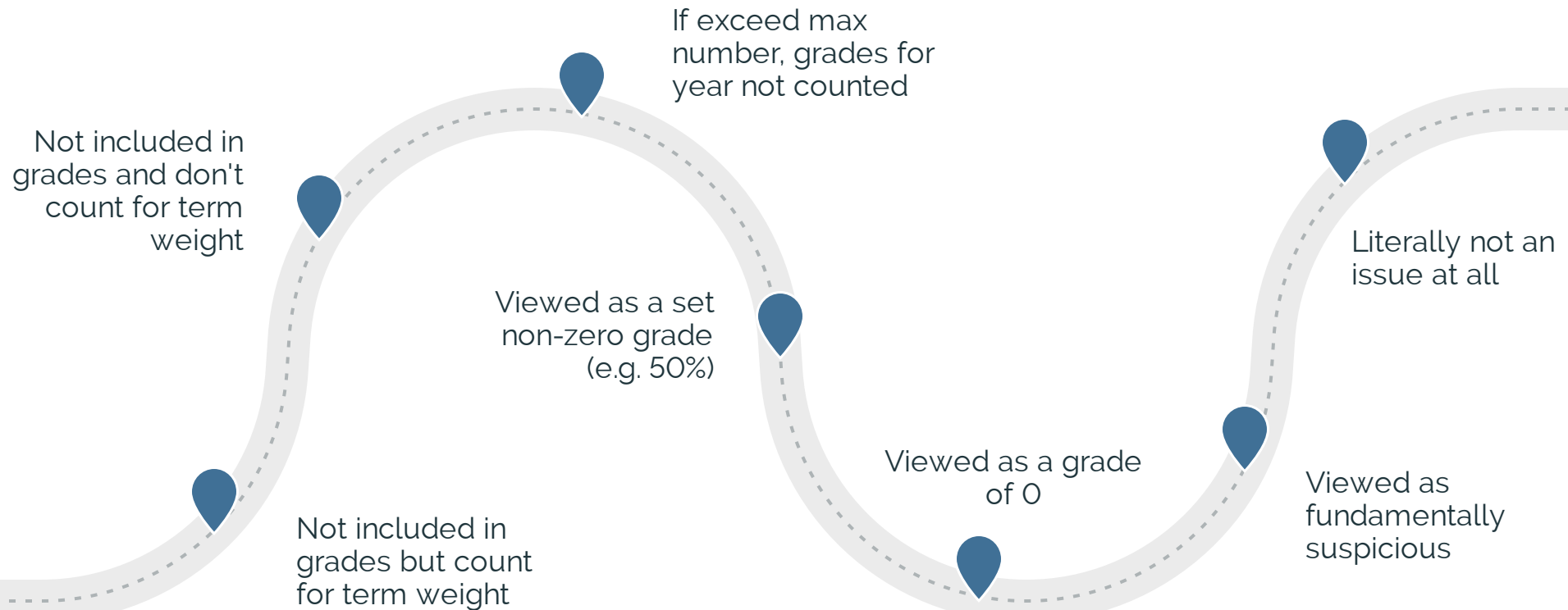
OLSAS Conversion Table for Waterloo: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/olsas-conversion-table/#scale>

GPA Calculator: <https://www.whatsmygpa.ca/>

GPA	Percentage	Letter
4.0	90-100	A+
3.9	85-89	A
3.7	80-84	A-
3.3	77-79	B+
3.0	73-76	B
2.7	70-72	B-
2.3	67-69	C+

Transcript notations and law school

At Waterloo, transcript notations have little impact on your undergraduate transcript. They often don't have an assigned numerical value* and aren't included in your average calculation. This might not be the case when you apply to law school. Some possibilities include...



The LSAT



- Purpose

Is a skills-based exam designed to test the critical reading and analytical thinking skills that are crucial for success in law school

- Format

- The first part includes **three scored sections and one unscored section** — logical reasoning, analytical reasoning, and reading comprehension (35 minute sections of multiple choice questions)
- The second part of the LSAT consists of a 35-minute, unscored LSAT Writing sample.

- Scores

The LSAT scale ranges from 120 to 180, with 120 being the lowest possible score and 180 being the highest possible score

- So many dates!!

2023-2024 dates have been released: <https://www.lsac.org/LSATdates>

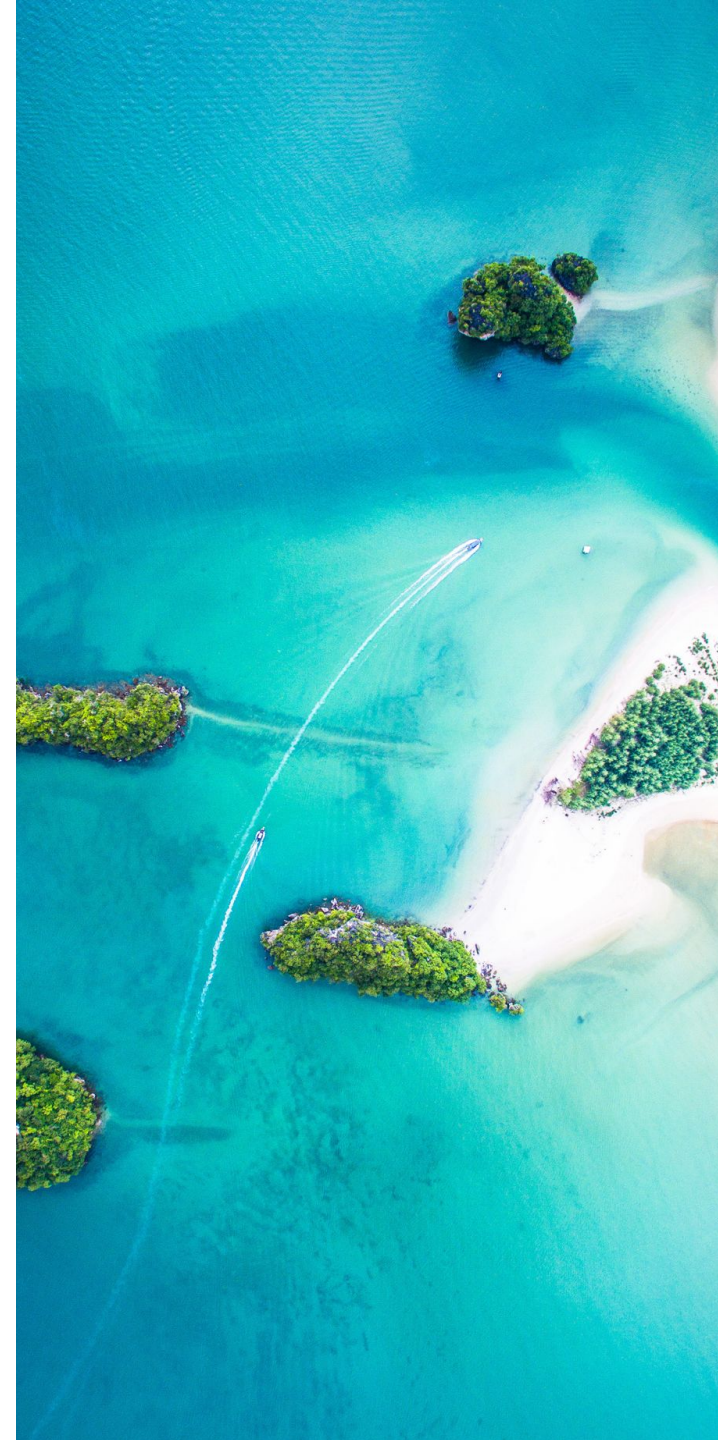
The LSAT continued

Find out when the schools you're applying to, need your scores

How everyone prepares is very individualized.

Some people use test prep courses, books, and other company services

Try taking a full-length practice test to see where you're at & design your own study





How do I pick my volunteer, work, & extra-curriculars?

- Do things you're interested in
- The committee wants to see who you are & what you care about
- There's no magic number of hours or set of experiences that will get you in
- Things to think about as you choose:
 - How have you confirmed that this is the right profession for you?
 - What do you want to try?
 - How do you want to impact the community?
- Volunteer Waterloo Region is a good resource

Personal Statements

Sometimes you get to say things in human words to the admission committee!



Schools will let you know what they want to hear

Lived experience; academics; other aspects about you



Schools will tell you how many essays and how long

Sometimes one or two essays, maybe more depending on the program. Either a page count or a character count



Questions are similar each year and available on admission websites

If you apply to more than one program, there might be crossover between essays; that's okay



What will I have to write about?

We're not exactly sure. But some common themes include...



About motivation

- Why law?
- What problem(s) do you want to solve?
- Who can you help with this degree?
- Why are you interested in this topic?



About fit

- What is drawing you to this program?
- What do you want to learn?
- What are your goals when you're finished?



About skills

- What are you good at?
- What does it take to be good at this?
- What do you do that's different from other folks?
- What have you observed or thought about that's relevant to this work?

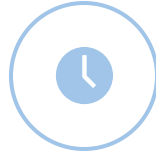
References

Sometimes between zero and multiple references; sometimes academic required, preferred, your choice.



#1: Who do I ask?

- Someone you trust
- Someone that can offer thoughtful context
- Someone who meets the requirements



#3: When should I ask?

- Give your letter writing ample time
- Last minute requests might not be doable
- Follow-up reminders before the deadline are totally appropriate!



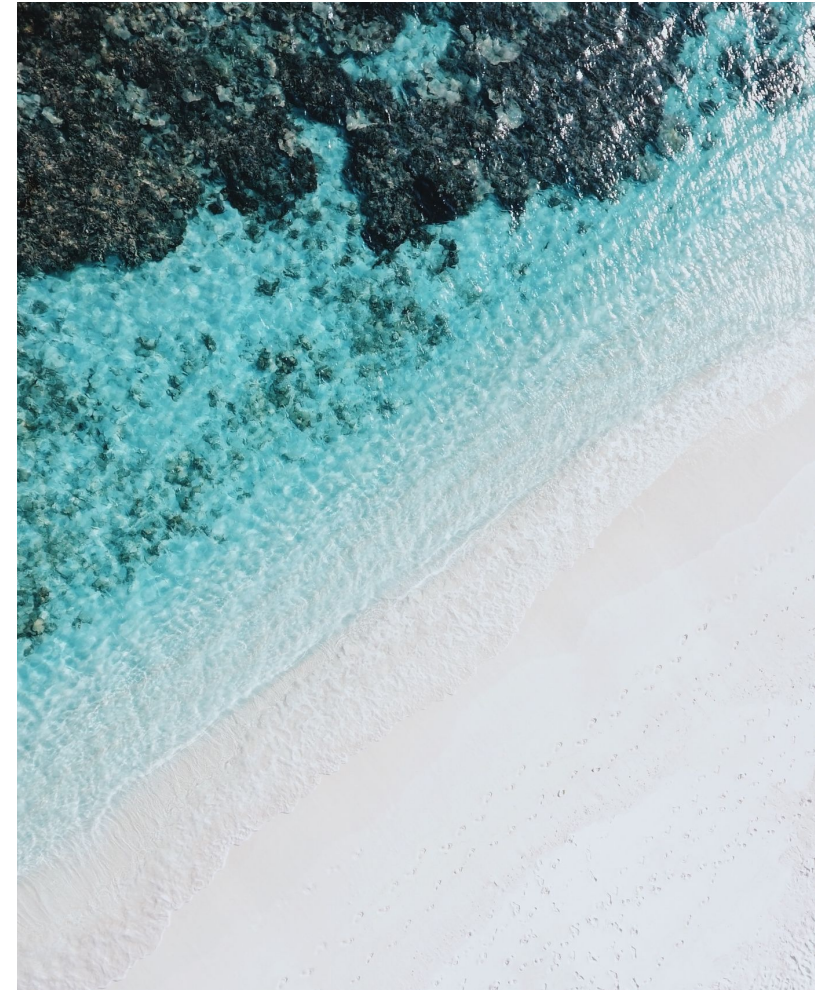
#2: How do I ask?

- Email is a great start!
- Let them know why you're writing and why them
- Share deadline and how to submit the reference
- Share relevant application materials



#4: What happens if they say no?

- This usually doesn't happen, and when it does it's usually for a reason!
- Re-emphasizing giving yourself ample time



What if I want to study law abroad but practice in Canada?

This is totally possible! And law is a provincially regulated profession. Knowing what you might have to do after your degree in order to practice might be helpful in deciding where you want to study.



Degree

an accredited institution that would allow you to practice law in the jurisdiction where you studied



Assessment

Apply to the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) to have your legal qualifications assessed and receive a Certificate of Qualification

It does cost money, and there are many fees for different things



Supplemental education

As part of the assessment, the NCA might require the applicant to take additional courses at a Canadian law school and or sit NCA exam(s) before receiving the Certificate of Qualification.

Min. ~\$315 OLSAS application fees;
~\$8000 per course;
~\$550 plus tax per NCA exam;



Bar licensing process

The bar admissions process will be dependent on what province you'd like to practice law in

It does cost money, and there are many fees for different things

Support: How Can We help?

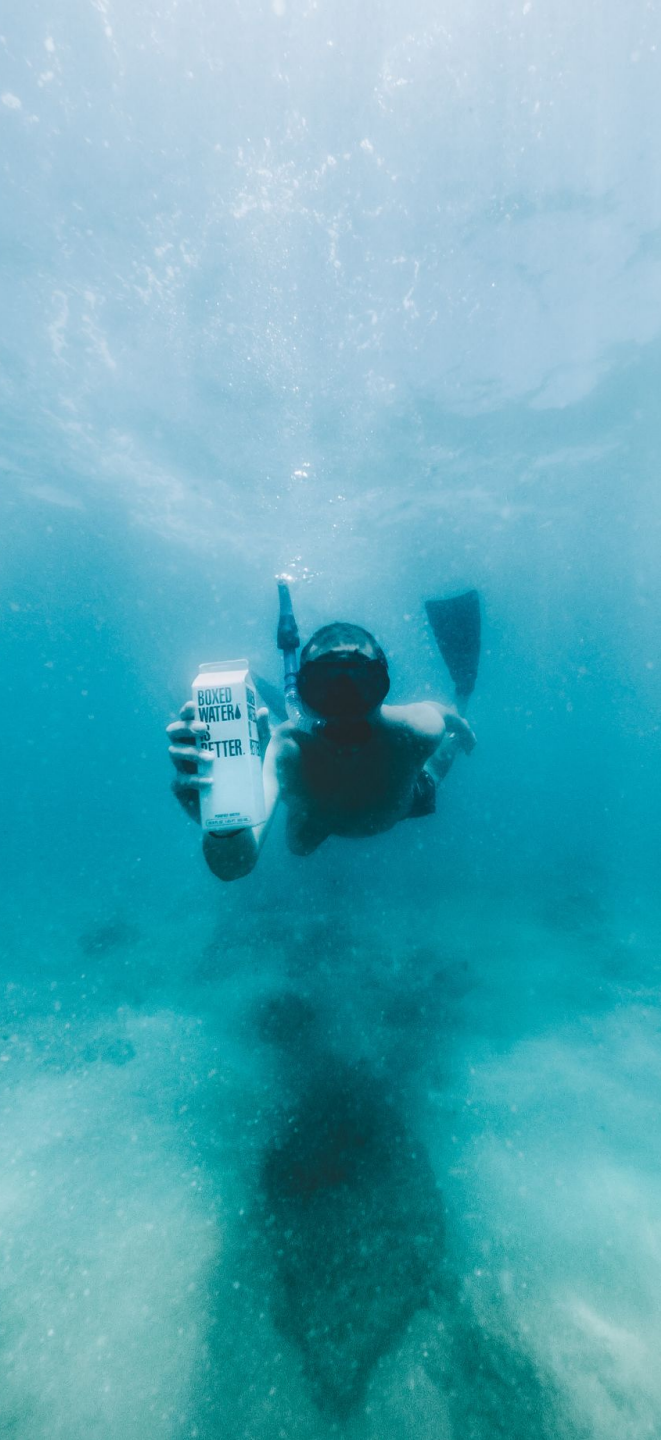
Support you in figuring out if law school is for you

1. Understanding application requirements, timelines, and the process
2. Getting involved - Volunteering and strategizing Co-op placements to support your law application
3. How To reach out to program admissions staff, faculty members at UW, or target programs
4. CareerHub - law section includes information about choosing a program, planning, and applying

Application Process

1. OLSAS application - Which includes the online form, autobiographical sketch, and questions
2. Personal Statements
3. CV's & Resumes

To book an appointment with us: <https://uwaterloo.ca/career-action/further-education-one-one-support>



MENTI
SLIDE FOR
FEEDBACK

Thank you
for
coming!
Q&A

