

Instructions: Notre Dame Law School

Application Dates

Early Decision applicants must apply electronically via LSAC by November 1 and must have all supporting documents on file by November 10. **Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible after October 1.**

Application Fee

The application fee is \$65 (US Dollars). The application fee may be paid by credit card. If you pay by credit card or if you received a fee waiver, you **DO NOT** need to mail in a Certification Letter. Alternatively, if you pay by check or money order (made payable to the Notre Dame Law School) you **MUST** submit the Certification Letter with your application fee. This fee is **NOT** refundable.

Two Letters of Recommendation

We **require** two letters of recommendation from persons who have had an opportunity to evaluate you both carefully and individually over a sufficient period of time to make substantive comments regarding your academic skills and personal qualities. At least one, and preferably both, of the letters should be from individuals who have taught you in college. We realize that some applicants, especially those who have been out of school for a number of years, may have difficulty meeting this request. In such cases, letters from employers or others who have worked closely with you will suffice.

You are **required** to use the LSAC Letter of Recommendation Service that is part of LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) registration. LSAC will copy and send your letters along with your law school report.

Personal Statement

The Admissions Committee gives considerable emphasis in the admissions evaluation to the personal statement. The statement should provide the members of the Admissions Committee with insights about you and your candidacy that are not reflected in other parts of your admission materials. The committee wants to know about you as a person and would like the opportunity to evaluate your writing and reflective abilities. It is helpful if your personal statement addresses why you are interested in the study of law. Your personal statement must be your original work in your own words. It should be no more than two double-spaced pages.

Optional Notre Dame Essay

The Admissions Committee strongly encourages you to use this optional essay as an opportunity to express your specific interest in Notre Dame Law School. You may wish to address how your background, experiences, personal character, and/or career aspirations align with a Notre Dame legal education. Your optional essay must be your original work in your own words. It should be no more than two double-spaced pages.

Additional Essay(s)

If you believe the Admissions Committee would benefit from additional information about your candidacy – academic addendum, LSAT addendum, or diversity essay – you may attach a brief double-spaced essay. Label the attachment with your name, LSAC Account Number and the type of additional essay. Any additional essay submitted should enhance your application providing the Admissions Committee with a greater understanding of who you are, your background and experiences, and/or challenges you have overcome. If you have addressed these topics in your personal statement and/or optional essay, there is no need to submit any other additional essays.

Law School Admission Test (LSAT) Scores

You must take the Law School Admission Test, which is administered by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). We recommend that you take the LSAT after your junior year in college, preferably the June, September, or December administration. If you inform us that you will retake the LSAT, your application will be held until the new LSAT score becomes available. The LSAT score you achieve will be valid for five years.

LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) Law School Report

The Notre Dame Law School requires each applicant to register with LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS). Notre Dame's number for use of the service is 1841. Transcripts are NOT to be sent to Notre Dame Law School unless the Law School specifically requests that an applicant send the transcripts directly.

TOEFL

All students must be proficient in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to English. Applicants from non-English-speaking countries must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), and must have copies of the official TOEFL report forwarded to the LSAC CAS service directly from ETS. Official score reports are NOT to be sent to Notre Dame Law School unless the Law School specifically requests that an applicant send the TOEFL score directly. The TOEFL score you achieve will be valid for three years.

Binding Early Decision Program

The Early Decision Program is designed for those applicants who have an extraordinary level of interest in Notre Dame Law School. Early Decision applicants are, typically, those who have researched various law schools and have concluded that a Notre Dame legal education is most compatible with the applicant's goals for professional development. Admission standards for Early Decision applications are the same as those applied during the Regular Decision review process.

Early Decision applicants must apply by November 1 and must have a **completed** application on file in the admissions office, including all support documents, by **November 10**. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in the application being carried over to the Regular Decision review process. All Early Decision applicants will receive an admission decision by December 15. Additionally, should an Early Decision applicant qualify for fellowship assistance, this decision is communicated by December 15.

Early Decision applicants who are offered admission, commit to enrolling at Notre Dame Law School and, in so doing, he or she agrees to withdraw applications to other law schools.

Interviews

Applicants are highly encouraged to visit the Law School. Although your visit does not include a formal interview, it will allow you to experience the Law School environment and meet with current students and admission counselors. If you are not able to visit, you may schedule a telephone conversation with an admissions counselor.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The University of Notre Dame does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, veteran status, or age in the administration of any of its educational programs, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs, or in employment.

The University has designated the Director of its Office of Institutional Equity to handle all inquiries regarding its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX and under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Title IX and Section 504 coordinator may be contacted as follows:

Director
Office of Institutional Equity
414 Grace Hall
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556
574.631.0444

Scholarship and Grant Application Process

Notre Dame Law School is committed to providing a legal education of the highest quality at a tuition structure that compares favorably to other nationally regarded private law schools. Through the generosity of alumni and friends of the Law School, financial assistance in the form of full and partial scholarships and grants is available to members of each entering class.

Every applicant admitted to the Law School is considered for scholarship aid. No separate application is required for consideration. Applicants with an extraordinarily high level of financial need may choose to complete the optional financial aid form. Funds are awarded on a "rolling basis" and, therefore, may be unavailable to otherwise qualified applicants who apply later in the admission cycle.

Loan Assistance

In order for a student to apply for federal loan programs, a student first must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Notre Dame's School Code is 001840. Some of the more common loans available to law students include subsidized and unsubsidized federal Direct Loans, as well as alternative loans offered by private lending organizations. Notre Dame

law students who need to rely on loan assistance beyond that provided by Direct Loans may wish to consider the Graduate/Professional Federal Loan or other private loans.