

LSAT, Transcripts, & GPA:

In this video, we are going to take a look at how to enter LSAT and grade information into OLSAS.

Most Ontario schools review your highest LSAT score (if you have written more than once) as part of the admissions process, and the test must have been written within the past 5 years. To ensure that the schools receive your LSAT score, you need to enter your LSAC Account # on this page in OLSAS, and the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) will release your test scores when they are available to OLSAS. You must disclose all test scores, from every writing of the LSAT to LSAC.

You have the choice of entering your most recent LSAT score, or if you plan to write the LSAT after the application deadline, then you can enter your December LSAT date. In the year which you are applying to law school, try to write the LSAT prior to the deadline date of Nov 1; some of the schools will send out offers as early as December and the schools need all of your application information, including LSAT scores, before they make a decision on the offer. Most schools will start looking at applications in January, making December the last realistic opportunity to write the LSAT for the current year's application. Although the schools state "All applicants must complete the LSAT no later than February of the application year," they strongly recommended you write it before the application deadline, and December at the latest.

In OLSAS, you must also enter information from the last secondary school, and every postsecondary institution, you have attended (including one-off courses at different universities or colleges). For the "Program" name, you must select your option from a drop-down menu, so just choose the program that is most related to your studies (i.e. Law for Legal Studies students). There are no "pre-law" courses required for entering law school, and it is not necessary or necessarily beneficial to be in the Legal Studies program. Most of the schools will state that 3 years or more of undergraduate study is preferred, however, most students have a 4-year degree upon acceptance.

If you completed or are currently completing your post-secondary education in Ontario (for example at Waterloo), then you order your transcript through OLSAS with the Transcript Request Form page.

If at any time you have completed post-secondary courses or a degree outside of Ontario, you need to contact that university directly to order your transcripts and have them sent to OLSAS **before the deadline**. No high school or IB or AP transcripts are required.

When you submit your OLSAS application, the Transcript Request Form generates a request to your university to have your transcript sent electronically to OLSAS. All you need to do is complete the transcript request form in OLSAS, and then submit your application on time by Nov 1st. This satisfies the transcript deadline requirements.

If you are enrolled in school at the time of your application, you must send your fall grades, after they become official in January, to OLSAS by February 1st. To order fall transcripts, you use the Secure Applicant Messaging feature in OLSAS (available after you have submitted your application) to again, order your transcripts through the Transcript Request Form.

The cost is \$12 for each transcript for each post-secondary institution you have attended.

In the OLSAS Instruction booklet, there are more details on Exchange program grades. If you have studied at a foreign institution on exchange, you **must** ensure that your transcript from the school is

sent directly to OLSAS **before the application deadline**. This process can take several weeks, so please begin this process **at least** 6 weeks before your transcripts need to arrive at OLSAS. OLSAS states that applicants are not required to obtain a World Evaluation Services assessment for courses taken as part of an exchange program, as long as the transfer credits for these courses appears on the home university transcript. OLSAS does not calculate the GPA for exchange programs unless this exchange was taken within North America and the courses taken were undergraduate university level courses, but you still need your transcripts to be sent to OLSAS directly from your exchange school.

To order your final transcript (after receiving an offer), use the Secure Applicant Messaging Tool in OLSAS. Your final transcript must be received by OLSAS (not just the request form) by June 30th.

This is the Transcript Request Form. Make sure to follow the instructions and select the appropriate categories from the drop-down menus. If you enter University of Waterloo (instead of choosing it from the drop down list), your transcript will not link properly.

Choose the option “immediately” if you are currently enrolled in courses. This transcript will not include your current term’s results.

This is the GPA conversion chart found on the OLSAS website. Waterloo falls under column 3. OLSAS will calculate your GPA for you and have a verification report for you online in December. This report will indicate any issues with your application and confirm your OLSAS GPA. To calculate your GPA before you apply, use this chart, and individually convert each course grade to the 4.0 scale before adding everything up and averaging to find your GPA. Although successful completion of graduate work can be viewed favourably in the rest of your application, only grades for undergraduate level courses are included in your GPA calculation.

The GPA does **not** include “challenge for credit” courses. Courses for which a specific grade is not given (e.g., a “Pass” or “CR” course) are not included in the GPA. NCRs & WDs are also not included (because they have no mark) – but schools will see them on your transcript. The schools will review both your official transcript and the OLSAS grade breakdown.

Lakehead’s competitive applicants will have an overall B+ (75%) average and 80% in their last 2 years. The admissions committee does look at both the yearly breakdowns and the transcripts themselves and can identify where averages may have been pulled down. Applicants without the indicated average may be competitive through their LSAT score, by showing a steady increase in grades overall, or other aspects of their whole file. Preference is given to applicants who have genuine interest in serving northern and rural regions in Canada; those who want to focus on Aboriginal Law and issues related to Aboriginal peoples; those interested in establishing a law practice in a small centre; and those applicants interested in law with an emphasis on Natural Resources, with specialties in mining and forestry.

At Osgoode, although admission decisions are made on the basis of a holistic assessment of the application, successful applicants generally have an “A-” average or better. Significantly stronger results either on the LSAT or the GPA may compensate for a less competitive LSAT or GPA. As files are reviewed in their entirety, academic performance (including, all studies and programs and the LSAT), non-academic experience (including work, life, volunteer, extra-curricular activities, and interests), and submissions (including, the personal statement, considerations cited in the personal statement, letters of reference, and corroboration) are all considered carefully.

For Ottawa a cGPA at A- is competitive; however, GPA is the most significant factor at Ottawa. There are no specific cut-offs, but if your cGPA is below 78.5%, they will have to see if there is anything that stands out in your application – Did you switch programs? etc. Ottawa typically reviews applicants with 85% and higher – initially – between November & December and often make a few offers. They do review most files after December as they are often waiting for December LSAT scores, meaning they will probably receive fall marks before files are reviewed.

Queen's considers your average LSAT score (if you have written more than once) for the order in which they review applications and for scholarships, but they rely on the highest score for admission decisions. If your GPA is less than a 3.3 and your LSAT score is less than 157, you will not be considered - unless graduate work has been completed successfully. A competitive GPA is an A- (3.7) in the last 2 years of study with a full course load. Quality of your reference letters is crucial, and the personal statement and sketch are examined carefully. Decisions are based on both the cGPA and 2 year GPA.

Toronto considers all LSAT tests written, but emphasis is placed on the highest score. For the 2015 incoming class, the median was 167 on the LSAT and 86.1% cGPA based on the best 3 full time years. Full time means a full course load (4 or 5 courses per academic year) and an academic year means fall/winter sessions. Summer courses are reviewed but do not count in the GPA calculation, *unless the applicant is in a co-op sequence*. The school does encourage students with lower test scores and GPAs to apply, as the entire application will be considered in terms of context. 1/3 emphasis is placed on GPA, 1/3 on LSAT, and 1/3 on the personal statement.

At Western a cGPA at A- (3.7) with your average in your last two years a little higher -around 85%- with an LSAT score above 160 is competitive. They consider all grades, but focus on the last 2 years or last 20 courses. Their main emphasis is on marks and your LSAT score, but they will review non-academic experiences and work experience and take these things into consideration. A full course load throughout your honour's program and graduate work are seen as positive factors.

Windsor highly recommends that students have a 4-year honours degree. They have a full, holistic review of 7 criteria found on their website. This includes:

1. University Program
2. Work Experience
3. Community Involvement
4. Personal Accomplishments
5. Career Objectives
6. Personal Considerations and
7. LSAT Scores

Windsor strongly emphasizes that no **one** single factor is solely determinative of admission to the law school. The chief source of information about applicants is whatever is provided by you in your Personal Profile.