



RESEARCHING THE RIGHT LAW SCHOOL CHECKLIST

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So, you've decided you want to attend law school. Believe it or not, making this decision might actually have been the easier part. Determining the right institution to spend the next four years in is not a simple task. There are plenty of criteria to consider when thinking about [which law school is the right fit for you](#). You might want your ideal school to have a certain class size or geographic location. As a result, it can be useful to have a checklist ready when thinking about what you want out of your law school experience.

To help you narrow down your options, we have created a checklist that features different points of consideration when researching which law school is right for you. As you start looking through the 204 ABA-approved legal institutions that exist around the country, think about the following as you build your list:

Consider location - would you prefer to only apply to schools located in a certain region?

Consider whether you want to live on campus or off, how much you are willing to pay, what you look for in roommates, and more. Many law schools offer on-campus housing.

Take a look at your in-state school and think about whether the benefits appeal to you.

Go over the median GPA and LSAT/GRE scores of admitted students at different programs and compare them to your numbers.

Take a look at acceptance rates of different schools and compare selectivity levels.

Think about your specific interest in law and research the unique offerings at each school for that field.

Consider your ideal class size and how many students you want in your cohort.

Explore the opportunities and research opportunities that are available.

Compare the curricula at various schools.

Read about the tuition and aid policies at different institutions if you'll be applying for financial aid.

Note dual-degree options available if you're considering that track.

Take a look at the depth of hands-on opportunities at different institutions.

Go through the community engagement opportunities available for students.

Browse websites to check out the different student organizations.

Take a look at the different journals at law schools if getting published is a high priority to you.

Browse the first-year syllabi at different schools and look for opportunities that would excite you on campus.

Find out whether there are any clerkships available for students.

Look at where current alums work and how they've benefited from their legal education.

Read faculty bios and explore the mentorship opportunities.

Look for more information on jobs and internships available and their available resources.

Look at recent employment data for the schools on your list.

Make an initial list of reach, target, and safety schools based on all of these factors. Keep in mind that the top 14 law schools are extremely competitive so you must keep safety options.

You can use the [LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools](#), a search engine that allows you to review law schools based on location, different keywords, or just alphabetically. Toggle the search criteria to narrow down your list, pay careful attention to course offerings, faculty listings, or on-campus resources that stand out to you. Hopefully, you'll be able to create a list full of schools where you will have a fulfilling legal education.