Minority Students

How do law schools view the applications of minority students?

Law schools today are acutely aware of the fact that minority populations in the United States lack adequate legal representation due to an historical trend of too few minority students studying in law schools. Thinking about Law School: A Minority Guide points out that law schools today are actively seeking minority applicants in order to improve the dramatic underrepresentation of minorities in the practice of law.

Do you recommend drawing attention to minority status in the application process?

If you have a strong sense of cultural identity which is tied to your status as a minority, then I recommend highlighting this in your application. Today, as law schools work to put together first year classes which represent the cultural whole in which we live, minority status stands out as a positive factor in the application process. If you are motivated to provide legal services to communities which are traditionally underrepresented then this is even more helpful to your application.

Should I apply to schools whose cumulative GPA and LSAT scores are above my own?

You should note that the cumulative GPA and LSAT scores for admitted students at law schools are averages and may not reflect the schools admission policies regarding minority or Educationally disadvantaged students. It’s important to remember that drive, motivation, and life-experience can often compensate for lower grades and test scores. Further, it’s well-known that there are many successful lawyers who have a wide range of GPAs and LSAT scores. The UGPA and LSAT Score Search at LSAC.com allows you to quickly and easily compare the average range of scores of the GPA and LSAT scores for recent admitting classes.

Do you know of any source material regarding the percentages of minority students at different law schools?

You can consult the “Opportunities in Law for Minority Men and Women” section in The Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools for the percentage of minority students in different law schools. You can find up-to-date copies of this at the university library. You can also find additional information by visiting LSAC.org.

For further information or help with questions concerning diversity please visit the LSAC.org homepage and locate the Racial/Ethnic Minority Applicants and LGBT Applicant links located near the bottom of the page under the Prospective Students section. Additional questions are addressed in detail and some students share personal experiences in video links as well.