

4-Year Timeline

First & Sophomore Years

- Master the college academic environment! Your GPA will be one of the most crucial pieces of your law school application. It is imperative to perform well academically from the start. Learn how to manage your time and stress levels effectively. Doing so will help you to be a better student.
- Spend time in self-exploration and reflection, gaining clarity on your individual interests and passions, skills and talents, and values and motivations. Being clear on these areas is a necessary part of proper career development, even if you already have a career in mind. In fact, taking time to understand yourself on this level will help you to be more focused on how you may want to use a law degree.
- Research the field of law and legal careers to help you define your career goals more clearly. Also, take some time to explore other careers besides law. Considering other options may expose you to careers you had not known about previously and may help you confirm whether or not law school is right for you.
- Pursue a well-rounded curriculum that develops skill sets that will be key for law school, such as strong writing skills, analytical and logical reasoning skills, and research skills. Emphasis should be on planning a program that meets your needs and interests. Don't let your career choice limit your educational experience.
- *Once you have gained control of your academic work*, consider getting involved in extracurricular activities to develop leadership skills and a service orientation.
- Get to know faculty members and let them get to know you. Be sure to visit their office hours or see if you can work with them on a project. Establishing relationships with faculty early will help secure strong recommendations in the future.

Junior

- Continue strong academic preparation! If you plan to attend law school directly out of college, this will be the last full year of grades that law schools will see in your application.
- Continue fostering relationships with faculty. Start narrowing down your potential list of recommenders. You may choose to start contacting professors about letters of recommendation in the Spring semester if you are applying during senior year.
- Attend workshops offered by the Pre-Law Advisor to learn more about the application process or schedule an individual appointment as needed.
- Begin to establish your personal criteria for law schools and investigate programs that meet your needs and interests. Go beyond GPA and LSAT...consider what else you want (or need) out of your law school experience.

- Begin preparing for the LSAT exam. If applying as a senior, plan to take the LSAT in the summer after your junior year, if possible. Or, register for a fall semester administration if the summer is not feasible. Either way, plan ahead and start practicing early — the more practice, the better! Give yourself between 3- 6 months of time to prepare, based on your level of comfort with standardized testing.
- If applying to law school during senior year, register for the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) through the Law School Admission Council in the summer following your junior year.

Senior Year

- If applying as a senior, meet with the Pre-Law Advisor as needed to be sure you are on track with your applications.
- If not applying as a senior, begin working on your job search with your assigned Career Advisor at The Career Center. Meet with the Pre-Law Advisor to discuss components of your application that still need to be addressed while you are in school, even though you're not applying during school.
- Attend the on-campus events to meet and network with law school admissions reps, including Law Admissions Networking Night, Emory's Grad School Fair, and Emory's Law School Fair. Details on these events can be found on Handshake.
- Complete the application process, preferably by mid-November.
- Be sure to complete financial aid paperwork as soon as possible for best chances at scholarships.