

Letters of Recommendation

Most law schools request two letters of recommendation from people who are familiar with the applicant's academic work. Typically, faculty from the applicant's undergraduate university provide the letters. It is important for the applicant to know the professor before asking him/her for a letter. It is best to ask professors who:

- Have taught smaller, upper-division courses instead of large introductory courses
- You have done research for
- Know you well enough to be able to compare you to other students they have known

By asking a professor who may be reluctant to write a letter of recommendation because they do not know the applicant very well may weaken an application overall.

It is best to ask for the letters as soon as possible – early in the Fall of the application year. It often helps to bring all of the required LSAT/LSDAS forms and any other information (transcripts, resume, Personal Statement, and writing sample) to the professor writing the recommendation. It is also important to include stamped envelopes addressed to the law school or LSDAS for all NON-USF professors. USF professors will use University stationery, which will be mailed via campus mail; no stamps necessary. Students can access the recommendation form from the LSAC.org website and, either print it for their recommender to have it mailed, or send a link and have their recommender submit the letter electronically.

Most schools require two academic recommendations, although some allow one non-academic recommendation. As with all areas of the application process, it is important to discern what each Law School specifically requires. Even if two academic letters are requested, the applicant can turn in a third non-academic letter. The best sources for non-academic letters of recommendation are employers, internship supervisors, or any other person able to objectively ascertain an applicant's leadership, maturity, or interaction with, or supervision of others.

The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) Letter of Recommendation Service has become the preferred method for law schools. Recommenders write one letter and send it to the LSAC, which then forwards this letter to the law schools requested by the applicant. Letters from up to three different recommenders can be processed this way.