Law School Admission Test

PREPARATION TIPS

The Michigan State University College of Law Office of Admissions staff solicited LSAT preparation tips through a survey of students who achieved a score of 161 or higher on the test. Select responses are included below.

General Advice

- Take the test in June, especially if you are still in undergrad. That way, you'll still be in the mindset of studying and doing academic work. Also, you won't have to try to schedule time to study for the test and your other courses as you might with the October test. Lastly, it'll give you plenty of time to retake the test without having to wait for the October or December test scores.
- Put the time in—acceptance to law school and many scholarships rely heavily on the LSAT and undergraduate GPA. If you spent four years building a GPA, it would make sense to put equally proportionate effort in preparing for the LSAT. (If your undergrad GPA isn't as high as you would like, a high LSAT score may be your chance to overcome this weakness.)
- Don't assume that an expensive commercial prep course is a requirement for doing well on the LSAT. If you have the self-discipline to study on your own, you can create your own individual prep plan for the LSAT.

General Suggestions for Preparation

- Start by learning about the test itself. Learn the structure, different sections, and the amount of time you will have.
- Take seriously the task of learning how to take the test. You cannot do your best without serious, deliberate preparation.
- Take as many full-length, timed practice tests as you can!
- Take every practice test you can, several times a week until the test. Hopefully your score will improve from the time you begin studying (WELL IN ADVANCE) to the time you take the test.
- Take results of practice tests (especially self-administered ones) with a grain of salt. Don't assume you're prepared enough just because you have a great practice test—do it consistently.
- Take a practice test at least twice when you are preparing—once before you begin, to know where you need the most help, and once in the middle, to track your progress so you don't continuously study the same things.
- Study in similar environments to how you will take the test. I usually studied with background noise, but the absence of noise on my first test ended up being detrimental. After that I only studied in silence in preparation for the second test.
- Make sure that every type of argument is understood. The logic questions are hard when you don't know what is being asked.
- Treat it like a game, or a puzzle to be solved—try to have fun with it!
- If you can, take upper-level Philosophy or English classes. The logic and writing will really help on all aspects of the LSAT.
- Practice arguments and games more than reading comprehension, as I found the most improvements to be in those sections.
- Don't let a low score on a practice test deflate you: use it as an opportunity to see specific problems you're having and spend your time correcting them.
- Don't get discouraged—improvement is a very slow process with the LSAT, but with continuous preparation, things begin to "click."
- Practice, practice, practice!