Admissions Requirements and Considerations

The following are basic requirements for admission to law school:

1. competitive* undergraduate grade point average
2. competitive* score on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)
3. completion of any bachelor’s degree or completion 90 or 98 or more hours toward an Oklahoma State University 3+3 Law Option degree (link to 3+3 document)

*competitive ranges for grade point averages and LSAT test scores vary widely from law school to law school.

Law School Admission Council Credential Assembly Service calculates an admission index using the undergraduate gpa and the LSAT score statistically weighted. This calculation is based on each school’s instructions for the weighting that best predicts first year success at that school. Many schools may use this index to establish some broad admissions guidelines.

Sometimes a presumptive admit and presumptive deny index score is utilized—this means a score above which an admission is likely and below which an admission is unlikely. The entire file of each candidate is read to determine if it includes information that would make a presumptive admit candidate unacceptable or a presumptive deny candidate exceptionally worthy of admission.

Many factors beyond GPA and LSAT are considered in making admissions decisions:

- Personal statement--An essay about you by you that summarizes who you are and demonstrates writing ability.
- Letters of recommendation (narrative) and/or evaluations (rating on a scale)--Best from faculty and employers who know you well-get to know your faculty!
- College attended--Have others from school attended law school and been successful? Is school rigorous?
- Undergraduate courses--Did student select easy or rigorous major? Electives?
- Graduate work--Graduate gpa cannot be compared directly or calculated in with undergraduate gpa but can provide additional positive experience.
- Improvement in grades--Rough semester due to extenuating circumstances? Strong final year or two?
- Community, extracurricular--Demonstrating a commitment to using time to benefit others.
- Work experience--Support of education/living expenses or test of career interests.
- Ethnic/racial/cultural/socioeconomic background--Diversity is desirable in legal education-highlight experiences that demonstrate cultural connections.
- Difficulties you have overcome-Show persistence in the face of adversity.
- Motivation/reasons to study law-Some schools specifically ask you to address this...
issue; if not requested, address it only if you have a specific goal.