Juris Doctor Application Instructions - Fall 2014

These instructions apply to the online application through LSAC. If you are completing the Fast Track Application, please contact lawadmit@nd.edu with any questions.

The Admission Process
Notre Dame Law School admits new Juris Doctor students for the fall term only and begins accepting applications October 1 for the next fall's entering class. Given the competitive nature of admission, applicants are advised to apply early in the admission cycle. The Law School follows a rolling admissions process. Applying prior to February 1 will provide applicants with the greatest opportunity for admission and scholarship consideration.

Factors Considered During the Review Process
The Admissions Committee seeks to enroll a highly qualified and diverse class. The Admissions Committee uses a holistic approach to evaluate candidates and considers an array of factors including: academic achievement, overcoming adversity, leadership skills, community involvement, work experience, life experience, relevant legal work experience, internships, or coursework, a specific interest in the study and practice of law and other unique experiences. When completing your application, you are encouraged to consider how you may address the factors listed above. While it is not necessary to address each item in your application, the most competitive applicants highlight those factors they believe are the strongest while also addressing a specific interest in the study and practice of law.

Application Dates
Applications may be submitted beginning October 1. Applicants must apply electronically via LSAC by March 15 and must have all supporting documents on file by March 25. Applications will NOT be reviewed until they are complete. Please include all application documents at the time of submission. We cannot replace documents or attachments once they have been submitted. Since we use a rolling admission process, applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible after October 1. To receive the strongest opportunity for admission and scholarship consideration applicants are encouraged to apply by February 1.

Application Fee
The application fee is $75 (US Dollars). The application fee may be paid by credit card. If you pay by credit card or if you received a fee waiver, you DO NOT need to mail in a Certification Letter. Alternatively, if you pay by check or money order (made payable to the Notre Dame Law School), you MUST submit the Certification Letter with your application fee. This fee is NOT refundable.

Application Form
A completed application form is required as part of your application. If a question does not apply to you, or if you would prefer not to answer a non-required question, please indicate as such. All attachments, required or optional, (personal statement, résumé, character and fitness addenda, optional essay, diversity essay, other addenda) must be submitted with your application form.

Personal Statement
The Admissions Committee gives considerable emphasis in the admissions evaluation to the personal statement. The statement should provide the members of the Admissions Committee with insights about you and your candidacy that are not reflected in other parts of your admission materials. The committee wants to know about you as a person and why you are interested in the study and practice of law. It is also an opportunity for the committee to evaluate your writing and reflective abilities. Your personal statement must be your original work in your own words. It should be no more than two double-spaced pages. The personal statement must be included in your application when you submit your application. Your personal statement must include your name, LSAC account number, and be titled "Personal Statement" in the header.

**Résumé**
A résumé is required as part of your application and must be submitted with your application materials. Your résumé should highlight your educational, work, leadership, and service experiences. You may also wish to highlight honors, awards, or special skills. There is no page limit for your résumé. The typical résumé is one to two pages.

**Optional Notre Dame Essay**
The Admissions Committee strongly encourages you to use this Optional Essay as an opportunity to express your specific interest in Notre Dame Law School. You may wish to address how your background, experiences, personal character, and/or career aspirations align with a Notre Dame legal education. Your Optional Essay must be your original work in your own words. It should be no more than two double-spaced pages. If you plan on including the Optional Essay, it must be included in your application when you submit your application. Your Optional Notre Dame Essay must include your name, LSAC account number, and be titled "Optional ND Essay" in the header.

**Additional Essay(s)**
If you believe the Admissions Committee would benefit from additional information about your candidacy—academic addendum, LSAT addendum, or diversity essay, you may attach a brief double-spaced essay. Label the attachment with your name, LSAC account number, and the type of additional essay. Any additional essay submitted should enhance your application providing the Admissions Committee with a greater understanding of who you are, your background and experiences, and/or challenges you have overcome. If you have addressed these topics in your personal statement and/or optional essay, there is no need to submit any other additional essays. If you plan on including any additional essays, they must be included in your application when you submit your application.

**Two Letters of Recommendation or Evaluations**
We require two letters of recommendation from persons who have had an opportunity to evaluate you both carefully and individually over a sufficient period of time to make substantive comments regarding your academic skills and personal qualities. At least one, and preferably both, of the letters should be from individuals who have taught you in college. We realize that some applicants, especially those who have been out of school for a number of years, may have difficulty meeting this request. In such cases, letters from employers or others who have worked closely with you will suffice.
You are required to use the LSAC Letter of Recommendation Service that is part of LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) registration. LSAC will include your letters with your law school report. Letters of recommendation are preferred; however, you may submit evaluations in addition to or instead of letters of recommendation.

**Law School Admission Test (LSAT) Scores**
You must take the Law School Admission Test, which is administered by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). We recommend that you take the LSAT after your junior year in college, preferably the June, September/October, or December administration. If you inform us that you will retake the LSAT, your application will be held until the new LSAT score becomes available. The LSAT score you achieve will be valid for five years. If after submitting your application you register for another LSAT test, you must notify the Admissions Office by email. Your application will be considered incomplete and held until that score becomes available.

**LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) Law School Report**
The Notre Dame Law School requires each applicant to register with LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS). Notre Dame's number for use of the service is 1841. Transcripts are NOT to be sent to Notre Dame Law School unless the Law School specifically requests that an applicant send the transcripts directly.

**TOEFL**
All students must be proficient in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to English. Applicants from non-English-speaking countries must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), and must have copies of the official TOEFL report forwarded to the LSAC CAS directly from ETS. Official score reports are NOT to be sent to Notre Dame Law School unless the Law School specifically requests that an applicant send the TOEFL score directly. The TOEFL score you achieve will be valid for two years.

**Campus Visits**
Applicants are highly encouraged to visit the Law School. Although your visit does not include a formal interview, it will allow you to experience the Law School environment and meet with current students and admission counselors.

**Interviews**
Notre Dame Law School may request an interview with selected candidates. Any interviews will be conducted via telephone or videoconference, and applicants who are invited to interview will be contacted by the Admissions Office with instructions.

**Scholarship and Grant Application Process**
Notre Dame Law School is committed to providing a legal education of the highest quality at a tuition structure that compares favorably to other nationally regarded private law schools. Through the generosity of alumni and friends of the Law School, financial assistance in the form of partial scholarships may be available to members of each entering class. Every applicant admitted to the Law School is considered for scholarship aid. No separate application is required for consideration. Applicants with an extraordinarily high level of financial need may choose to complete the optional financial aid form. Funds are awarded on a
"rolling basis" and, therefore, may be unavailable to otherwise qualified applicants who apply later in the admission cycle.

**Loan Assistance**
In order for a student to apply for federal loan programs, a student first must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Notre Dame's School Code is 001840.

**Nondiscrimination Policy**
The University of Notre Dame does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, veteran status, or age in the administration of any of its educational programs, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs, or in employment.
The University has designated the Director of its Office of Institutional Equity to handle all inquiries regarding its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX and under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Title IX and Section 504 coordinator may be contacted as follows:
Director
Office of Institutional Equity
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