Highlights from Kaplan Test Prep's 2011 Survey of Law School Admissions Officers

To ensure that aspiring lawyers receive accurate and up-to-date information on the law school admissions process and other relevant issues, Kaplan Test Prep annually surveys admissions officers from the nation's 200 American Bar Associated-accredited law schools. The survey data collected helps guide the tens of thousands of law school applicants Kaplan works with each year.

What Law School Admissions Officers Say On:

▶ General Admissions Trends → Law School Rankings → Online and Social Networking Issues

About the survey methodology: Admissions officers from 128 of the nation's 200 American Bar Association-accredited law schools were polled by telephone between July and August 2011. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

On General Admissions Trends

Do students who reside in the state where your law school is located have an admissions advantage over applicants who don't?

No85%	
Yes	
Not sure	

(If Yes): Is it a significant advantage or a slight advantage?

Slight	
Significant	

In Kaplan's 2010 survey of law school admissions officers, 16% said that students who graduate from the undergraduate institutions that they are affiliated with have an admissions advantage over those who don't. For the 2010-2011 admissions cycle, compared to the previous cycle, how did the amount of financial aid provided by your school change?

Increased significantly 2%	
Increased somewhat28%	
Decreased somewhat10%	
Decreased significantly0%	
Stayed the same44%	
Not sure15%	

In Kaplan's 2010 survey, 73% of law school admissions officers said that a strong LSAT score "very much" helped an applicant to receive merit-based scholarships; 21% said it helped "somewhat."

On Law School Rankings

How much does U.S. News & World Report's rankings formula influence your admissions decisions?

Very much	2%
Somewhat	32%
Not too much	31%
Not at all	29%
Not sure	6%

Which factor do you think U.S. News & World Report should most heavily weigh when determining a law school's place in the rankings?

Quality assessment by experts	
Bar passage rate 20%	
Job placement success	
Selectivity metrics	
Faculty resources 5%	
Not sure22%	
Refused to answer 8%	

In Kaplan Test Prep's 2010 survey of law school admissions officers, we found the following:

To what degree does your law school's ranking play a role in student recruitment efforts?

No degree at all 46%	
Not a very significant degree22%	
Somewhat significant degree27%	
Very significant degree4%	

Regardless of where your school stands, do you think the process of ranking law schools is generally fair or generally unfair?

Generally fair	20%
Generally unfair	80%

On Online and Social Networking Issues

Have you ever Googled an applicant to learn morea bout them?

No 59%	
Yes	

Have you ever visited an applicant's social networking pageike Facebook to learn more about them?

No	
Yes	

(Of admissions officers who said "Yes" to above questions) Have you ever discovered something online about an applicant that negatively impacted their application?

No	
Yes	

Compared to college admissions officers and business school admissions officers, law school admissions officers are far more likely to look at applicants' digital trails to learn more about them. 41% of law school admissions officers said they have Googled an applicant, while 37% have checked out an applicant on Facebook or other social networking site. This compares with 20% of college admissions officers and 27% of business school admissions officers who have Googled an applicant; and 24% of college admissions officers and 22% of business school admissions officers who have visited an applicant's Facebook page.

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