Highlights from Kaplan Test Prep's 2014 Law School Admissions Officers Survey



To ensure that students are receiving accurate and up-to-date information on trends in the law school admissions process, Kaplan Test Prep annually surveys admissions officers from the nation's 200+ American Bar Associationaccredited law schools. The survey data collected helps Kaplan provide informed guidance to tens of thousands of aspiring law school students each year.

What Law School Admissions Officers Say About:

Application Trends

Admissions Issues

School Culture

On Application Trends

Did your school reduce the overall incoming class size for 2014 compared to 2013?



How likely is it that your law school will reduce its class size for the 2015–2016 school year?

Very likely: 2%	
Somewhat likely:	
Not too likely:	
Not at all likely:	

Compared to the 2014–2015 application cycle, how confident are you that your law school will see an increase in applications for the 2015-2016 application cycle?



Almost half (46%) of law school admissions officers express confidence that their law school will see an increase in applications for the 2015–2016 school year. When reviewing a candidate's file, which of the following do you review first?

LSAT Score:	
Personal statement:	
Undergraduate transcripts: 11%	
Letters of recommendation: 1%	
Other:	
It depends:	

For the 2014–2015 application cycle, approximately what proportion of your applicants submitted a character & fitness addendum?

Less than 1 in 10: 12%
1 in 10:
2 in 10:
3 in 10:15%
4 in 10:
5 in 10:
6 in 10:
7 in 10:
8 in 10:
9 in 10:0%
Almost all:
Don't know:

For the 2014–2015 application cycle, approximately what proportion of your applicants submitted a diversity statement?

Less than 1 in 10: 25%
1 in 10:17%
2 in 10: 14%
3 in 10: 13%
4 in 10:
5 in 10:
6 in 10:
7 in 10:1%
8 in 10:0%
9 in 10:0%
Almost all:
Don't know: 18%

On Admissions Issues

Did you accept June 2014 LSAT[®] scores for fall 2014 admissions?

Yes:	86%	
No:	14%	

And did you accept June 2013 LSAT scores for fall 2013 admissions?

Yes:	79%	
No:	21%	

Do applicants to your program who are children or siblings of alumni have an admissions edge over those who aren't?

Yes:	 17%	
No:	 83%	

Do students who graduated from your school's undergraduate institution have an admissions edge over those who didn't?

Yes:	14%
No:	86%

On School Culture

Is your student culture more competitive or collaborative?

Collaborative:	98%	
Competitive:	2%	

Do you utilize more of a practice-ready curriculum or more of an academic-focused curriculum?

Practice-ready:	77%		
Academic-focused:	23%		

Would you say your curriculum is interdisciplinary or specialty-focused?

Interdisciplinary:	82%	
Speciality-focused:	18%	

Are your instructors more strict or more lenient?

Strict:	56%	
Lenient:	44%	

Is your learning environment Socratic or Non-socratic?

Socratic:	75%	
Non-socratic:	25%	

A plurality of law school admissions officers (33%) say that a prospective student's LSAT score is the first piece of their application that they look at.



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*For the 2014 survey, 126 law school admissions officers from the country's 204 American Bar Association-accredited law schools—including 14 of the top 30 as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*—responded to Kaplan's telephone polling between September and August 2014. LSAT® is a registered trademark of the Law School Admission Council, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse this product.