

University of Arkansas at Little Rock

LAW
SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
TEST

PREPARATION GUIDE

WILLIAM H. BOWEN
SCHOOL OF LAW

UA LITTLE
ROCK



➤ Welcome to Bowen

Law school is difficult. Law school is rigorous. Law school is designed to prepare its graduates to assist people through some of the most difficult challenges of their lives. With this in mind, the Law School Admissions Test measures skills that are considered essential for success in law school: the reading and comprehension of complex texts with accuracy and insight; the organization and management of information and the ability to draw reasonable inferences from it; the ability to think critically; and the analysis and evaluation of the reasoning and arguments of others.

The Law School Admissions Test is often the first step students take on their path to law school; however, before a pencil is ever picked up on test day, students must thoroughly prepare in order to perform their best. This short guide is designed to be a resource in the early stages of LSAT preparation and is divided into three main sections; understanding the LSAT, studying for the LSAT, and LSAT preparation resources.

I encourage you to read through this guide as you prepare for the LSAT. Your study methods may not be the same as the student sitting next to you on test day; however, you will be graded on the same concepts.

Understanding the LSAT, developing an effective study plan, and having the self-discipline to follow through on the plan will help you score your best.

Whether you attend William H. Bowen School of Law or matriculate elsewhere, I wish you the best as you begin your journey to law school.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more.



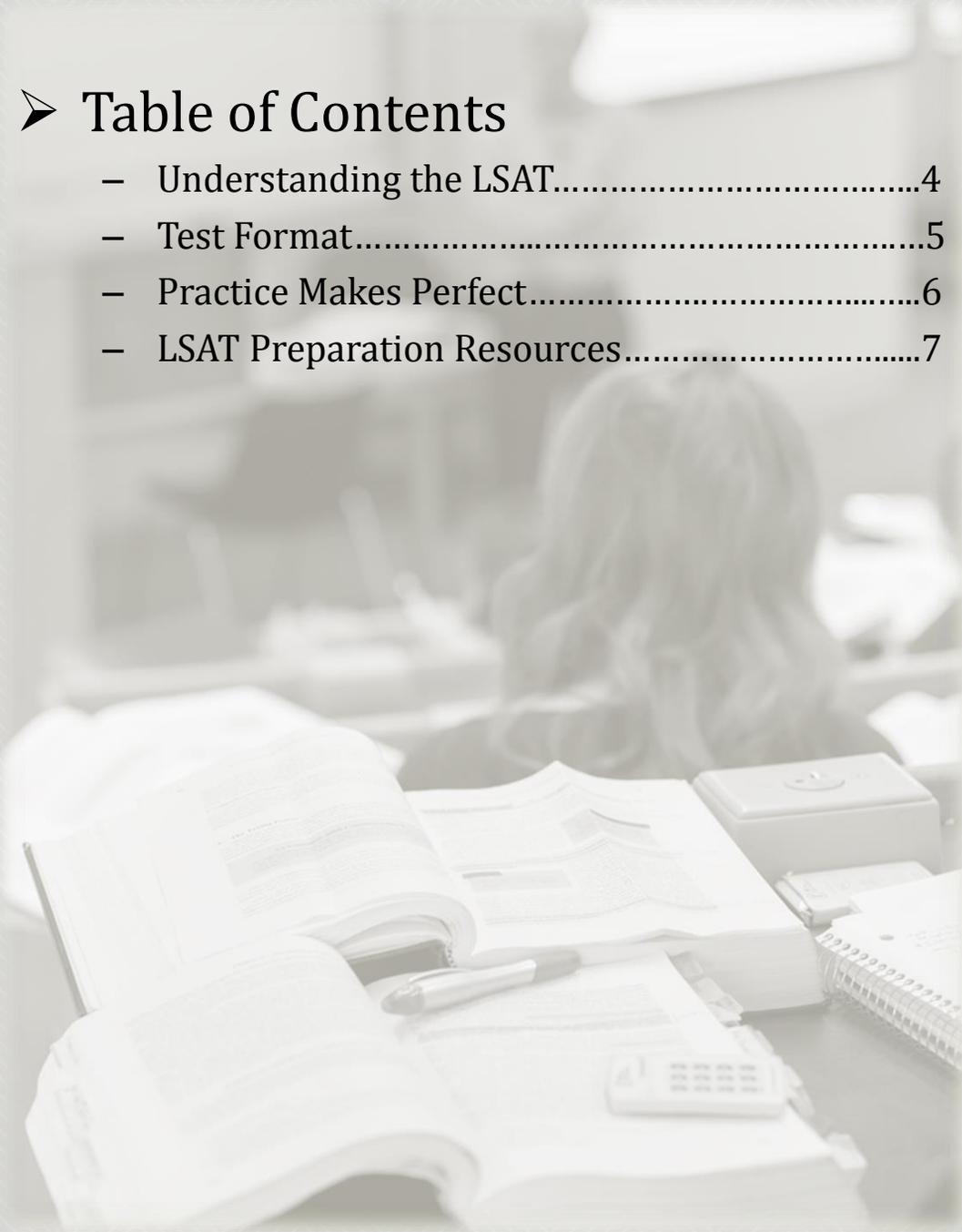
Best regards,

Matthew V. Kerns, Esq.
Assistant Dean of Admissions,
Scholarships, & Enrollment Data



➤ Table of Contents

- Understanding the LSAT.....4
- Test Format.....5
- Practice Makes Perfect.....6
- LSAT Preparation Resources.....7





➤ Understanding the LSAT

- The Law School Admission Test is a half-day, standardized test administered four times a year at designated testing centers and measures reading and verbal reasoning skills. William H. Bowen School of Law uses the LSAT as one of several factors in assessing applicants' potential to succeed in law school.
- Many students are intimidated by the length of the LSAT, therefore it is important to put the LSAT in perspective. After a student graduates law school they must prepare, take, and pass a two or three day bar exam in order to become an attorney. The LSAT is only the first step down a long road. It is essential that students prepare early for this half-day test and carry on that self-discipline through law school to succeed later on the multi-day bar examination.
- The LSAT is only administered on designated testing days in the months of:
 - February
 - June
 - September
 - December
- William H. Bowen School of Law recommends that students take the June LSAT prior to application cycle they would like to apply. For undergraduate students, this would be during the summer after their junior year. This way, students will be able to prepare and take the LSAT without the added pressure of classes and extracurricular activities. Also, in case you don't think your score accurately represents your skills, there are more opportunities to retake the LSAT without having to wait another year to start law school.



➤ Test Format

- The LSAT consists of five 35-minute sections of multiple-choice questions. Four of the five sections are scored. The unscored section is used to pretest new questions or test forms. Students will not know which section is unscored. A 35-minute writing sample is also administered at the end of the test. The writing sample does not contribute to your LSAT score, however, William H. Bowen School of Law uses the writing sample to examine a student’s ability to write arguments clearly and concisely while under pressure.
- The LSAT is designed to measure skills that are essential for success in law school such as reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, and logical reasoning. Accordingly, the three LSAT questions types reflect these areas.
 - Reading Comprehension Questions—These questions measure the ability to read with understanding and insight. Reading comprehension is essential to succeeding in law school because William H. Bowen School of Law requires students to read, understand, and explain complex legal texts and doctrines.
 - Analytical Reasoning Questions—These questions measure the ability to understand relationships and to draw logical conclusions about the structure of the relationship. Analytical Reasoning is essential to succeeding in law school because William H. Bowen School of Law requires students to understand and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of legal relationships in order to solve complex issues.
 - Logical Reasoning Questions—These questions assess the ability to analyze, evaluate, and complete arguments. Logical Reasoning is essential to succeeding in law school because William H. Bowen School of Law requires students to construct well-supported and logical arguments by applying legal principles and identifying argument flaws.



➤ Practice Makes Perfect

- In order to do well on the LSAT students must put in the time to prepare. Do not take the LSAT without ample preparation. Begin studying months in advance of the test and be consistent with your study habits.
- Although everyone has different study strategies, there are a few general principles that will help everyone:
 - **Learn the test:** Know what to expect on test day. Learn the test structure, question types, time limits, administrative rules, test instructions, and test taking strategies.
 - **Practice test questions:** Start by practicing test question types individually. Always know the reason why you got a question right or why you got it wrong before moving on. Working smart is more important than working fast.
 - **Take multiple full-length practice tests:** Eventually you will need to move from practicing individual questions to practicing full-length tests. Take your practice tests in conditions that will mimic those on test day. On test day you can expect to be in a room full of students. Try to mimic these conditions by taking your practice tests in a similar environment like a library or a coffee shop.
 - **Take practice test results with a grain of salt:** Practice tests results often do not reflect how a student performs on test day. Test anxiety and external distractions can hinder optimal performance on test day. Therefore, it is important to make sure that your practice test results are consistently high.
 - **Day of the exam:** Be confident that all the hard work you put into studying will pay off. Give yourself plenty of time to arrive on time at the testing center. Do not let others distract you on test day. All that counts is you and your test. As they say, “Keep Calm and Carry On”.



➤ LSAT Preparation Resources

- LSAT preparation resources typically come in two categories: self-study material or commercial preparation courses. Self-study material tends to be less expensive than commercial preparation courses. Do not assume that a commercial course will ensure a high LSAT score. Students can score low after taking a commercial course just as students can score high after using self-study material. The responsibility to study effectively lies with the student and success will not come without hard work.
- The Law School Admissions Council’s website should be the first resource students utilize when preparing study material. LSAC publishes many resources for free as well as for sale.
- Free material can be found at:
<http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/preparing-for-the-lsat>
- LSAC study guides and PrepTests can be purchased at
<http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/preptools/>
- There are many commercial test prep options available outside of LSAC. The lists below are a small sampling of products that are available. An item’s inclusion or exclusion on the lists below does not constitute an endorsement by William H. Bowen School of Law.
- Self-Study Material
 - [*Cheating The LSAT: The Fox Test Prep Guide to a Real LSAT*](#) by Nathan Fox
 - [*Cracking the LSAT*](#) by Princeton Review
 - [*Kaplan LSAT*](#) by Kaplan
 - [*LSAT Clarity*](#) by Outside LSAT
 - [*LSAT Strategy Guides*](#) by Manhattan Prep
 - [*Master the LSAT*](#) by Jeff Kolby
 - [*McGraw-Hill's LSAT*](#) by Russ Falconer and Drew Johnson
 - [*The PowerScore LSAT Reading Comprehension Bible*](#) by David M. Killoran and Steven G. Stein



– Commercial Preparation Courses

- [7Sage LSAT Prep](#)
- [Blueprint](#)
- [Examcrackers](#)
- [Kaplan](#)
- [Manhattan LSAT](#)
- [NextStep](#)
- [PowerScore](#)
- [Princeton Review](#)
- [Test Masters](#)
- [Velocity Test Prep](#)





*University of Arkansas at Little Rock
William H. Bowen School of Law
1201 McMath Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202
www.ualr.edu/law
lawadmissions@ualr.edu
501.324.9903*