

Becoming an Attorney

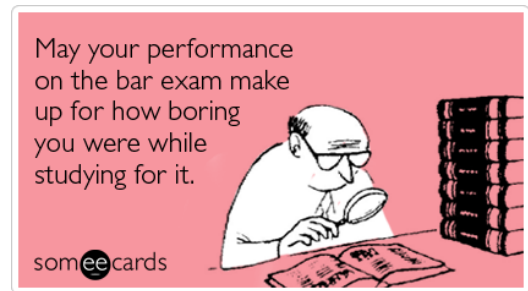
- I. **Earn a Bachelor’s degree (B.A. or B.S.) from a college or university:**
 - a. Take classes that sharpen analytical reasoning, logical reasoning and reading comprehension. These skills are tested on the LSAT.
 - b. “Pre-Law” groups are good for networking and mentoring.
- II. **Take the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT):**
 - a. Register for the exam at **www.lsac.org**. Free resources are available on this site.
 - b. Take a prep class with Princeton Review, Kaplan, etc.
 - c. Do self-directed study with prep books published by Princeton Review, Kaplan, etc.
 - d. Take practice exams. The score ranges from 120 to 180.
- III. **Research law schools:**
 - a. U.S. News and World Reports, Friends, Relatives, Mentors.
 - b. Visit the campus; meet students, professors, admissions officers, alumni, etc.
 - c. Geography, LSAT acceptance range, costs, likelihood for employment after graduation.
- IV. **Apply to multiple law schools:**
 - a. Write a Personal Statement. Have a professor or attorney-mentor provide feedback.
 - b. Request *Good* Recommendations. Ask, “Can you give me a good recommendation?” Use those exact words.
- V. **Attend Law School:**
 - a. First Year:
 - i. Required: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Legal Research and Writing, Real Property, Torts.
 - ii. Search for a summer job. Probably will be an unpaid internship. ***First year grades are requested when searching for a job. The grades for Legal Research and Writing are vital for obtaining a good job.***
 - b. Second Year:
 - i. Electives and independent studies. Topics that will be tested on the bar exam are wise selections. Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Trusts and Estates, etc.
 - ii. Clinics provide real-world experience with actual clients. Will be focused on litigation or transactional matters.

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- iii. Law Review and other journals provide writing experience and the opportunity to get published.
 - iv. Moot Court competitions provide the opportunity for court room experience.
 - v. Search for a summer job. *First year grades are requested when searching for a job.*
 - vi. Search for a legal job or judicial clerkship for after graduation.
- c. Third Year:
- i. More electives and independent studies. Topics that will be tested on the bar exam are wise selections. Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Trusts and Estates, etc.
 - ii. Continue with a Clinic.
 - iii. Continue with Law Review and other journals.
 - iv. Continue with Moot Court competitions.

VI. Pass the Bar Exam(s):

- a. Offered the last Tuesday and Wednesday **or** Wednesday and Thursday (depending on the jurisdiction) of July and February.
Exception: California, which offers the exam on Tuesday, Wednesday **and** Thursday.
- b. Take a prep class with BarBri, Kaplan PMBR, etc.
- c. Spend *at least eight weeks of your life* preparing for the exam(s).



VII. Congratulations. You have now earned the privilege to practice law and place “Esq.” after your name!

