When it comes to choosing the right law school, there are a number of important factors that applicants should keep in mind. This handout will help walk you through some major considerations applicants face when deciding which law program is right for you.

A Note on Rankings
- While a law program’s ranking can be indicative of many things, it is not an accurate reflection of the quality of education or professional success of alumni.
- Our office endorses the viewpoint set out by the American Bar Association (ABA) on law program rankings: “Prospective law students should consider a variety of factors in making their choice among schools.”

Location
- Unlike your undergraduate career, the geographical location of your law school can play a major role in determining your post-graduate future.
- The majority of law students end up taking the bar exam in the state they attended law school in and therefore continue to practice law in that state.
- Law school is also a great place for networking and connecting with people in the field; therefore, the connections you make in law school will likely be with practicing lawyers in the state.

Program Type & Curriculum
- While the vast majority of law schools follow a traditional first-year core curriculum, not every school follows the same order. Some, for instance, allow students to take electives in their first year while others restrict electives until the second year or beyond.
- If you have an interest in a specific area of law, make sure the institutions you are applying to offer courses, clinics, and externships in that practice area.
- Review each school’s website to learn more about their specific programs and offerings.

School Specifics
- It is important to look at the specific features and amenities of the university you are applying to. These range from the times at which classes are offered to the size of the student body.
- Many of the same considerations you made as an undergraduate, such as campus culture, the prevalence of student organizations/clubs, and faculty to student ratio, are factors that should play a role in your law school decision.
- The best law program for you is not just the one with the highest ranking, but the one that will best fit your personal, professional, and academic needs.
- Consider the statistics revolving around employment post-graduation and whether the law school will support you in your efforts to find employment through a career services office.
- Finally, make sure to visit each school you’re interested in to get a feel of its culture and vibe.

References:
www.discoverlaw.org/preparing/choosing-a-law-school
www.lsac.org/jd/choosing-a-law-school/law-school-features
www.abaforlawstudents.com