

The Law School Letter of Recommendation

What is a Letter of Recommendation?

- It is a signed letter on letterhead that talks about who you are as a unique individual.
- It should focus on the quality of your work and your intellectual and interpersonal skills necessary for success in law school and the legal profession (e.g., analytical reasoning, written and oral communication, research, work ethic, commitment, leadership, reliability, community work, organizational skills, and collaboration abilities).
- It is submitted directly to LSAC by your recommender and is uploaded to the Credential Assembly Service (CAS).
- Most law schools require 2-3 letters of recommendation. Carefully review the application instructions from each school for specific details.
- It is preferred over an evaluation, which is a questionnaire completed online by an individual to rate you on non-cognitive attributes and skills related to success in law school and the legal profession.

How to Select a Recommendation Writer

- If you are a current undergraduate student, you should obtain two letters from faculty members, and possibly one work supervisor only if you have had a significant and meaningful professional experience.
- If you are an alumnus/a, you should obtain one or two letters from work supervisors, and possibly one faculty member if you are a recent graduate.
- For academic letters, professors and instructors are preferred over teaching assistants or recitation leaders. However, letters from teaching assistants and recitation leaders are acceptable *if* they are substantive and meaningful.
- Get to know faculty by participating in class (lecture and recitation), visiting office hours, and performing well.

Things to Consider

- Secure writers at least six weeks in advance of the time the letters should be sent out.
- Schedule an appointment to speak with prospective writers, and bring the following to the meeting: resume, transcript, personal statement (if completed), copies of graded papers and exams, LSAC Letter of Recommendation Form, and stamped envelopes (if being submitted in hard copy and not electronically).
- Follow up with a thank you note or email approximately 1-2 weeks later.
- Letters of recommendation, once uploaded to LSAC, are stored there for five years. Keep in mind, however, when you plan to apply because you may not want an outdated letter that does not speak to your most recent work.
- It is preferable to select a writer who knows you well and can speak about you personally, rather than selecting one based on his or her status.

Additional Resources

- Use online resources through various websites, such as [LSAC](#) and [NYU Prelaw](#).
- The [NYU Preprofessional Advising Center](#) can help you to choose appropriate recommendation writers.