

Law School Application Workshop

Professor Nemacheck, Pre-Law Advisor

W&M Prelaw Advising Webpage:

www.wm.edu/as/government/prelawadvising

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Application Essentials

- Undergraduate Transcript
- LSAT Score
- LSAC Credential Assembly Service
- Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Statement

- Check with Law Schools
 - Number of recommendations
 - Use of CAS Evaluators Service?

When to Go?

- About half of law students enroll directly from an undergraduate program
- Applicant Profile:
 - About ½ of applicants are between 22 and 24
 - About 1 in 5 applicants are over 30
 - About 1 in 20 are 40 or older
- Advantages to waiting?
 - Four full years of grades
 - Work experience
 - Life experience
 - Test interest in the law



Starting the Application Process

- The earliest you need to start thinking about the application process is spring of your junior year if you are planning to go directly to law school after graduation
- Applications are generally due between January and March of the year in which you apply
 - More competitive schools tend to be earlier
 - CHECK YOUR DEADLINES
 - Early and rolling admissions
 - The earlier the better

Application

- Mid-October until January 1 is optimal application time
- Don't sacrifice a strong application for early decision, however
- CHECK DEADLINES and get all application materials in on time



Application Materials

- Schools will have some unique questions, but most require the following:
 - Application form and personal statement
 - Application fee
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Resume—this will be optional for some schools, but in any case do not neglect to answer application questions
 - Financial Aid Forms

LSAC Credentials Assembly Service (CAS)

- Required central application service for all law schools
- Undergraduate transcripts (official) for all undergraduate institutions attended
- Use CAS for letters of recommendation as well—most law schools will indicate they require this

Letters of Recommendation

- Generally sent directly to CAS and then off to law schools
- Many schools require (or may strongly prefer) they come through CAS
- Two letters from faculty (in general)
- Letter from employer/supervisor
- Provide recommender with resume at least
 - Personal statement might be helpful
 - Supplementary information—papers/grades in courses w/ that professor
 - Follow up on request—thank you note is a nice way to do this

Dean's Certification

- This comes from the Dean of Student's Office

<http://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/enrollmentservices/deancertification/index.php>

- Click on “Dean Certification Request Form”

Personal Statement

- DO:
 - Provide admissions committee with information about you they would not otherwise have
 - Respond to direct questions if posed
 - Stress assets, qualities, and experiences that make you an excellent candidate
- DO NOT:
 - Write defensively (low grades, disappointing LSAT)
 - Provide a narration of your resume
- Depth is preferable to breadth
- BC College Examples:
<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/ed738eee#/ed738eee/14>

“Problem Areas” in the Application Process

- There will be a space to provide additional information or explanations for potential problems (i.e. low grades, low LSAT, minor discipline problems, etc)
 - Be brief and honest
 - Provide a short explanation (i.e. I had mono during my sophomore year and managed to finish the semester but w/ lower grades)
 - Feel free to include addendum to explain the situation

Minor Trouble with the Law?

- Answer all questions honestly, directly and simply
- Not doing so can have serious repercussions, not just at application stage, but at Bar admission stage
- Provide disciplinary action addendum explaining the circumstances of the infraction, how it was resolved, and why it will not be an issue in the future



Where to Apply?

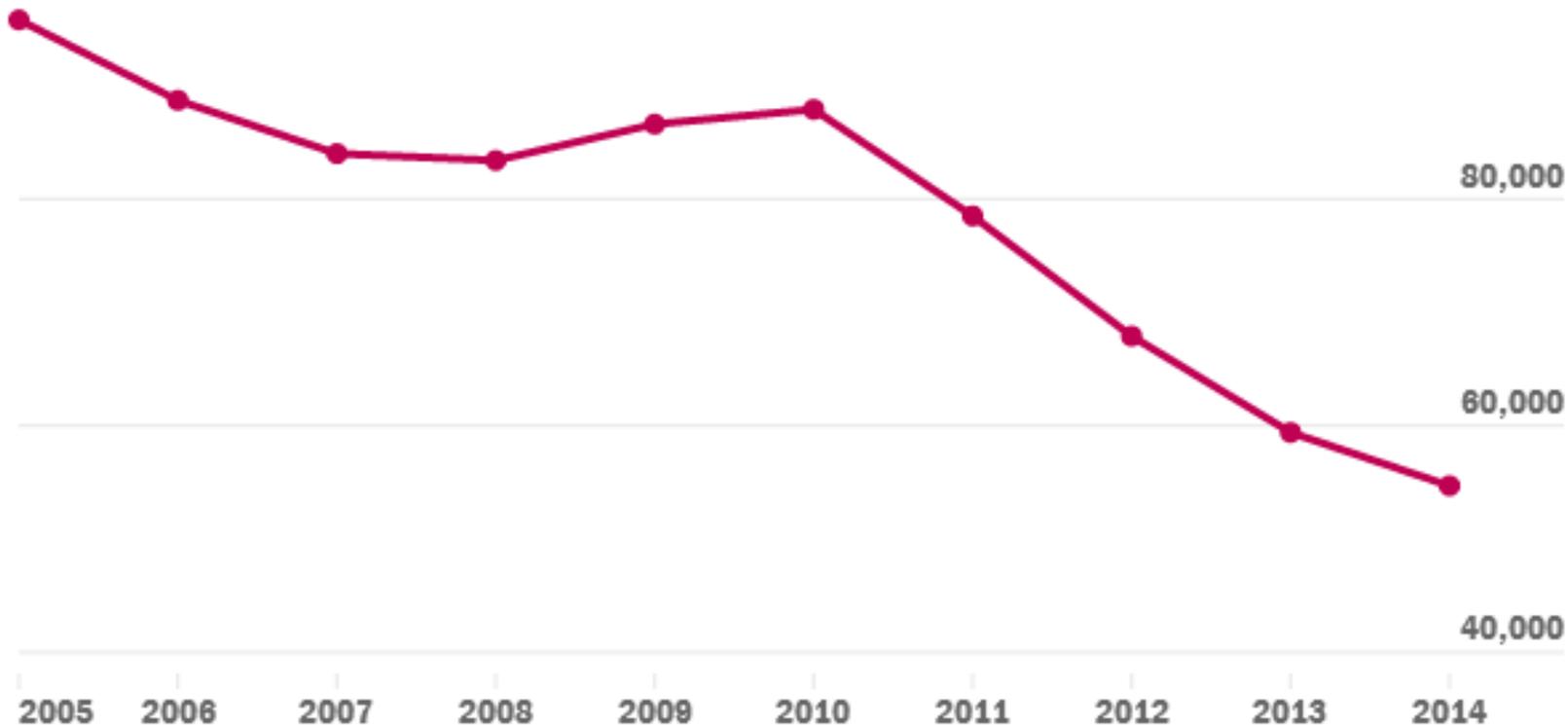
- Average W&M applicant applies to 7-8 schools
- Look at average GPA and LSAT scores for admitted students
- Official Guide to US Law Schools
- Links on Pre-Law Webpage
- W&M specific information:
<http://www.wm.edu/as/government/prelawadvising/finding-law-school/who-gets-in/index.php>



National Application Trends

Applications to ABA-accredited law schools have fallen over the past decade

100,000



Made with Chartbuilder

Source: Law School Admission Council

THE NATIONAL
LAW JOURNAL

Getting a Decision?

- Varies greatly
- Anytime between February and, for those who find themselves waitlisted, the first week of classes
- What to do about wait lists

