

Chapter 2 Admissions – Juris Doctor Program

Policy

General policy regarding qualifications needed for students seeking admission to ASL is set by the faculty, with individual admission decisions made by the faculty Admissions Committee. ASL accepts for admission those students who will benefit from a challenging curriculum in a professional environment. Admission decisions are not based on a single criterion; rather, each item will be considered in relation to the applicant's total qualifications. In addition to the undergraduate transcripts and Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score, other considerations include an applicant's graduate work, character, work history, professional promise, personal commitment, recommendations, life experience, and other non-academic achievements.

ASL does not discriminate in admissions decisions on the basis of age, race, color, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, disability, religion, political affiliation, veteran status, or national and ethnic origin. ASL is committed to providing full opportunities for the study of law and entry into the legal profession by qualified members of groups that have been victims of discrimination in various forms. To this end, the potential of applicants from these groups is of special concern in the individualized admissions process. ASL encourages qualified women and minorities, people with disabilities, and people who have overcome significant disadvantages to apply for admission. Applicants are free to disclose in the application or their personal statements information concerning their gender, race, disability, or past disadvantages if they wish the Admissions Committee to consider that information as a factor.

The Appalachian School of Law confers the Juris Master degree after the completion of three semesters of study, if a student is in good standing.

Eligibility for Admissions

ASL requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, an LSAT score, two letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and any posted application fee. Appalachian School of Law accepts application fee payments processed through the Law School Admissions Council.

All applicants are required to subscribe to the Law School Admissions Council Credential Assembly Service (CAS). All documents received by ASL in connection with such applications for admission become the property of The Appalachian School of Law. Under no circumstance will they be duplicated, returned to the applicant, or forwarded to any agency, college, or university.

The Appalachian School of Law applicants must be United States citizens or individuals who are considered permanent legal residents. The Appalachian School of Law is not authorized by the Department of Homeland Security US Citizenship and Immigration Services to issue I-20 documents required to obtain the F-1 student visa.

Application & Admissions Procedure

All applicants must submit an ASL application form. The ASL Admissions Staff will request a copy of the applicant's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report that should include two letters of recommendation. In addition, applicants may submit up to two additional letters specific to their application to ASL if they so choose to the Office of Admissions, The Appalachian School of Law, 1169 Edgewater Drive, Grundy, VA 24614.

First-year students are admitted in the Fall and Spring Semesters. Students starting in the spring semester take a reduced course load in their first semester. Admissions are made on a rolling basis as applications are received. The Admissions Committee accepts, rejects, or places the application on hold for later review. Most

applicants can expect to receive an admissions decision shortly after ASL receives all of the application material. In the case of applicants who are completing their undergraduate degree at the time of application, admission to ASL will be conditioned on proof of a conferred bachelor's degree.

While ASL has no formal application deadline, applicants who desire full consideration for acceptance to the Fall entering class should complete the application process by June 1, with June LSAT scores to follow, if applicable. Applicants who desire full consideration for acceptance to the Spring entering class should complete the application process by November 1, with December LSAT scores to follow, if applicable.

Seat Deposit

Admitted students will receive a letter informing them of acceptance and requesting that a \$200 seat deposit be submitted to ASL within a specified time. A second seat deposit of \$300 is due June 1 for Fall entering students. The seat deposit is credited toward the applicant's first semester tuition and/or fees. Admitted applicants who are awarded full-tuition scholarships are still required to submit seat deposits to reserve a seat in the incoming first-year class. Because an accepted student is not guaranteed a place in the entering class until the student's seat deposit has been received and accepted by ASL, students who have been accepted for admission should submit their seat deposits as soon as possible. Seat deposits are not refundable.

Deferrals

Deferrals of admission are rarely granted, but considered by the Admissions Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Transfer Students

ASL may accept transfer students from ABA-approved or state-approved law schools in accordance to ABA Standard 505 upon demonstration that the student would have qualified for entrance into the School as a first year student and the student either is or was a student in good standing at the prior law school.

Submission of Transcripts

American Bar Association rules require students to submit official transcripts for all work undertaken at other higher education institutions, including official records of all credits earned and degrees granted, either before the admitted student registers at ASL or within a reasonable time thereafter. Students who fail to submit the required transcripts to ASL by October 1 of the year they first matriculate will be administratively withdrawn from courses, barred from taking exams, and have their grades withheld. In addition, the Financial Aid Office will not disburse federal funds until receipt of a bachelor's degree is confirmed by receipt of an official degree-granting transcript. Submission of official transcripts to the LSAC Credential Assembly Service will satisfy this requirement; however, it is incumbent upon the student to ensure that all required educational records have either been accepted by LSAC or submitted directly to ASL.