

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 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.

Eligibility for Admissions

ASL requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, a LSAT score, a minimum of two letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and any posted application fee.

The school is authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students.

Application & Admissions Procedure

All applicants are required to subscribe to the Law School Admissions Council Credential Assembly Service (CAS) and submit their application material through that service. All documents received by ASL in connection with such applications for admission become the property of the Appalachian School of Law.

First-year students are admitted in both the fall and spring semesters. 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 the required application materials. 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 with 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 transferring law school as of the student's most recent date of enrollment.

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 will be administratively withdrawn from courses, barred from taking exams, and have their grades withheld. Official transcripts must be received by October 1 (for Fall starting students) and February 15 (for Spring starting students) of the year they first matriculate. Submission to and acceptance of official transcripts by 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.

Essential Abilities & Technical Standards

Law students who are candidates for the Juris Doctor degree are required to demonstrate the following essential abilities and technical standards. These standards are not intended to deter or exclude candidates for whom reasonable accommodations for a disability will allow successful participation in and completion of the Juris Doctor program. The Behavioral and Social Attributes component has been incorporated by reference into the Code of Student Conduct found in Chapter 6 of the ASL Student Catalog and Handbook.

Time Management Skills

- The student must demonstrate the ability to meet deadlines, keep scheduled appointments, fulfill community service requirements, and timely complete all classroom and clinical/externship assignments and administrative tasks within the assigned timeframe.
- The student must adhere to the attendance policy as it applies to each course and must punctually attend class.
- The student must be able to timely complete assigned tasks in a satisfactory manner, and attend classes and other obligations prepared and ready to participate.

Communication Skills

- The student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms in a prompt, professional, and comprehensive manner, regardless of the forum, including classroom discussion, clinical/externship assignments, and other instructional settings such as oral advocacy presentations.
- The student must be able to review written and oral material in a timely and efficient manner required to participate, be called upon, and answer questions without advance notice in a classroom or other instructional setting.

Organizational Skills

- The student must be able to follow directions, make reasonable inferences, and organize and synthesize information.
- The student must be able to organize ideas to communicate in writing and orally.
- The student must be able to coherently organize large amounts of information.

Behavioral & Social Attributes

- The student must possess and exercise the good judgment, honesty, integrity, and interpersonal skills required to work successfully under stressful conditions and to fully utilize his or her intellectual abilities.
- The student must be able to tolerate and manage competing demands and workloads that are as mentally and emotionally taxing as are routinely found in the legal profession.
- The student must be able to adapt to changing circumstances.
- The student must be able to monitor and regulate his or her own behavior, including recognizing and correcting behavior that is detrimental to the student's own successful completion of the Juris Doctor curriculum.
- The student must demonstrate the ability to meet the expected ethical standards set forth by the legal profession.
- The student must work cooperatively with peers, faculty, staff, and other members of the ASL community.
- The student must be able to receive and integrate constructive criticism.
- The student must not engage in "disruptive conduct." Disruptive conduct is any conduct that substantially interferes with the educational process.
- The student must be able to engage in active listening to others and to appropriately respond to those communications.

Intellectual, Conceptual and Integrative Skills

- The student must be able to set goals, formulate plans to achieve those goals, and implement those plans over time.
- The student must be able to understand, synthesize and apply complex information, and must have the ability to integrate and process information promptly and accurately.

The student must demonstrate mental and emotional skills and abilities to learn and to conduct effective problem solving, legal analysis, reasoning and research, factual investigation, oral advocacy, and organization and management of legal work.