

Jason Whitehead

From: CSULB-Prelaw <CSULB-PRELAW@LIST.CSULB.EDU> on behalf of Jason Whitehead <Jason.Whitehead@CSULB.EDU>
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2016 9:12 PM
To: CSULB-PRELAW@LIST.CSULB.EDU
Subject: Making the Most of your LSAT Score



Now that September LSAT scores are out, you're probably wondering, "what do I do now?" Here are a few suggestions:

- To start with, check out this timely advice from our friends at the USC prelaw advising office:



[Understanding your LSAT Score and How it Affects your Application](#) by [uscprelaw](#)

Breaking Down Your LSAT Score

LSAC gives you your LSAT score percentile. This will give you a better idea of how you did in comparison to other students who took the test. Log into LSAC. Click on the LSAT tab then the LSAT Status link. The IRR / Information has percentiles from past 3 years and the Conversion Table has a number of questions

Applying Smartly

Before receiving your score you probably had a pretty good idea of what schools you wanted to apply to based on your GPA and your practice LSAT scores. Now that you have an ACTUAL LSAT score, you can better assess which schools you are competitive for.

Look up law school rankings (<http://www.top-law-schools.com/rankings.html>) and on each law school's page you can see a nice breakdown of LSAT and GPA ranges for each school. Make sure you know your LSAT score may be different from your GPA listed on your transcript. Now you can compare your LSAT score and GPA to a school's admission statistics and analyze whether you fall above or below their 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles.

Depending on where you fall within the school's admission statistics, you can categorize your schools into three groups:

- **“Safety” schools:** BOTH your numbers are above the school's 75th percentile. This is a good way to ensure your chances of admission and explore other opportunities.
- **Competitive Schools:** BOTH your numbers are within the school's 25th and 75th percentiles. **Not guaranteed outright admission**
- **Schools where you are on the fence:** one of your numbers is within the school's 25th and 75th percentiles and the other number is below the 25th percentile. Look at the ranges of each number, a tighter range indicates more weight on that number. Hopefully the better of your two numbers is the one they weigh more on, but you may become less competitive. This does not mean that you are not competitive but you may need to consider other factors such as resume, personal statement, etc. If there is a reason that one of your numbers is lower than the other consider writing an addenda (see below).
- **Reach schools:** BOTH your numbers are below the school's 25th percentile.

You should still consider applying to schools that would be considered a “reach.” However, do not apply only to “reach” schools. Have a good mix of schools in the categories listed above.

When to Retake the LSAT

In reality, most people see very little improvement in their score after retaking the test. Remember that LSAC will see all of your LSAT scores through LSAC, and many schools will average your scores. Therefore, re-

much you would be likely to improve. Also keep in mind that many people score a few points worse (at the end of the range they had been scoring) on the day of the actual test than in practice tests. Make an assessment of your studying and test-taking efforts the first time around and determine you should consider the following considerations:

- Did you study hard the first time? Did you underestimate the test and prep for it like the SAT? Or did you not dedicate yourself to studying? If you underestimated the test, consider retaking.
- Did you have a “bad day” on exam day? Recognize that a complete disaster is much more severe than a mild disaster. A complete disaster is something like showing up late to the test, being deathly ill, dealing with a power outage, or a gang outside the test center. Hopefully you cancelled your score, but consider retaking if you didn't. On the other hand, is where maybe you were just distracted or normal test anxiety. Mild disasters might be worth retaking themselves the next time you take the test and then it is probably not worth retaking.
- Did you prepare enough? Did you prepare LONG enough? And were you smart about how you prepared for one of the harder, if not hardest standardized tests. Preparation may take some people longer than others to reach their best score. If you didn't devote the requisite time to it, consider retaking it.
- Admissions Policies of Target Law School(s). Do they average or take the higher score? If they average, the improvement you see will effectively be cut in half, so think seriously about whether retaking is worth it.

When to Write an Addendum

This is not a time to make excuses just give the facts! Consider writing an addendum to your application to your LSAT score if:

- You only have 1 score and something terrible happens on test day. If you are just a bad standardized test taker, be careful because you don't want your addendum to sound like an excuse for poor performance. But if you are a good test taker and can provide evidence of this (i.e. old tests), you can consider writing an addendum about a disaster.
- You retake and there is more than a 3 point difference between the scores.

If you are happy and satisfied with your LSAT score, **CELEBRATE!** But march forward to finalize the components of your application so you can get those applications in!

[uscprelaw](#) | October 24, 2016 at 11:33 am | Categories: [Uncategorized](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/p1MV6m-bd>

- **Remember prelaw closer to**



UCLA LAW

home

to take advantage of advising resources



Whether you are a student or an alum, you can make an in-person or a phone appointment to receive [prelaw advising](#). Whether you would like to discuss law school choices, LSAT preparation, getting great letters of recommendation, or even if you would like someone to review your personal statement or resume, [book an appointment now](#) and get started.

Also, both students and alum can find lots of helpful links and information on the new [Pre-Law Resources page](#), where lots of internet and other resources are collected to answer pretty much any question you might have about law school, the legal profession, or applying to law school.

- **Remember to attend the Los Angeles Law School Forum TOMORROW**

The [Annual LSAC Los Angeles Law School Forum](#) is tomorrow, **Saturday, November 5, 2016, from 9-4**, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel. This is an excellent opportunity to talk face-to-face with admission representatives from [more than 160 LSAC-member law schools](#); obtain admission materials and financial aid information; and attend admission [workshops](#) to help navigate the law school application process. Admission is free, but you must [register](#). THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER TONIGHT!

- **Also, consider attending an event hosted by a law school**



Michigan State University still has a few prelaw webinars coming up. Remember, these are not about MSU -- they are about topics that every prelaw student needs to know about. [Register Now](#) for any of the following remaining sessions:

- Tues., November 8, 7:30 p.m., EST: [Pathways to Becoming a Professional: a Guide for Pre-Law Students](#)
- Weds., November 16, 7:30 p.m., EST: [Competencies Legal Employers Want & Legal Career Outlook](#)
- Tues., December 13, 7:30 p.m., EST: [Sensible Strategies for Financing Law School](#)

UCLA School of Law will be hosting a final campus [information session](#) on **November 8th** from **5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Representatives from the law school will discuss the law school

application process, have a Q&A period and offer an optional tour of the law school following the presentation. Free dinner will also be provided! RSVP [here](#).



[Western State College of Law](#) will be hosting a **Prelaw Event** on **Saturday, November 19th from 2:00PM-5:30PM** at their brand new campus in Irvine. Take a

tour of the law school, meet some of current students and law Professors, and participate in an open forum session on the law school application process and how to select a law school. No need to register and parking is free. Western States is located at 1 Banting, Irvine, CA. 92618. Contact [Rhonda Cohen](#) for more info.

- ***Make yourself more competitive by applying for a fellowship***



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- California Senate Fellows
- Executive Fellowship Program
- Judicial Administration Fellowship Program

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If you have questions regarding the Capital Fellows Programs, please contact Sacramento State's Center for California Studies at (916) 278-6906, calstudies@csus.edu or visit www.csus.edu/calst/programs

- ***Finally, if you're on campus, don't forget about the Law Society***

The [CSULB Law Society](#) meets every other Wednesday at 12:30 and their next meeting is this **Wednesday, 11/16 at 12:30 in USU 303.**

You are receiving this email because you are a student or an alum of CSULB and you either have an active account on LSAC or you have expressed interest in prelaw advising.

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