

Pre-Law Updates - March 2020

You may be wondering how recent events have impacted various aspects of the law school admissions process. In particular, if you have applications pending right now, don't hesitate to contact your individual law schools for the most accurate info about their own admissions process.

What about the LSAT?

The March 30 LSAT has been cancelled. Everyone who signed up for that date has been automatically switched to the Atxm60@case.edupril 25 sitting (or the June sitting for those who had signed up to take it abroad). However, with so many colleges and universities operating remotely, LSAC remains uncertain about whether they'll have adequate test sites.

At the moment, it's hard to know right now whether additional public health measures will make the April sitting advisable or even possible. [LSAC](#) is updating their website page regularly as new information emerges or as plans change.

Will law schools take into account the impact on test prep and upcoming testing experiences?

Although the LSAT and GPA weigh heavily in decision-making, remember that the admissions process is never just a numbers game. Admissions committees engage in holistic reviews of applications, taking into account all the many factors that have gone into shaping applicants and their experiences, perspectives and so on.

Are law schools extending their application deadlines?

Consult individual law schools and programs, particularly those with late March or April deadlines, to learn about deadline extensions.

If your ability to complete your application has been negatively affected by the current crisis, you should reach out to the particular law schools to ask about their own accommodations for late submissions. This especially includes students who were counting on applying with a March LSAT.

Are law schools extending their seat deposit deadlines?

If you've already been admitted to one or more law schools and are still trying to decide which offer to accept, you may face a more difficult situation with regard to the seat deposit deadlines. The earliest deadlines are coming up in April.

There is no news of law schools issuing global extensions of these deadlines, but admissions officials may consider extensions on a case-by-case basis. If there are specific reasons your decision has been impacted (apart from inability to visit schools—see below), then contact the schools to inquire about their flexibility.

How can I make a decision when I can't visit law schools?

It's of course true that law school visits are critical to the decision-making process. Getting that "feel" for a school can be so important to your experience over the subsequent three years. Now that visits to most schools are impossible, how do you research that "feel?"

Many schools are offering virtual tours, and making faculty and current students available for video chats. You can also ask admissions offices to put you in touch with current students, especially those that match your interests or background in ways that might make their perspectives particularly useful to you.

Consult the Pre-Law Advisor [Terri Mester](#) if you'd like to speak to CWRU alumni who are either current students or recent graduates of particular law schools. And you can also still reach out directly to Career/Placement offices at individual law schools, and to faculty—all should be available via email and/or phone.

My spring or summer internship has been cancelled—how will this affect my application?

First, remember that law-related internships are not the make or break of a law school application. In fact, admissions committees are not generally too concerned with whether you've completed such an internship or job—rather, they're interested in learning more about whatever you've done, and what you've learned from your experiences.

If your summer internship in a law office has been cancelled, don't worry about it having an impact on your application. Instead, pursue whatever opportunities are still available to you and are meaningful to you. That might mean finding a job to replace some of your lost income, or volunteering, or caring for family members. Whatever it is, it will add to the overall portrait you'll be able to present to the admissions committees.

Will Pass/No Pass count against me in the law school admissions process?

No. Law school admissions committees are looking at the whole picture, not just one grade or set of grades. What's more, they welcome addenda explaining anomalies in your academic record. A brief explanation of the circumstances will suffice to allay any concerns they might have. This is true whether you're applying this year or several years from now with perhaps an odd-looking spring 2020 record. And of course, a large number of applicants in the future will have odd-looking spring 2020 semesters on their transcripts.