

## Refine: Year Before Application

### Fall

- **Solidify** your “why”
- **Have** your law school GPA calculator up to date so you know exactly where your law school GPA stands
- **Start** personal statement
  - ◆ Attend “Personal Statement Workshop”, a “Personal Statement Brainstorming Session”, or watch video on the [PPAC YouTube page](#)
    - One of these is required BEFORE you can have your PS reviewed by PPAC
  - ◆ Visit [here](#) for more information and examples
- **Begin** to research and possibly narrow down your list of schools you want to apply to.
  - ◆ Use resources like [XploreJD](#) to help craft your school list
- **Research** and understand how to demonstrate the core competencies schools are looking for.
  - ◆ It is imperative you understand the competency, self-reflect on experiences that demonstrate growth and achievement in that area, and know how to articulate all of this through written language.
- **Finalize** your LSAT test date and register for the exam.
  - ◆ Research and buy study materials. Refer to the PPAC website for a list of resources to help.
- **If applicable**, begin the process of applying for fee assistance through LSAC
  - ◆ Visit [HERE](#) for eligibility and application information
- **Consider** which faculty, advisors, clinicians, and/or mentors with whom you have developed strong professional relationships that you will approach to write your letters of recommendation if required
- **Continue** participation in your “experiences” and extracurricular activities
- **Identify** and pursue additional leadership opportunities on campus or in the community.

### Spring

- **Writing**
  - ◆ Revise and finalize Personal statement
  - ◆ Finalize resume
  - ◆ If applicable:
    - Part-time statement
    - Addenda
    - Academic Statement
    - Criminal statement
    - Professional Statement
- **Ask** for letters of recommendation
  - ◆ Give your letter writers plenty of time to craft a \*strong\* letter of recommendation (8-10 weeks minimum)
  - ◆ Be prepared to provide your personal statement and a resume
  - ◆ Be informed of the process of submissions so you can inform your writers

- ◆ Give letter writers a rough deadline for submission
- **Attend** PPAC's "Completing your Professional School Application" workshop
- **Order** transcripts
  - ◆ Order a copy for yourself to enter coursework on your application
  - ◆ Order a copy for your CAS application
- **Finalize** schools you are applying to
- **Identify** and finalize source of funding for fees
- **Download** instruction manual for application and review
- **Make** note of relevant application dates:
  - ◆ Opening date
  - ◆ Submission date
  - ◆ Length of verification process
  - ◆ First day verified applications are sent to professional schools (if applicable)
- **Apply!**
  - ◆ Refer to "Polish and Present" sheet for details