

1. Biographical

* Indicates a required field.

* 1. Salutation. When we address correspondence to you throughout the admissions season, it is our general practice to use a prefix and your last name. We have provided the most commonly selected choices, but would welcome your designating any prefix you prefer (e.g., Rev., Lieut.). (If you prefer not to choose a prefix, we will address you by your chosen first name in our correspondence.)

Select Item ▼

We love it when you select an honorific, so we can give you an old-school greeting in correspondence; we're devotees of Miss Manners. But if you prefer none at all, that's an option too! We want to address you however YOU want to be addressed.

* 2. First name

* 3. Chosen or preferred first name

4. Middle name

* 5. Last name

6. Former name, if any

7. Date of birth (optional)

month day yyyy
Select Month ▼ Select day ▼

Is your given name Andrew, but everyone calls you Andy? Contrariwise, does Andy make you cringe? Do you have a middle name you prefer to your first name? Do you have a nickname we would never guess from your given name, like Bubba or Seven? Or perhaps you've chosen a name that matches your gender identity. Let us know what to call you; we really like to get that right.

* 8. Place of Birth City:

* 9. Place of Birth: Country

Select Item ▼

Has your legal name ever changed? If so, by what name(s) were you known before?

10. Social Security Number (optional)

* 11. LSAC Account Number

Please be aware that if you chose not to provide your Social Security number on your application and then later apply for federal financial aid, your FAFSA will not reach us! You should reach out to our Financial Aid folks to discuss. But even if you provide your social security number in the application, please do not include it in email correspondence with our office, because in the event of a computer virus, that information could be compromised. Instead, please use your LSAC account number for identification, or better yet, the 8-digit UMID number we'll send you shortly after we receive your application. If your name is as unusual as, say, Zearfoss, you probably don't need any identifying number at all—but still, you'd be amazed at the amount of overlap in names within an applicant pool in a given year.

2. Additional Biographical

* Indicates a required field.

If you want to provide some contextual information for your answer, please do so here. If you would like to provide more detail than is possible in the space available, you should feel free to provide an addendum. Finally, if you prefer not to provide this information, please select "choose not to answer."

We recognize that gender identity falls on a continuum. Please select one of the options below, or feel free not to answer.

* 1. Gender:

- Choose not to answer
- Woman
- Gender non-binary
- Man
- Other

2. Please feel welcome to provide any information you wish to convey about your gender expression and identification. (maximum characters 250)

250 characters left

3. Sex Orientation/Gender ID

This section does not apply to me.

* Indicates a required field.

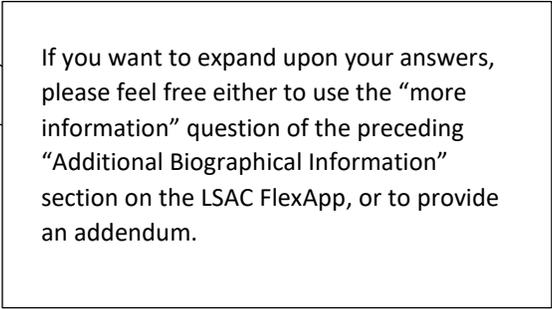
(Optional) The information requested below is optional. Your answer, or decision not to answer, will have no bearing on our admission decision. We collect this information to facilitate connecting admitted students with current students for recruiting purposes.

1. Please indicate if you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer.

Yes

2. Please indicate if you identify as transgender.

Yes



If you want to expand upon your answers, please feel free either to use the “more information” question of the preceding “Additional Biographical Information” section on the LSAC FlexApp, or to provide an addendum.

4. Demographic Information

* Indicates a required field.

* 1. Please select your citizenship.

- US Citizen
- Dual Citizen (i.e., US and another country)
- US Permanent Resident
- Non-Resident Alien

* 2. Country of citizenship

Select a country ▼

3. Visa Type

Select Item ▼

4. Permanent Residential Number

5. Visa/SEVIS Number

6. Permanent City

7. Permanent State and Country

Country

Select a country ▼

State/province

Select a state, province, or country ▼

If you have dual citizenship with the United States and another country, please select that option, and then you will have the ability to indicate both countries. (If you are a dual citizen of two countries, neither of which is the United States, do not select the "dual citizen" option!)

If you have DACA status, you should select "non-resident alien"; name your country of citizenship; and ignore the optional "Visa type" question. If you wish to discuss your DACA status in your application, we would welcome that.

5. Contact Information

* Indicates a required field.

Current Address

* 1. Street address - Line 1

2. Street address - Line 2

* 3. City

* 4. Country

Country

State/province

* 5. ZIP/postal code

* 6. Current mailing address valid through

month	day	yyyy
<input type="text" value="Select Month"/>	<input type="text" value="Select day"/>	<input type="text"/>

Permanent Address

* 7. Street address - Line 1

8. Street address - Line 2

* 9. City

* 10. Country

Country

State/province

* 11. ZIP/postal code

Other Contact Information

* 12. Email address

* 13. Mobile phone number

If, after completing your application, your current address will change for two months or more, please let us know by email to law.jd.admissions@umich.edu. We regret that we are unable to make address changes for shorter periods.

We often send questions or updates by email. Please provide an email address that will be good throughout the season—or make sure to email us promptly if you need to update your records. And at the risk of sounding exactly like every website in the world that wants to sell you something: PLEASE add law.jd.admissions@umich.edu to your safe-senders list, so we don't end up in your junk email. (Also, we need your assistance with our bank account... oh, never mind.)

6. Metropolitan area

* Indicates a required field.

* 1. Please identify the metropolitan area where you will principally be residing during the admissions season:

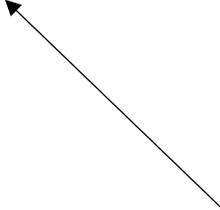
- Atlanta, GA
- Austin, TX
- Boston, MA
- Chicago, IL
- Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
- Denver/Colorado Springs, CO
- Detroit/Ann Arbor, MI
- Houston, TX
- Kalamazoo/Grand Rapids, MI
- Los Angeles, CA
- Miami/Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
- New York City, NY
- Philadelphia, PA
- Phoenix/Tucson, AZ
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Portland, OR
- San Francisco, CA
- Seattle, WA
- St. Louis, MO
- Washington, DC
- Other US metro area
- International

Please note: this isn't a question about your mailing address or your permanent home, but about where you are living *right this minute!* Sometimes we are wandering around the country in the spring, and if we know where you are, we can meet up with you. The LSAC FlexApp provides a drop-down list of the locales where our applicants can most commonly be found, Atlanta, GA; Austin, TX; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas/Fort Worth, TX; Denver/Colorado Springs, CO; Detroit/Ann Arbor, MI; Houston, TX; Kalamazoo/Grand Rapids, MI; Los Angeles, CA; Miami/Fort Lauderdale, FL; Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN; New York City, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Phoenix/Tucson, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland, OR; San Francisco, CA; Seattle, WA; St. Louis, MO; Washington, DC, along with the catch-all categories of "other" (for unlisted metro areas in the US) and "international" (for those living abroad). If you choose one of the latter answers, please provide your best guess at the relevant metro area. Wikipedia has a helpful list under the entry "metropolitan statistical areas." (And yeah, that's right—we just referred you to Wikipedia! Still—don't cite it in court.)

7. Hometown

* Indicates a required field.

* 1. Please provide the location that you identify as your hometown, or with which you feel most closely affiliated:



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks has a lot to say about the multifaceted meanings of the term “home”—but what we’re looking for is something that will nicely populate an Excel cell. Please do your best to limit your answer to a single city and state, or province (and country, if not in the U.S.).

8. Add'l Contact Information

This section does not apply to me.

* Indicates a required field.

1. We often put our faculty, alumni, and students in touch with admitted applicants with shared interests or backgrounds so they can communicate about the Law School. Select "No" below only if you do NOT wish to be contacted.

No

While the following may seem like a painfully obvious observation, we've known people to get confused: Please note the "NOT" in this sentence! The default mode is that people will contact you if you are admitted, and this question is meant to let you avoid that if you're so inclined. We assure you that the number of contacts will be minimal. And of course, we're always happy to switch a "yes" to a "no" if you get sick of hearing from us. We promise not to weep. Not TOO much, anyway.

If you have previously been affiliated with the University of Michigan, please let us know:

2. Your unickname (...@umich.edu):

3. Your 8-digit UMID (located on your M-Card):

Even if you were just briefly a student or employee, you likely still have a unickname and UMID. The University has a very long memory and a very large database.

Please note: If you are a current or previous UM affiliate (whether a student or employee at any campus, or even just a summer camper), you will have personal and contact information in Wolverine Access. That information overrides any information you provide in this application, and we cannot alter it. Please make sure to visit Wolverine Access to update and correct your records as necessary.

At the risk of being tiresome, we want to emphasize this point: If you have a Wolverine Access record and it is inconsistent with the information you provide in your application, there will unfortunately be a processing delay in order for us to contact you and ask that you make the corrections.

9. Application Type

* Indicates a required field.

* 1. Please indicate whether you are applying under the regular decision or the Early Decision program.

- Early Decision (deadline November 15)
 Regular Decision (deadline February 28)

For Early Decision applicants, checking the box above denotes your agreement with the following statement: I have applied under the binding Early Decision program. I understand that the deadline for applying is November 15. I further understand that I must submit an LSAT score from the October 2022 administration or earlier, and that all my application materials must be received by the Admissions Office by November 15 to ensure that I meet the deadline (with the exception that the LSAC Report and LSAT score may not be available until later if I sat for the October 2022 administration). If the University of Michigan Law School offers me admission under this plan by December 15, I agree to commit to attend the School, as well as to withdraw all applications pending at other law schools and not to initiate any new applications. I have signed the Early Decision certification at the end of the application.

Early decision is a big commitment—we like to think we’re worth it,  but we urge you to think carefully and do loads of research. The literal last thing we want is someone who has committed to attend and is unhappy about it.

10. Dual Degree

* Indicates a required field.

* 1. Please indicate if you have applied or will be applying this year for a dual degree program.

- Yes
 No

* 1a. Please specify which program:

- Business Administration-JD/MBA
- Economics-JD/PhD
- Environment & Sustainability-JD/MS
- Health Services Administration-JD/MHSA
- History-JD/PhD
- Information-JD/MSI
- International and Regional Studies-JD/MIRS
- Public Health-JD/MPH
- Public Policy-JD/MPP
- Social Work-JD/MSW
- Urban & Regional Planning-JD/MURP
- World Politics-JD/MA
- Other

[Clear answer](#)

1b. If you selected *Other*, please specify which program:

If you think you might want to apply in the future, but you're not sure, you can skip this question.

We provide a list of our many established dual-degree programs, but we also facilitate our students' participation in any UM graduate or professional programs. Just select "other" and fill in the specifics

Please remember that you will need to apply separately to any other program. The admissions processes of individual programs are administered completely independently, so admission to one program does not guarantee admission to another. Also, please bear in mind that different programs operate on different decisional timelines, and you may hear from one program long before you hear from another. Finally, if you are admitted to the Law School and another program, you should contact us ASAP if you wish to begin your JD study in any term other than the one specified in our offer of admission to you.

11. Program Information

While we can electronically access applications from previous years, we do not routinely do so; we instead rely on the materials you submit for the current application season.

* Indicates a required field.

* 1. Have you applied to the University of Michigan Law School before?

- Yes
 No

* 1a. If you have applied to the University of Michigan Law School before, state for which year:

2. If you have ever registered at a law school, please give the name of the law school, dates of attendance, and your reasons for not completing the degree: (maximum characters 200)

200 characters left

12. Standardized Testing

This section does not apply to me.

* Indicates a required field.

1. List all dates you have taken, or plan to take, the Law School Admission Test.

month day yyyy
Select Month ▼ Select day ▼

2. .

month day yyyy
Select Month ▼ Select day ▼

3. .

month day yyyy
Select Month ▼ Select day ▼

4. .

month day yyyy
Select Month ▼ Select day ▼

5. .

month day yyyy
Select Month ▼ Select day ▼

Please note that Michigan does not accept the GRE or other tests in lieu of the LSAT, unless you are already enrolled in another University of Michigan graduate program.

13. Languages

This section does not apply to me.

* Indicates a required field.

Indicate any language, other than English, that you speak or write, and state your degree of proficiency in each, using the following rubric:

Basic = elementary level; understanding of simple phrases/sentences

Conversant = can handle a variety of uncomplicated communicative tasks

Proficient = skilled at the language, but not entirely fluent

Fluent = high level of language skills, fluid use of language

Native = primary language

1. Language 1 (maximum characters 100)

100 characters left

2. Language Proficiency 1

Select Item

3. Language 2 (maximum characters 100)

100 characters left

4. Language Proficiency 2

Select Item

5. Language 3 (maximum characters 100)

100 characters left

6. Language Proficiency 3

Select Item

7. Language 4 (maximum characters 100)

100 characters left

8. Language Proficiency 4

Select Item

9. Language 5 (maximum characters 100)

100 characters left

10. Language Proficiency 5

Select Item

11. Language 6 (maximum characters 100)

100 characters left

12. Language Proficiency 6

Select Item

13. If English is not your native language, when did you begin to learn it?

- By age 5
 During elementary school
 During high school
 After high school

[Clear answer](#)

We could think of no useful guidance for this set of questions, but nature abhors a vacuum. We therefore offer up this quote from Kurt Vonnegut (in Wampeters, Foma & Granfaloon) for your consideration: “[I]t was obvious to me that I had at least one thing in common with Joseph Conrad: English was my second language. Unlike Conrad, I had no first language, so I went to work . . . with pen and pencil and scissors and paste, to make it appear that speaking my native tongue and thinking about important matters came very easily to me.”

14. Family Information

* Indicates a required field.

Please provide information for up to two parents or guardians.

* 1. Please add information for a parent or guardian.

- Mother
- Father
- Guardian

If a parent is deceased, we still appreciate knowing information about their education level and occupation. Also: That's awful, and we're sorry. Seriously.

* 2. Name:

* 3. Is this parent/guardian deceased?

- Yes
- No

* 4. Primary occupation during working years: (maximum characters 100)

100 characters left

* 5. Highest level of education:

- Did not complete high school
- High school diploma
- Some college (no degree)
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate or professional degree

We're interested in your self-identification. If the idea of "first generation college" speaks to you, check yes—please be assured that we're not interested in quibbling over your mother's estranged brother who might have gone to college. *You* are the best judge of whether this designation makes sense.

* 6. If applicable, please provide information for a second parent or guardian.

- Mother
- Father
- Guardian

[Clear answer](#)

7. Name:

* 8. Is this parent/guardian deceased?

- Yes
- No

[Clear answer](#)

* 9. Primary occupation during working years: (maximum characters 100)

100 characters left

* 10. Highest level of education:

- Did not complete high school
- High school diploma
- Some college (no degree)
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate or professional degree

[Clear answer](#)

This question applies only to Law School alumni. If you want us to know that your mom went to medical school at UM or your sister graduated from LSA, we're happy to have that info! Just give it to us in an addendum or supplemental essay instead, please.

* 11. Are you among the first generation of your immediate family to receive a bachelor's degree?

- Yes
- No

* 12. If you have a parent, grandparent, or sibling who attended Michigan Law School, please state relationship, name, degree type (JD, LL.M., SJD), and year of graduation (if any). (maximum characters 150)

150 characters left

15. Education

* Indicates a required field.

- * 1. List ALL educational institutions attended.

Add New Institution

15. Education

* Indicates a required field.

Add New Institution

* Institution type

* Country

State/province

* Institution

Institution name

* City

Major category

Major

Other Major

* Start date (month/year) /

End date (month/year) /

Degree

Date degree granted (month/year) /

GPA

Rank

We do not need your GPA or rank here—or your major either! But this is a question that LSAC doesn't let us edit, so you're welcome to leave those lines blank.

16. High School

* Indicates a required field.

* 1. Please provide the name of the high school where you obtained your diploma: (maximum characters 150)

150 characters left

* 2. Please provide the city and state of the high school where you obtained your diploma: (maximum characters 150)

150 characters left

Dean Zearfoss is always looking for applicants who attended her high school's rival. JK! JK!

17. In-State Tuition

* Indicates a required field.

Eligibility for In-State Tuition

In-state status for tuition and admissions purposes is determined by criteria set forth in the University's *Guidelines for Qualifying for In-State Tuition*, which can be found, along with the application for in-state tuition, at www.ro.umich.edu/resreg.php. Questions pertaining to your in-state status should be addressed to the staff of the Residency Classification Office, University of Michigan Office of the Registrar, 1210 LS&A Building, 500 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1382, phone number 734-764-1400.

* 1. Do you meet the eligibility criteria for in-state tuition according to the Guidelines for Qualifying for In-State Tuition?

- Yes
 No

If you answered yes and any of the following circumstances applies, please be aware that you must file an application for in-state tuition and be approved in order to be considered in-state for tuition purposes:

- You currently live outside of Michigan (for any purpose, including, but not limited to, education, volunteer activities, travel, or employment).
- You have attended a high school or college outside of Michigan.
- You have been employed or domiciled outside of Michigan in the last 3 years.
- You are not a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident Alien.
- Your spouse, partner, or parent is in Michigan as a nonresident student, medical resident, fellow, or for military assignment or other temporary employment.
- You are 24 years of age or younger and a parent lives outside of Michigan.
- You previously attended any U-M campus (Ann Arbor, Dearborn, or Flint) as a nonresident.

Other circumstances may also require you to file a residency application.

If you answer yes to this question, but some of the exceptions apply to you, the University initially will classify you as a nonresident by default. We will send you an explanatory letter and a form that will allow you to apply for in-state tuition. This initial classification is not a final determination, so don't think you're forever labeled a nonresident. In fact, please be assured that because we've seen this issue many times before, we are, even prior to an official University determination, quite likely to recognize that you qualify for in-state tuition if that is in fact the case. Finally, because the in-state classification process is wholly separate from our admissions process, you can complete your law school application prior to beginning the in-state application process—the two processes will proceed independently of each other.

18. Conduct

* Indicates a required field.

While answering the two questions below, when in doubt, err on the side of full disclosure, as the failure to fully answer any question may result in exclusion from law school or denial of the opportunity to take a state bar examination. Note that an affirmative answer to either question does not necessarily preclude or even prejudice admission. Your answer will be reviewed on an individual basis in relation to all aspects of your experience, academic achievement, and potential. **(Please be aware:** In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners at <http://www.ncbex.org/#maincontent>.) **You must submit a supplementary statement with any affirmative responses; provide complete details, including dates and resolution.**

If, following your completion of this application but prior to matriculation, matters arise that would require you to answer yes to either question, supplement your application with complete details.

- * 1. Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action for academic or other reasons in any of the colleges, universities, graduate or professional schools you have attended, or are such charges pending or expected to be brought against you?

Yes
 No

- * 2. Have you ever been convicted of a crime (following a jury or bench trial, a guilty plea, or a *nolo contendere* plea), or charged with a criminal offense that was later dismissed as a result of a plea bargain or alternative sentencing arrangement, or are such criminal charges pending or expected to be brought against you? Include misdemeanors and criminal infractions, as well as any interaction with a law enforcement agency that resulted in payment of a fine or order of community service. Your answer should include matters that have been expunged. Do not include minor traffic violations or civil infractions or citations for which jail time was not a potential penalty.

Yes
 No

We are not unaware of racial inequities in law enforcement and we have endeavored to frame this question narrowly.

For an extended discussion of what happens when you check "no" but the answer is actually "yes," please take a look at the A2Z blog on our website and search for "cover-up." If you need a little guidance, please feel free to contact us by phone at 734.764.0537 or by email to law.jd.admissions@umich.edu.

By "details," we mean the facts of what occurred—not just data points like the date and specific charge and so forth, but a narrative. We'd really like to understand the complete story.

Don't be dissuaded from applying because you have to check "yes." Context and explanations matter – a LOT. We look for candor and thoughtfulness in your response. For a longer discussion about how a "yes" answer affects your application review, please check out [episode 6](#) of the A2Z vlog.

19. Race & Ethnicity

This section does not apply to me.

* Indicates a required field.

(Optional) The information requested below is optional and will not be used in the admissions process. It is collected to comply with state and federal reporting requirements, as well as for statistical purposes. Your answer, or decision not to answer, will have no bearing on the Law School's admission decision. The structure and substance of the questions in this section match the reporting requirements of the Department of Education and other federal and state agencies. We recognize that the listed categories may be ambiguous or under-inclusive of many racial and ethnic categories, and may not represent your full identity or use the terminology you prefer. If you wish, we invite you to submit an addendum explaining your racial and ethnic identification more precisely.

1. Please indicate whether you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino: a person of Cuban, Mexican, Chicano, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Yes

No

[Clear answer](#)

American Indian or Alaska Native: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Black or African American: a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

2. Using the descriptions listed above, please select one or more of the following racial categories to describe yourself:

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black or African American

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

White

The people who will make a decision on your application will not see your answer to these questions.

20. Certification

* Indicates a required field.

- * 1. By submitting this application electronically, I hereby certify that all statements and representations on this application and on all accompanying materials are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I certify that the thoughts and words contained in my personal statement and essays are my own, and that no one assisted in the creation of my personal statement and essays beyond basic proofreading or a general critique of my work. I understand that false statements may result in the revocation of an offer of admission or expulsion or rescinding of my degree.

month day yyyy
Select Month ▼ Select day ▼

2. I have applied under the binding Early Decision program. I understand that the deadline for applying is November 15. I further understand that I must submit an LSAT score from the October 2022 administration or earlier, and that all my application materials must be received by the Admissions Office by November 15 to ensure that I meet the deadline (with the exception that the LSAC Report and LSAT score may not be available until later if I sat for the October 2022 administration). If the University of Michigan Law School offers me admission under this plan by December 15, I agree to commit to attend the School, as well as to withdraw all applications pending at other law schools and not to initiate any new applications, and I have signed the certification at the end of the application.

month day yyyy
Select Month ▼ Select day ▼

The Law School will contact you by email when we receive your application. After that, you may track your application through our online status checker. It is your responsibility to make sure that all necessary materials reach us. We cannot review incomplete applications.

Please read the certifications carefully, and contact us if you have any questions at all.

A one-page résumé sometimes lacks detail—about extracurricular activities, outside interests, hours devoted to particular endeavors, etc. We always like to know more, more, MORE. So if you need the elbow room, feel free to expand as needed (while still exercising your editorial sensibilities!).

Experience

Please provide a résumé showing: (A) full-time or significant part-time employment, paid or unpaid, beginning with your most recent, including the name and location of your employer, your job title, and the dates you held the position, along with any other information you think will be useful; (B) significant extracurricular/non-work-related activities; (C) academic and non-academic honors and awards received, including fellowships, prizes, and memberships in honor societies; and (D) hobbies or special areas of interest or academic pursuits. **If you are not presently enrolled in an educational institution**, we would find it particularly helpful to know what you are doing now; whether you are working, volunteering, traveling, seeking employment, or anything else. **please be sure to tell us your current and planned activities prior to enrolling in law school.**

Supported file formats: DOC, HTM, HTML, TXT, WP, WPD, RTF, WPS, WPT, DOCX, PDF
NOTE: Documents should have password and security features removed.

We really like to know what our applicants are doing, so if you're not currently enrolled in school, please, please be sure to specify how you're spending your days. If you don't tell us, we have two options: either we have to contact you to ask and then wait for you to answer (which impedes our efforts at super-efficient decision making), or we just have to proceed on the assumption that you're doing something slightly sketchy. And we are very imaginative.

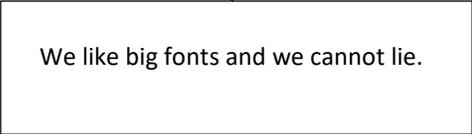
Do you build model airplanes? Are you an ace poker player? Can you run a 6-minute mile? We don't/aren't/ can't, so this strikes us as intriguing and impressive. We really are interested in what you do when you're not working as much as what you do when you *are* working.

Personal Statement

As you prepare to write your personal statement, please keep the following in mind. First, we do not have a fixed checklist of particular attributes we seek in our students, and you will have the best insights into what is most important for us to know. Second, there is no set convention for communicating the information you choose to share. A successful essay might involve writing directly about expansive themes such as your goals or philosophy or background or identity, or very differently, might be a vignette that reveals something significant about you. Thus, there is no formula for a successful personal statement, and different individuals will find different topics to be well-suited to them. Applicants have, for example, elaborated on their significant life experiences; meaningful intellectual interests and extracurricular activities; factors inspiring them to obtain a legal education or to pursue particular career goals; significant obstacles met and overcome; special talents or skills; issues of identity, such as gender, sex, race, or ethnicity; particular political, philosophical, or religious beliefs; socioeconomic challenges; atypical backgrounds, educational paths, employment histories, or prior careers; or experiences and perspectives relating to discrimination, disadvantage, or disability. Any of these subjects, and many more, could be an appropriate basis for communicating important information about yourself that will aid us in reaching a thoughtful decision. In other words, think broadly about what you might wish to convey and how you might best convey it.

While we do not impose a page or word limit for the personal statement, we value clear and concise writing; most personal statements are between two and four pages. For ease of reading, please use double-spacing and at least an 11-point font.

Supported file formats: DOC, HTM, HTML, TXT, WP, WPD, RTF, WPS, WPT, DOCX, PDF
NOTE: Documents should have password and security features removed.



We like big fonts and we cannot lie.

We often get asked, “What should I write about in my personal statement?” Unfortunately, the truthful answer is, “I don’t know.” After all, we don’t know you yet! But we take the personal statement very seriously, so please spend time thinking about what you most want us to know about you—more than any other part of our process, this is where we glean the answer to, “Why do we want to admit you?” For more guidance, check out episodes [2](#) and [4](#) of the A2Z vlog.

Supplemental Essays

This section is optional.

Supplemental essays allow you an opportunity to provide us with relevant information that you were not able to include elsewhere in your application materials. If you think writing on any of the topics below would help us get a better sense of who you are, we encourage you to consider submitting your responses to one or two (but no more) of the following topics. Each essay should be between one and two pages. For ease of reading, please use double-spacing and at least an 11-point font. **Please be sure to include the number of the prompt you are addressing at the top of your essay.**

Essay One

Say more about your interest in the University of Michigan Law School. What do you believe Michigan has to offer to you and you to Michigan? How do you think getting your JD from Michigan might affect your future career and life?

Essay Two

Describe a challenge, failure, or setback you have faced, whether long-term and systemic (e.g., socioeconomic, health, or complex family circumstances) or short-term and discrete (e.g., a workplace scenario or a particularly demanding course). How did you confront or overcome it? What, if anything, might you do differently?

Essay Three

Describe an experience that speaks to the problems and possibilities of diversity in an educational or work setting. As a lawyer, what measures might you take to develop diversity, equity, and inclusion?

Essay Four

Describe a quality or skill you have and discuss how you expect it will help you in your legal career.

Essay Five

Tell us about a group that you are or have been a part of and how you contribute(d) to it.

Essay Six

Describe your educational experiences so far. What kinds of learning environments, teaching methods, student cultures, and/or evaluation processes lead you to thrive, or contrariwise, thwart your success?

Essay Seven

How might your perspectives and experiences enrich the quality and breadth of the intellectual life of our community or enhance the legal profession?

Essay Eight

Think of someone who knows you, but doesn't know you well (i.e., not a family member or a close friend). How would they describe you? Would their description be accurate? Why or why not?

Essay Nine

If you could have dinner with any prominent person, who would it be and why? What would you discuss?

Supported file formats: DOC, HTM, HTML, TXT, WP, WPD, RTF, WPS, WPT, DOCX, PDF

NOTE: Documents should have password and security features removed.

Supplemental essays can be very helpful in our review process. While they are by no means required (certainly, many applicants are admitted without them—hence the “optional” designation!), we often get a completely new and helpful perspective from their more targeted focus. We offer a wide variety of choices in the hope that you will be able to select a topic that “speaks” to you.

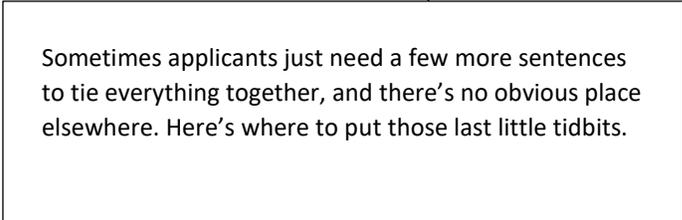
Please, please, please.
Thank you.

Addendum

This section is optional.

If there is any information in your application you wish to clarify—for example, particular grades; a history of standardized testing that under-predicts your academic performance; gaps in employment—you may submit that information here. You may submit as many addenda as you need.

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Sometimes applicants just need a few more sentences to tie everything together, and there's no obvious place elsewhere. Here's where to put those last little tidbits.