1. Biographical Information

- Select Item
- Select Month
- Select Day
- Select a country
- Select a state, province, or country
- Select a country
- Select Item
- Select a country

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.

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.

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

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.

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.
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.)

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, 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.

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 might be able to meet up with you! You may choose from among the top 200 largest US metro areas (Ann Arbor is #148!) as well as a number of the largest cities internationally. If none of these work, just select “other” and fill in the blank.
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.

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.

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.
5. Background

※ Indicates a required field.

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

2. Hometown (country, state)
   Country
   Select a country
   State/province
   Select a state, province, or country

Please provide information for up to two parents or guardians.

3. Please add information for a parent or guardian
   ○ Mother
   ○ Father
   ○ Guardian

4. Name

5. Is this parent or guardian deceased?
   ○ Yes
   ○ No

6. Primary occupation during working years (maximum characters 100)

   100 characters left

7. Highest level of education
   ○ Did not complete high school
   ○ High school diploma or equivalent
   ○ Some college (no degree)
   ○ Associate’s degree
   ○ Bachelor’s degree
   ○ Graduate or professional degree

8. If applicable, please provide information for a second parent or guardian.
   ○ Father
   ○ Mother
   ○ Guardian
   ○ Not applicable—sole parent or guardian
   ○ Choose not to answer

9. Are you among the first generation of your immediate family to receive a bachelor’s degree or the equivalent?
   ○ Yes
   ○ No

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

   150 characters left

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.

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.).

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.

If you were raised by just one parent or guardian, you may choose either “not applicable” or “choose not to answer,” as you prefer.

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.
Dean Zearfoss is always looking for applicants who attended her high school’s rival. JK! JK! Does it bother her that Kobe Bryant is the most famous graduate of that high school, while Wikipedia says the most famous graduate of HER alma mater was a misidentified suspect in the Boston Marathon bombing? Yes, yes it does.

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.
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.
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 & Granfalloons*) for your consideration: “It 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.”
Even if you were just briefly a student or employee, you likely still have a uniqname and UMID. The University has a very long memory and a very large database.

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.

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

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.

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

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 at law.jd.admissions@umich.edu.
11. Identity

* 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.

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 information requested below is optional. Your answer, or choice 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.

3. Please indicate if you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer.
   - [ ] Yes

4. Please indicate if you identify as transgender.
   - [ ] Yes

5. Gender
   - [ ] Male
   - [ ] Female
   - [ ] Gender non-binary
   - [ ] Other
   - [ ] Choose not to answer

We recognize that gender identity falls on a continuum. Please feel welcome to provide any information you wish to convey about your gender expression and identification. (maximum characters 250)

250 characters left

If you prefer not to provide this information, please select “choose not to answer.”

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.
12. 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 have not used ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence tools as part of my drafting process. I understand that false statements may result in the revocation of an offer of admission or expulsion or rescinding of my degree.

Please read this certification carefully, and contact us if you have any questions at all.

In the words of Leon Botstein, President of Bard College: “It is only in the cultivation of human experience—our capacity to think, to link the mind with the heart in writing, imagining, and creating—that we will remain free in an AI-dominated universe. Our affections, our desire to interact with one another—to dream, alone and with others—cannot be supplanted.” AI has many uses, but your goal in your essays should be to put your full humanity on display!
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!).

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.
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. Your personal statement gives us an opportunity to get a sense of your voice, perspectives, and experiences, as well as your writing ability, and there is no particular formula to follow. Applicants have in the past 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 authentic and genuine 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, WPS, RTF, WPS, WPT, DOCX, PDF
NOTE. Documents should have password and security features removed.
Supplemental Essays

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.

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. Why might Michigan be a good fit for you culturally, academically, or professionally?

Essay Two
Describe a challenge, failure, or setback you have faced and overcome, 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 it? What, if anything, might you do differently?

Essay Three
How has the world you came from positively shaped who you are today?

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 time in the recent past when you changed your mind about something significant.

Essay Six
We seek students who are encouraging, kind, and collaborative, even when it is not convenient or easy. Describe a recent experience where you exhibited these characteristics.

Essay Seven
One of the goals of our admissions process is to enroll students who will enrich the quality and breadth of the intellectual life of our law school community, as well as to expand and diversify the identities of people in the legal profession. How might your experiences and perspectives contribute to our admissions goals?

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, living or dead, 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.

Please, please, please. Thank you.
Sometimes applicants just need a few more sentences to provide context or to tie everything together, and there’s no obvious place elsewhere. Here’s where to put those last little tidbits.