

The following Motion and Documents were considered by the GFC Programs Committee by Electronic Vote closing on February 22, 2024:

Agenda Title: **Approval of the Faculty of Law Admission Criteria**

CARRIED MOTION:

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached submissions from the Faculty of Law.

Final Item: 1.



Faculty (& Department or Academic Unit):	Law
Contact Person:	James Muir, Vice Dean of Law
Level of change: (choose one only)	• Undergraduate
	Graduate
Type of change request: (check all that apply)	Program
	• Regulation
For which term is this intended to take effect?	1890
Does this proposal have corresponding course changes? (Should be submitted at the same time)	

Rationale

Things to consider (maximum 500 words): Why is this being changed; How will it benefit students/department/unit; How is this comparable to similar programs (internal or external); Historical context; Impacts to administration or program structure; Consultation with stakeholders

The Admissions Review Committee (2021-2023) made recommendations to better reflect the process for admission.

The title “regular applicant” implies other applicants are “irregular”. Replacing “regular” with “general” better captures the distinction intended between applicant categories.

The term “NCA students” has been replaced in Faculty of Law materials with “Internationally Trained Lawyer Pathway students” or “ITLP students”. The NCA is a non-University of Alberta body, and use of the term internally to define the students creates confusions between the NCA and the UofA.

Calendar Copy

<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=39&navoid=12305>

Current Copy: Removed language	Proposed Copy: New language
<p>Faculty of Law Admission Requirements</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juris Doctor (JD) • Regular Applicants • Special Applicants • Application Procedure • Application Documentation • Part-Time Program 	<p>Faculty of Law Admission Requirements</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juris Doctor (JD) • General Applicants • Indigenous Applicants • Internationally Trained Lawyer Pathway • Application Procedure • Application Documentation • Part-Time Program

Juris Doctor (JD)

General Admission Requirements

4. In measuring the potential of applicants, the Faculty Admissions Committee relies primarily on the undergraduate grade point average (GPA) and the performance on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).

The GPA is determined by reference to the applicant's most recent 60 units of course weight of study in university credit courses, provided those units of course weight are completed by February 1 in the year in which admission is sought. The GPA and the LSAT will be used to create a Prediction Indicator to rank the ~~Regular~~ Applicants. In their assessment of the Prediction Indicator, the Committee may take into account exceptional circumstances that adversely affected particular grades or overall academic performance and/or LSAT score(s), but do not pose an ongoing issue in terms of the applicant's ability to succeed in law school.

In a limited number of cases, the Committee may consider a broader range of factors beyond the Prediction Indicator, including the difficulty and quality of the applicant's previous academic work, employment experience, extracurricular and community activities, physical and cultural factors, and economic disadvantage, in order to distinguish between applicants with similar or identical Prediction Indicators.

2. The Committee will not consider any year of study or course or courses which cannot be credited toward a degree, or toward a university diploma approved by the Committee.
3. Admission into the Faculty of Law is limited to a quota of 175 students. Because the number of candidates who meet the minimum requirements for admission far exceeds the quota, it should be understood that eligibility does not guarantee admission. Admission is determined on a competitive basis.

Juris Doctor (JD)

Admission Requirements

1. The Faculty Admissions Committee will consider candidates for admission to the Faculty of Law in the following categories:
 - a. General Applicants
 - b. Indigenous Applicants
2. In measuring the potential of applicants the Faculty Admissions Committee relies primarily on the undergraduate grade point average (GPA) and the performance on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).

The GPA is determined by reference to the applicant's most recent 60 units of course weight of study in university credit courses, provided those units of course weight are completed by February 1 in the year in which admission is sought. The GPA and the LSAT will be used to create a Prediction Indicator to rank the **General** Applicants. In their assessment of the Prediction Indicator, the Committee may take into account exceptional circumstances that adversely affected particular grades or overall academic performance and/or LSAT score(s), but do not pose an ongoing issue in terms of the applicant's ability to succeed in law school.

In a limited number of cases, the Committee may consider a broader range of factors beyond the Prediction Indicator, including the difficulty and quality of the applicant's previous academic work, employment experience, extracurricular and community activities, physical and cultural factors, and economic disadvantage, in order to distinguish between applicants with similar or identical Prediction Indicators.

3. The Committee will not consider any year of study or course or courses which cannot be credited toward a degree, or toward a university diploma approved by the Committee.
4. Admission into the Faculty of Law is limited to a quota of 175 **General and Indigenous**

<p>4. Law School Admission Test (LSAT)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Except for applicants under Special Student Applicants, the LSAT is compulsory for all applicants. Test scores will be used to supplement a candidate's pre-law academic record. Test centres have been established at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, at the University of Calgary and at most other Canadian university campuses. The last acceptable LSAT writing date for September admission is January of the year in which admission is sought. An LSAT registration and information booklet can be obtained from the Faculty of Law, Examinations and Timetabling in the Office of the Registrar or by visiting www.LSAC.org b. The Committee normally averages scores where the applicant has taken the LSAT on more than one occasion. The Committee may, however, not take into account a particular LSAT score where the applicant establishes to the satisfaction of the Committee that the score was adversely affected by exceptional circumstances. Nonetheless, candidates are cautioned not to sit the LSAT if they are ill. c. LSAT scores are valid for a five year period and the test may not be written more than three times in any two year period. <p>5. The decision of the Committee in any matter is final, and there is no appeal from the Committee to any other body or person within the Faculty or the University.</p> <p>6. The Committee will consider candidates for admission to the Faculty of Law in the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Regular Applicants b. Special Applicants <p>2. The Dean or Dean's delegates will consider candidates for admission to the Faculty of Law in the following category:</p>	<p>students. Because the number of candidates who meet the minimum requirements for admission far exceeds the quota, it should be understood that eligibility does not guarantee admission. Admission is determined on a competitive basis.</p> <p>5. Law School Admission Test (LSAT)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Except for applicants under Special Student Applicants, the LSAT is compulsory for all applicants. Test scores will be used to supplement a candidate's pre-law academic record. Test centres have been established at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, at the University of Calgary and at most other Canadian university campuses. The last acceptable LSAT writing date for September admission is January of the year in which admission is sought. An LSAT registration and information booklet can be obtained from the Faculty of Law, Examinations and Timetabling in the Office of the Registrar or by visiting www.LSAC.org b. The Committee normally averages scores where the applicant has taken the LSAT on more than one occasion. The Committee may, however, not take into account a particular LSAT score where the applicant establishes to the satisfaction of the Committee that the score was adversely affected by exceptional circumstances. Nonetheless, candidates are cautioned not to sit the LSAT if they are ill. c. LSAT scores are valid for a five year period and the test may not be written more than three times in any two year period. <p>6. The decision of the Committee in any matter is final, and there is no appeal from the Committee to any other body or person within the Faculty or the University.</p> <p>7. The Committee will consider candidates for admission to the Faculty of Law in the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. General Applicants
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- a. National Committee on Accreditation students (NCA students) as outlined in Special Student Applicants.

It is the sole prerogative of the Committee to determine the category of the applicant. Applicants should carefully read the descriptions set out below.

Regular Applicants

1. To be considered for admission to the JD program a **Regular** Applicant must
 - a. Present proof of having received, with standing satisfactory to the Committee, a degree from the University of Alberta, or a degree from a university recognized by the University of Alberta; or
 - b. Present proof of having completed, with standing satisfactory to the Committee, at least the first three years (90 credit hours) of a program leading to a degree at the University of Alberta, or from a university recognized by the University of Alberta.
2. In special circumstances, the Committee will consider applicants who demonstrate outstanding academic ability, and who will, before or in the Fall/Winter preceding the September in which admission is sought (i.e., by April 30), have completed not less than two years, or equivalent of a full program of studies that would be accepted for credit toward any degree at a university in Alberta. Outstanding academic ability is defined as
 - a. A minimum grade point average of 3.7 or its equivalent over the two years of study; and
 - b. An LSAT score which places the applicant in the 90th percentile of those who have taken the LSAT.
3. The Committee shall consider and evaluate, in its sole discretion, the content and grades of the applicant's academic performance and may reject applicants whose general performance or course of study the Committee does not consider satisfactory.

- b. **Indigenous Applicants**

8. The Dean or Dean's delegates will consider candidates for admission to the Faculty of Law in the following category:

- a. Internationally Trained Lawyers Pathway.

It is the sole prerogative of the Committee to determine the category of the applicant. Applicants should carefully read the descriptions set out below.

General Applicants

1. To be considered for admission to the JD program a **General** Applicant must
 - a. Present proof of having received, with standing satisfactory to the Committee, a degree from the University of Alberta, or a degree from a university recognized by the University of Alberta; or
 - b. Present proof of having completed, with standing satisfactory to the Committee, at least the first three years (90 credit hours) of a program leading to a degree at the University of Alberta, or from a university recognized by the University of Alberta.
2. In special circumstances, the Committee will consider applicants who demonstrate outstanding academic ability, and who will, before or in the Fall/Winter preceding the September in which admission is sought (i.e., by April 30), have completed not less than two years, or equivalent of a full program of studies that would be accepted for credit toward any degree at a university in Alberta. Outstanding academic ability is defined as
 - a. A minimum grade point average of 3.7 or its equivalent over the two years of study; and
 - b. An LSAT score which places the applicant in the 90th percentile of those who have taken the LSAT.
3. The Committee shall consider and evaluate, in its sole discretion, the content and grades of the applicant's academic performance and

Special interpretations may be made by the Committee where individual circumstances warrant.

Grades of all applicants from universities other than the University of Alberta will be converted, insofar as possible, to the grading scale in use at the University of Alberta, for the purpose of competitive evaluation. Effective September 1, 2003, the University of Alberta will use a letter grading system with a four-point scale of numerical equivalents for calculating grade point averages.

Special Applicants

No applicant can elect to be placed in any category. Allocation to such category shall be the responsibility of the Committee.

Indigenous Applicants

For the purpose of application and admission to the University of Alberta, and in accordance with the Constitution Act, 1982, Part II, Section 35(2), an Indigenous Applicant is a First Nations, Inuit or Métis person of Canada, or a person who is accepted by one of the Indigenous peoples of Canada as a member of their community. Refer to [Definition of Indigenous People for the Purpose of Admission](#) for further details regarding proof of Indigenous identity.

- a. Indigenous Applicants normally must have a minimum of two years leading towards any degree or equivalent acceptable to a university in Alberta, completed prior to or in the Fall/Winter preceding the September in which admission is sought (i.e., by April 30th). Consideration may be given to Applicants with a minimum of one year leading to a degree or equivalent, if they exhibit evidence of past achievements in non-academic areas indicative of an ability to succeed in law school.
- b. The Committee may make an offer of admission conditional on successful

may reject applicants whose general performance or course of study the Committee does not consider satisfactory.

Special interpretations may be made by the Committee where individual circumstances warrant.

Grades of all applicants from universities other than the University of Alberta will be converted, insofar as possible, to the grading scale in use at the University of Alberta, for the purpose of competitive evaluation. Effective September 1, 2003, the University of Alberta will use a letter grading system with a four-point scale of numerical equivalents for calculating grade point averages.

Indigenous Applicants

The Faculty of Law is committed to enhancing Indigenous participation in legal education and the legal profession and recognizes that Indigenous Applicants have been historically excluded in the legal field. For the purpose of application and admission to the University of Alberta, and in accordance with the Constitution Act, 1982, Part II, Section 35(2), an Indigenous Applicant is a First Nations, Inuit or Métis person of Canada, or a person who is accepted by one of the Indigenous peoples of Canada as a member of their community. Refer to [Definition of Indigenous People for the Purpose of Admission](#) for further details regarding proof of Indigenous identity.

- a. Indigenous Applicants normally must have a minimum of two years leading towards any degree or equivalent acceptable to a university in Alberta, completed prior to or in the Fall/Winter preceding the September in which admission is sought (i.e., by April 30th). Consideration may be given to Applicants with a minimum of one year leading to a degree or equivalent, if they exhibit evidence of past achievements in non-academic areas indicative of an ability to succeed in law school.
- b. Indigenous applicants may be admitted with different incoming GPAs and LSAT scores from General applicants where the Committee

completion of the Indigenous Law Centre Summer Program in Property and Customary Law at the University of Saskatchewan.

- c. The LSAT must be written as outlined in [General Admission Requirements \(4\)](#).

Special Student Applicants

~~National Committee on Accreditation students (NCA students):~~ NCA Students are permitted to register in one or more courses which are not being taken for credit toward a degree or diploma at this or another institution. To be considered for admission as an NCA Student, applicants must normally have received a Law degree from an accredited postsecondary institution, equivalent to a Canadian JD or LLB degree, must meet English Language proficiency, and must provide documentation setting out their assigned requirements as assessed by Canada's National Committee on Accreditation. Applicants from outside of Canada may meet their English Proficiency requirement based on the university they have attended or the country in which they reside. Some conditions apply. Where applicable, a minimum TOEFL iBT (Internet-based) score of 100 with a minimum of 25 in each section, a minimum Academic IELTS score of 7.0, with at least 5 on each band, a minimum Academic PTE score of 68, or the EAP 550 course is required. Since the Faculty of Law has limited enrolment, priority in admission is given to applicants to degree programs. ~~NCA Students who wish to continue must reapply each year, and priority is given to students who have not previously attended as NCA Students.~~

The application for admission as an NCA student is available from the [Office of the Registrar](#). Any required documentation should be submitted directly to the Faculty of Law at: Admissions Office, Room 128E, Law Centre, University of Alberta, T6G 2H5. Applications will be received ~~and assessed on a~~ rolling basis.

considers that an Indigenous applicant is reasonably expected to complete the studies required leading to a law degree.

- c. The Committee may consider Indigenous applicants' personal achievements, work experience contributions, or personal responsibilities or challenges that are extraordinary and would not typically be experienced by General applicants to the law school. Details are available from the Faculty of Law.
- d. The Committee may make an offer of admission conditional on successful completion of preparatory program such as the Spring and Summer Law Course for Indigenous Students at the University of Saskatchewan.
- e. The LSAT must be written as outlined in [General Admission Requirements \(4\)](#).

International Trained Lawyers Pathway applicants

ITLP Students are permitted to register in one or more years of full-time study that are being taken to meet the requirements to be eligible to practice law in Canada and are not being taken for credit toward a degree or diploma at this or another institution. To be considered for admission as an ITLP Student, applicants must normally have received a Law degree from an accredited postsecondary institution, equivalent to a Canadian JD or LLB degree, must meet English Language proficiency, and must provide documentation setting out their assigned requirements as assessed by Canada's National Committee on Accreditation. Applicants from outside of Canada may meet their English Proficiency requirement based on the university they have attended or the country in which they reside. Some conditions apply. Where applicable, a minimum TOEFL iBT (Internet-based) score of 100 with a minimum of 25 in each section, a minimum Academic IELTS score of 7.0, with at least 5 on each band, a minimum Academic PTE score of 68, a minimum Duolingo English Test score of 130 with at least 105 in any subject, or the EAP 550 course is required. Since the Faculty of Law has

	<p>limited enrolment, priority in admission is given to applicants to degree programs. The application for admission as an ITLP student is available from the Office of the Registrar. Any required documentation should be submitted directly to the Faculty of Law at: Admissions Office, Room 128E, Law Centre, University of Alberta, T6G 2H5. Applications will be received beginning March 1 each year and assessed in the order in which complete applications are received.</p>
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Reviewed/Approved by:

REQUIRED: Law Faculty Council, approval, 17 October and 21 November, 2023.
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OPTIONAL:
