

## Making the Most of the Law School Fair

Visit as many schools as you can and ask questions you won't be able to read about on their website.

- Don't limit your table stops. What you think you know about a school may be quite different from the reality.
- Engage in conversation about your particular interests and how their school/programs offered may fit them.

**Prepare your Elevator Speech - Interaction time can be limited, let this be your personal-selling statement**

- Greeting: "Hello my name is \_"
- Educational Background: "I'm majoring in \_\_ with an area of concentration/minor in \_\_ and graduate in \_\_"
- Description of Interests: I'm interested in \_\_ opportunity because of my experience in \_\_" Or "my goal is to \_\_"
- Strengths and Experiences: 5-10 seconds
- Closing: "I'm hoping you could \_\_", I'd love to speak with you about \_\_", I'm very interested in learning about \_\_"

**Don't ask about minimum GPA and test scores, instead ask about how non-academic factors are valued.**

- Catalog minimums are nowhere near the class averages and ranges of the scores preferred by the admissions committees. Ask about those instead (if you must).
- How much weight is given to the personal statement? What clichés should be avoided?
- What makes letters valuable? How can they stand out?
- How can you articulate special or unique circumstances (working full-time, academic misstep, career change)?

**Ask about the curriculum – organization and structure can vary.**

- Are there any experiential or clinical opportunities available to students?
- How are classes taught the first year? In the second? Are there electives, or are classes the same for all?

**Ask about the cost of attendance rather than cost of tuition – the two can vary greatly.**

- What is the average cost of attendance? What are average rent costs in the area?
- Are there scholarships? Or do most students take loans to finance education and living expenses?
- What is the average graduating student debt load?
- What are the criteria and procedures for obtaining state residency status while in law school?

**Ask about scholarships and financing law school.**

- How do most students finance law school? Are there scholarships available to students?
- Tip: Visit OneStop and then search AccessLex.org to learn more

**Ask about the student body – Who your future classmates are should be important to you**

- What undergrad majors, undergrad schools and/or states are most represented?
- What is the gender, racial or ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds of a typical class?
- How competitive or collaborative are students? Can you share some specific examples?
- Are students ranked against each other? What factors are used?
- What does diversity mean at your law school?
- What should I know about writing a diversity statement versus a personal statement?

**And you can also ask about:**

- School setting – part of a university or stand-alone? Urban, suburban or rural?
- Housing – on-campus, off-campus nearby or farther away?
- Access to non-academic campus facilities you have come to expect (rec center, food court, intramurals)?
- Bar passage rates and school-sponsored preparation?
- Career services, graduate destinations, alumni network?