

## **EXPLORE – PREPARE – APPLY**

*Pre-Professional Advising Center 120 University Pavilion (513) 556-2166 PreProAdv@uc.edu www.uc.edu/PreProAdvising*

### **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 Accomplishments: 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 mis-step, career change)?

**Ask about the curriculum.**

- The organization and structure of the curriculum 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 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?