The admissions process should start up to 18 months before you enter your first law school classroom. Here is a checklist/schedule of what you should be doing during each season.

***Spring***

* Register for the June LSAT (*$215*).
* Start researching ABA-Approved schools using statistics (*LSAC.org, law school websites*).
* Obtain a copy of your credit report (*for private loan application purposes if you need them*).
* Start studying for the LSAT 4-6 months prior to test.
  + Khan Academy is a full-blown FREE LSAT prep course offered through lsac.org

***Summer***

* Take the June LSAT.
* Start drafting your personal statement.
* Think about whom you want to ask for letters of recommendation (*need at least 1 academic*).
* Start to draft a list of schools you will be applying to and their median LSAT and GPA.
* Try to visit as many schools as you can.
* Request information from schools you are unable to visit.
* If needed, register for the September LSAT and continue studying.
* Update your resume.
* Prepare for any addenda or character and fitness items on applications.
* Contact any creditors with whom you may have problem accounts and make arrangements to begin mutually agreed upon monthly payments to satisfy your debts.
* Send transcript request forms to all undergraduate and graduate schools you’ve attended. (*Requests are completed online and through the individual schools’ websites, NOT LSAC*).
* Keep pre-law advisor updated on status of application materials and have them review documents.

***Early Fall***

* Begin applications on LSAC as they become available (*beginning September 1-15*).
* Make a checklist for each application (*i.e. documents required, early decisions dates, fees*).
* Pay for the Credential Assembly Service (CAS). CAS will send your applications, transcript(s), LSAT scores, and letters of recommendation to schools you with to apply. (*$195*)
  + The CAS will also send a required Law School Summary Report to each school *($45 per application*)
* Attend a Law School Forum if you are able (DC, Philly, New York, and others).

Attend your school’s Law School Fair to engage with admissions representatives and potentially get application fee waivers.

* Give recommenders the specific info they need to write an outstanding letter for you (i.e. personal statement, resume, unofficial copy of transcript)
* Revise your personal statement. Tailor it to specific essay topics for individual applications if needed.

Construct and revise all optional essays, addenda and character and fitness statements.

***Late Fall***

* Send in applications if complete!

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* Request financial aid applications from the schools and make sure you read the instructions carefully.
* Remind recommenders to send in letters to LSAC.
* Get the Master Law School Report from CAS. This summarizes everything they have received.
* Submit any financial aid applications that are due early to schools that request them.

***Winter, Spring, Summer***

* Wait for admissions decisions (*timing of these will vary by school*).
* Complete all applications for financial aid several weeks before the due dates.
* Review financial aid notices from the law schools and project your resources and costs.
* Decide which law school’s offer to accept.
* Send in acceptance of admission and financial aid. (*First seat deposits are due in April and second in July. Some schools request full amount in April*).
* Complete student loan applications including the FAFSA. (*This is where the credit background becomes useful).*
* Review your finances at the start of the summer to be certain you’ll have sufficient resources to meet your law school expenses.
* Pay off or significantly reduce any credit card debts you have accumulated.

***First Year of Law School (Fall)***

* YOU DID IT! Start the semester of the law school of your choice.
* Implement a financial management plan and review it periodically to make sure your financial plan is on track.

For any questions, please see the **Pre-Law Advisor, Alex Ball**, in the Career Center at 200 William Pitt Union or e-mail at [atb27@pitt.edu](mailto:atb27@pitt.edu).