

Wayne State University Law School
Admissions Standards and Procedures
Effective December 22, 2006 (as amended April 11, 2007)

Section 1 -- Discretionary Admissions Criteria

The Admissions Office shall admit any applicant whose factor score is above a "presumptive admit" level set by the Admissions Committee, unless the applicant's LSAT or GPA are unusually low, or the applicant otherwise merits special review and consideration by the Admissions Committee.

The Admissions Office has the authority to reject any applicant if the applicant's factor score is below a "presumptive deny" level set by the Admissions Committee, and that applicant, in the judgment of the Admissions Office, does not merit special review and consideration by the Admissions Committee. In deciding whether an applicant whose factor score is below the "presumptive deny" level nonetheless merits special review and consideration by the Admissions Committee, the Admissions Office shall consider the factors listed below in subsections two through five.

In making its decisions on the applicants brought before it, the Admissions Committee is directed to consider positively

(1) an applicant's academic achievement and potential, as shown by his LSAT score and Grade Point Average;

(2) an applicant's demonstrated capacity to overcome or persevere against:

(a) socioeconomic disadvantage, bearing in mind the applicant's socioeconomic background while he or she attended elementary and secondary school and was an undergraduate student; whether the applicant would be the first generation of his or her family to attend or graduate from an undergraduate program or from a graduate or professional program; the applicant's responsibilities while attending elementary and secondary school and as an undergraduate student,

including whether he or she was employed and whether he or she helped to raise children; or

(b) substantial obstacles such as family or personal adversity, educational disability (such as attendance at a school identified, for reasons of low student achievement or graduation rate, as "in need of improvement" under the No Child Left Behind Act), and prejudice or discrimination;

(3) any special circumstances suggesting that the applicant's LSAT score or prior academic record do not accurately reflect his or her current academic potential, such as the age of the applicant's undergraduate grades, a marked improvement in grades in the later years of college, or other special circumstances the candidate brings to the attention of the Admissions Committee in his or her personal statement or elsewhere in his application; and

(4) other factors that contribute to a diverse and engaged law school student body and legal profession, including but not limited to geographic residence (including in the City of Detroit), work and volunteer experience, leadership qualities, commitment to community and public service, communication skills, multilingual proficiency, experience of life in a foreign country or on a Native American tribal reservation, and other qualities of background and experience not ordinarily well represented in the student body.

Section 2 -- Special Directions to the Admissions Committee

1. The Admissions Committee shall take into account the Law School's tradition of providing an opportunity for qualified persons from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds to become lawyers.

2. The Admissions Committee shall seek to admit a student body with a broad set of interests, backgrounds, life experiences, and perspectives.

3. The Admissions Committee shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin (except to the extent necessary to establish or maintain eligibility for any federal program where ineligibility would result in a loss of federal funds).