

# UTSA Pre-law Insights NEWSLETTER

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## UTSA PRE-LAW INSIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to this second issue of UTSA Pre-Law Insights newsletter! We are delighted to share prelaw advising news that will keep you informed to make better decisions. If there is any topic you would like me to discuss in the next newsletter, email me at [ana.alvarez@utsa.edu](mailto:ana.alvarez@utsa.edu). Thanks!

### About the Editor

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the UTSA official prelaw advisor (recognized by the LSAC), Professor, Certificate in Legal Studies Program Advisor, and Program Manager of the Institute for Law and Public Affairs.

I am currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Southwest Association of Prelaw Advisors (SWAPLA) and AccessLex Prelaw Advisory Committee. I am also honored to have been awarded the UTSA 2023 University Life Award for my prelaw services and had the pleasure and honor to serve as SWAPLA 2022-2023 President.

My goal is to support you in your law school preparation and admission, so I encourage you to reach out to me and let me how I can assist. I am also looking forward to your feedback on this newsletter and to learn what you would like to see in the next issue. Thank you!

Ana Alvarez, Ed.D.

# Some Pre-Law Updates



## ARE YOU APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL DURING THE 2024-2025 CYCLE (LAW SCHOOL INCOMING CLASS OF 2025-2026)?

Law school applicants in the 2024-2025 cycle - attending law school in fall 2025 - may experience a different analytical reasoning section as the LSAC is identifying ways to replace diagramming.

An important note for applicants in the cycle starting fall 2024 for law school incoming class of 2025-26 is that the LSAT might be different regarding the analytical reasoning “logic games” section. So far, there is no evidence to support the idea that the analytical reasoning section will be eliminated; instead, expect it to be presented differently. The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) has announced that they will provide ample notification and preparatory materials (such as sample questions) to test takers and test prep licensees (LSAT prep companies who purchased a license from the LSAC to use LSAT questions) prior

to making any changes in the test - for the 2024-25 test cycle. I will inform to you asap so that you can start your LSAT preparation -and succeed at it. As a law school student aspirant, also consider focusing on rising your GPA, which along with the LSAT, is crucial for law school admission and merit scholarships.



## HOW THE SUPREME COURT DECISION ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AFFECTS YOUR LAW SCHOOL APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

In a historic decision on June 29, 2023, the Supreme Court strictly limited the use of affirmative action in college admissions. A student “must be treated based on his or her experiences as an individual — not on the basis of race,” Chief Justice Roberts wrote (*Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina et al.*, 2023). The majority, although not explicitly, overruled its 2003 decision in [Grutter v. Bollinger](#), in which the court upheld “that the Equal Protection Clause does not prohibit the Law School’s narrowly tailored use of race in admissions decision to further a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diversity student body.”(*Grutter v. Bollinger*, n.d.)

So, how does the Supreme Court’s ruling affect law school applications? At this time, law schools are assessing the impact on applications and admissions but will follow federal law. “College admissions programs can still consider *race merely to allow an applicant to explain how his or her race influenced his or her character* in a way that would have a concrete effect on the university,” but the institutions “may not simply establish through application essays or other means the regime we hold unlawful today,” Chief Justice Roberts wrote (*Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina et al.*, 2023).



Law schools are committed to diversity and are currently figuring out ways to pursue diversity. *Diversity* statements will no longer be called as such, but essays may be requested -and presented - in a different way. Law schools will not ask about the applicant's ethnicity or race, but they may ask questions that will allow them to gain an understanding of the applicants' background. Law school hopefuls, then, should research each of the law school's websites to learn about application items' requirements and submit accordingly, whether accurately answering application questions or writing statements about the *experiences* they are bringing to class. Although law

schools have never made admission decisions based solely on race or ethnicity, you should strive to show that your experiences, whichever they are, will enrich the learning process for all students and add perspectives to the greater legal community.



## AI AND LAW SCHOOL APPLICATION

There is no doubt that AI is currently being used by law firms to increase attorney productivity and avoid costly mistakes. AI is being used to very rapidly produce initial drafts, cite the relevant case law, and support research efforts. While the processes are becoming much faster with AI, human input is still needed to write final drafts and check all what AI has done. AI will not replace the work of an attorney.

Also, you may have heard about ChatGPT, an AI Chatbot capable of writing emails, essays and more, given a few short prompts. You may be even considering using AI for your law school personal statement, but can the use of AI for a personal statement negatively impact law school admission?

The answer is yes, it can. Consider refraining from using AI to develop your personal statement. By writing your personal statement, you will have the *opportunity to examine yourself and your experiences* and to channel them to advance your life as a law school student and as a professional later. A unique and authentic personal statement provides you an opportunity to distinguish yourself from other applicants. Being admitted into law school is truly a great achievement, so don't risk this opportunity on a common and predictable shortcut.



Even if you feed AI with many of your life particulars, AI lacks *your identity*. You are the only one who can describe your unique story. Use other resources to check your grammar and spelling. Seek the help of faculty, the Writing Center, or your prelaw advisor for honest feedback. Remember that your personal statement is *YOUR* chance to tell law school admission committee what you want them to know about you.

Furthermore, please keep in mind that law schools value honesty and integrity. Law school admissions committees are on alert on common or perfect personal statements, which may make them wonder if it has been written by AI. Consider that the *LSAT writing sample is currently carrying more weight as law schools may compare your writing sample with your personal statement*.



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**EVEN IF YOU FEED AI WITH MANY OF YOUR LIFE PARTICULARS, AI LACKS YOUR IDENTITY. YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DESCRIBE YOUR UNIQUE STORY.**

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So how are law school admissions responding to AI? Law schools are discouraging the use of AI for application items. Many law schools are currently adding language in application instructions and requiring student signatures acknowledging that the personal statement and other information is the applicant's own product and did not utilize AI/ChatGPT. Others, are adding certification statements in application instructions that personal statement is the applicant's own work product and did not utilize AI. As a law school hopeful, think twice before using AI for application and admission purposes.

## UTSA LAW SCHOOL FAIR IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL.

Connect with law school representatives across the country and learn about their programs and application requirements. Take advantage of this opportunity to ask all your questions and get application fee waivers.

[LSAC Suggested Questions for Law Fair Attendees Here.](#)



## WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ATTENDING THE 2023 LAW SCHOOL FAIR AT UTSA ON SEPT 19.

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UTSA ranks among the top 100 law school feeder among 2000 institutions nationwide and is one of only eleven institutions across Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas selected as a law fair destination. In addition, UTSA is the only law school fair site in San Antonio and the southernmost location in Texas for individuals to take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn directly from law school admissions professionals.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from approximately 80 ABA approved law schools (including all law schools in Texas), and learn about admissions, financing, course offerings, student life, and program reputation. You will have the opportunity to gain application fee waivers too! Attending the fair will give aspiring law school students the opportunity to ask questions that will assist to decide the law school that suits them best.

If law school is your goal - or even if you are *thinking about going to law school*, - visit the Law School Fair at Student Union (SU) 2.01.28, Denman Room and 2.01, Denman Galleria at UTSA Main (1604) Campus on September 19, 2023, 11am-2pm. See you there!





### Mark your calendar!

### Below are some of the fall 2023 prelaw events

Sept. 19, 11am-2:00pm. Law School Fair at UTSA (SU)  
2.01.28, Denman Room and 2.01, Denman Galleria at  
UTSA Main (1604) Campus

Oct. 3, 3-4pm. Law School Application. SU 2.03.08 Anaqua  
Room at UTSA Main (1604) Campus

Oct. 24, 3-4pm. Crafting a Strong Personal Statement. SU  
2.03.08 Anaqua Room at UTSA Main (1604) Campus

Nov 7, 3-4pm. How to Research Law Schools and Find the  
**Best for YOU.** SU 2.03.08 Anaqua Room at UTSA Main (1604) Campus.



### References

Grutter v. Bollinger. (n.d.). Oyez. Retrieved July 18, 2023, from <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2002/02-241>

Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina et al. 600 U.S. 2023. Retrieved July 18, 2023, from [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/22pdf/20-1199\\_hgdj.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/22pdf/20-1199_hgdj.pdf).

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**Prelaw Advising Appointments available in [Handshake](#)**