

The Law School Diversity Statement

What is the Diversity Statement?

- It is an optional essay submitted in the application. Be sure to carefully review the application instructions from each school, as they may have differing writing prompts.
- Interpreted broadly, “diversity” includes all aspects of human differences (including, but not limited to, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, ethnicity, etc.) that gives an applicant a unique perspective different from that of the general application pool¹. The diversity statement seeks to illuminate how an applicant’s experience, as a member of a diverse community, has impacted their upbringing and shaped their understanding of the world.
- It should be about one to three paragraphs in length (no more than a page), double-spaced, 12-point font, no less than 1-inch margins. Carefully review the application instructions from each school for specific details.
- Like the personal statement, it is a writing sample. Lawyers write professionally, so you must demonstrate exceptional writing abilities throughout your application.

Things to Consider

- Think about both your upbringing and current experiences to determine any and all aspects of diversity.
- It is not just for underrepresented minorities.
- It is not just about race or ethnicity.
- It is not an *adversity* statement.
- Consider your background, place in the family, or culture in which you were raised, and how that has contributed to the diverse perspective you embrace today.
- You may discuss the environment in which you grew up, if you did not fit in with the mainstream culture, the ways in which culture has impacted your life and what you learned about yourself and others as a result, or any social identities with which you identify (e.g., race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic status, religion, health status, ability, family status).

Additional Resources

- Use online resources through various websites, such as [NYU Prelaw](#).
- Have others review and edit your drafts, such as friends, instructors, and lawyers.
- The [NYU Writing Center](#) reviews drafts for graduate and professional school admissions. Schedule an appointment.

¹ “Diversity in Law School.” Racial-Ethnic Minority Applicants. <https://www.lsac.org/jd/diversity-in-law-school/racial-ethnic-minority-applicants>.