VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW
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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

FIRST YEAR JD ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in Villanova Law! Please use the information provided to guide you through the admissions and financial aid processes.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission to the J.D. program, an applicant must have successfully completed a baccalaureate program prior to matriculation at Villanova Law and taken the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The Admissions Office requires that you apply online. Furthermore, you must participate in the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) and be registered with CAS during the application year. Through this service, you are required to send the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) official transcripts (including single course or summer school transcripts) from all colleges, universities, junior or community colleges, or professional schools that you have attended.

As a general rule, Villanova Law will summarily deny your application to enter the first-year class if you have matriculated at another US law school and either were academically excluded from that school or else completed any first semester course or exam that was graded. If this situation applies to you, please contact the Admissions Office prior to applying to discuss whether there are special circumstances that would persuade the Admissions Committee to consider your application.

The application will be available on September 1 and will not be accepted after June 15. Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis. The Admissions Committee evaluates applications and informs candidates of decisions on a continuous basis, usually beginning in late fall and extending to mid-summer.

For an application to be considered complete, it must include: a $75 application fee **(fee waived for all new fall 2025 JD applicants**; a personal statement written on any topic that does not exceed two-three typed, double- spaced pages; a résumé detailing all employment, extracurricular and community service involvement; LSAT scores; a complete CAS report with all transcripts; and at least one (1) letter of recommendation.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Early Decision (Binding)

Round 1

December 15:	Application must be submitted and complete
December 31:	Receive decision (or sooner)

Round 2

March 15:	Application must be submitted and complete
April 1:	Receive decision (or sooner)

*Early Decision applications and all other required documents, including the LSAC Credential Assembly Service (CAS) Report, must be received by December 15 for Round 1 and March 15 for Round 2 Early Decision consideration.

Once an Early Decision application is deemed complete, the application may immediately go to the Admissions Committee for review, regardless of a Round 1 or Round 2 option. Therefore, a decision could be made at any point and will be considered binding once made.

Regular Decision

June 15:	Application must be submitted and complete

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis beginning in November and decisions are made beginning in December.

Early Decision

Villanova Law encourages all applicants to apply early in the cycle. If Villanova Law is your first choice of law school, you should apply as an Early Decision applicant. With our rolling admissions process, Early Decision applicants receive first consideration. Early Decision expresses an applicant's commitment to attend Villanova Law, if admitted; hence, Early Decision is binding. An applicant may not submit multiple Early Decision applications.

Early Decision and Regular Decision applicants will complete the same application. If you wish to apply as an Early Decision candidate, you must agree to the terms of the Early Decision program by selecting "yes" when asked in the application.

There are three decisions that may be rendered on an Early Decision Application:

- Accepted - if admitted, Early Decision applicants are immediately bound to enroll at Villanova Law and must withdraw all other law school applications. Because offers of admission under the Early Decision process are binding, applicants may not apply to other Early Decision programs. The Law School reserves the right to share a list of admitted Early Decision applicants with any other institution.

- Deferred - deferred applications will be considered in the regular admission cycle. If admitted in the Regular Decision process, it is not binding.

- Denied.

Early Decision Financial Aid

The Early Decision program is designed for applicants who have thoroughly researched law schools and are certain Villanova Law is their top choice. Admission decisions are given before financial aid information is available, and merit-based scholarships are not guaranteed. Therefore, applicants should be prepared to secure other means to finance their law education in advance and apply Early Decision only if finances are not a primary consideration.

Regular Decision

The application will be available on **September 1** and must be submitted by **June 15**. Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis. The Admissions Committee evaluates applications and informs candidates of decisions on a continuous basis, usually beginning in late fall and extending to mid-summer.

How to Apply

The Admissions Office requires that you apply online.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Application Form

Please provide complete information for each question on the application in the spaces provided. You may attach additional pages (as an upload in Attachments) to complete or elaborate on any of this information. Please answer all questions fully and accurately. A copy of your law school application will be retained for a minimum period of three years. For those students who matriculate, a copy of your application will be sent to the Committee on Character and Fitness when you apply to take a state bar examination or seek admission to the bar. Prior to matriculation in a JD program, the American Bar Association recommends that students determine the character, fitness, and other qualifications required for admission to the bar in the state(s) in which they intend to practice. For more information, please contact the American Bar Association by mail at 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654-7598 or by phone at 800-285- 2221 or at www.abanet.org.

Please answer all questions on the application form unless otherwise noted.

Application Fee

(Application fee is waived for all new Fall 2025 JD applicants The application fee is $75 (nonrefundable). You must pay the application fee by debit or credit card when you submit your application through LSAC. When you pay the application fee through LSAC, you will also sign your application with the electronic signature option.

LSAT & LSAC Credential Assembly Service Report

Every applicant must take the LSAT and must register with the Credential Assembly Service (CAS). You may register for the LSAT and/or the Credential Assembly Service online at LSAC.org or by phone at 215-968-1001.

We will accept LSAT results from any exam taken within the last five years prior to fall enrollment, i.e., June 2019 or thereafter for the class entering in fall 2025. We will accept results from the April 2025 test administration.

The Admissions Committee considers all LSAT scores; consideration may be given to the highest score. If you have substantially different scores on multiple testing dates, you should provide an explanation discussing the discrepancy.

Each applicant must also register with the Credential Assembly Service and arrange to have all transcripts sent from each college or university attended to LSAC. When we receive your application, we will automatically request your LSAC Credential Assembly Service Report, and LSAC will send it directly to us. The LSAC Credential Assembly Service Report includes your LSAT score(s), LSAT writing sample(s), copies of your academic transcript(s), an undergraduate academic summary, letters of recommendation, and other information. Please note that your law school report will NOT be released by LSAC until all required transcripts have been received and processed by LSAC.

Villanova Law **requires** that any international transcripts be submitted through the LSAC Credential Assembly Service for applicants who completed any post-secondary work outside the US (including its territories) or Canada. You must use this service for the evaluation of your international transcripts. The one exception to this requirement is if you completed the international work through a study-abroad, consortium, or exchange program sponsored by a US or Canadian institution, and the work is clearly indicated as such on the home campus transcript.

This service is included in the Credential Assembly Service registration fee. An International Credential Evaluation will be completed by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), which will be incorporated into your LSAC Credential Assembly Service report.

To use the Credential Assembly Service, log in to your online LSAC account and follow the instructions for registering for the service. Be sure to print out a Transcript Request Form for each institution and send it promptly to them. More time is usually required to receive international transcripts.

Applicants are reminded to monitor their LSAC account to ensure that the account is current so that their law school report will be released to us on a timely basis.

Recommendation Letters

One letter of recommendation is required; two letters of recommendation are strongly encouraged. Letters of recommendation must be submitted through the LSAC Letter of Recommendation Service. We will accept up to a total of 4 letters of recommendation.

Character and Fitness Verification

The Admissions Committee requires that every applicant answer questions pertaining to character and fitness. If you answer "yes" to any of these questions on the application, you must provide a detailed explanation within your application. We caution you to err on the side of full disclosure.

Personal Statement

Reflect on your personal background and experiences and how they have shaped your values, motivations, and aspirations. Include how they will contribute to your success at Villanova Law.

Résumé

A résumé detailing all employment (including employment during the academic year as an undergraduate) is required. The résumé should also include extracurricular and community service activities.

Optional Essays

The admissions process consists of a fair and comprehensive review of all applicants to determine potential success at Villanova Law and the legal profession. Admission assessment will consider all achievements, both academic and non-academic, to enroll students with a broad range of characteristics and perspectives. Considerations include, but are not limited to: academic achievement, leadership and collaboration potential, ability to learn from experience, service to the community, ability to address systemic shortcomings, substantial experience with other cultures, and goal-setting.

Therefore, applicants are encouraged to write an optional essay (no longer than 2 pages) to better express their qualifications, talents, perspectives, and goals. Please feel free to incorporate one of the five characteristics described in the application into an optional essay.

Additional Information

Any supplemental information/documentation that cannot be sent through LSAC should be sent as PDF attachments to admissions@law.villanova.edu. Be sure to include your full name and LSAC account number on each attachment.

Admissions Interview Program

The Law School conducts an Admissions Interview Program. Interviews are by invitation only. Applicants may not request an interview. Being invited to interview does not mean one applicant is viewed more or less favorably than another. All interview invitations will be communicated via e-mail. Each applicant invited to interview will have two weeks in which to accept the invitation to interview. Therefore, please check your e-mail inbox on a regular basis, as all applicants who do not accept the invitation to interview within the time frame specified in the interview invitation will have their application evaluated without an interview. Any outcome is possible with or without an interview. Each application will be reviewed thoroughly and holistically, independent of the Committee's decision to invite an applicant to interview.

APPLYING FOR JOINT-DEGREE PROGRAMS

Villanova Law offers several dual-degree programs: the JD/MBA; the JD/LLM in Taxation; the JD/LLM in International Studies; and the JD/MPA. To be admitted to the joint degree program, you must first apply and be admitted to Villanova Law.

JD/MBA

You must submit a separate application to the Villanova University Professional MBA Program. You may apply before you matriculate to Villanova Law, or you may wait and apply during your first year. The Professional MBA Program requires that you take the GMAT or GRE; however, in certain cases, the GMAT/GRE may be waived if you achieve a qualifying score on the LSAT. It is strongly recommended that students who are interested in the joint program take the GMAT or GRE before entering law school. Given the rigors of the first year, it is not advisable to spend time studying for the GMAT or GRE.

Once you have applied and been accepted separately into the J.D. program and Professional MBA program, a determination is made by Villanova Law's Director of the J.D./M.B.A. Program and the Director of the Professional MBA Program at the Villanova School of Business whether you are an acceptable candidate for the joint program.

For more information on the JD/MBA dual-degree program, please click here.

JD/MPA
This program enables students to earn both a J.D. and a Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) degree simultaneously at Villanova. Applicants are encouraged to apply to both programs before they begin their studies in either program.

For more information about the JD/MPA program, please contact the MPA director at 610-519-7851.

JD/LLM in Taxation
Students in this program earn both the J.D. and LL.M. in Taxation in less time and at a reduced cost than would be required to earn both degrees separately. Following the award of the J.D. degree, students in this program can complete the LL.M. in one additional semester.

For information on the J.D./LL.M. in Taxation, please call 610-519-7043.

JD/LLM in International Studies
Joint programs offered with Universities in London, Edinburgh, Leiden, the Netherlands, Singapore and Hong Kong allow students to earn both a J.D. and an international LL.M. in three years. After two years at Villanova Law, the third year is spent abroad.

For information on the J.D./LL.M. in International Studies, please email Tuan Samahon at samahon@law.villanova.edu.

APPLICATION STATUS/QUESTIONS

To check the status of your application, please use the online status checker, or click here. You will receive an e-mail with a user ID and password shortly after we receive your application.

The evaluation process typically takes at least **8-12 weeks** from the date upon which the application has been examined and determined to be complete, though you may receive a decision much sooner.

Please be sure that you have allowed adequate time for your application to be processed, completed, and evaluated before calling or emailing to check on the status of your decision.

Email Notification

Please note that an email address is required. We communicate via email with applicants regarding the status of their application; thus, **it is imperative that you provide an email address on your application and it remains current throughout the admissions process**.

Please promptly notify us of any changes to your email address or any changes to your other contact information.

Applicants should be aware of their service provider's procedures for spam filtering that may affect delivery of any email communications sent from the Admissions Office. Steps should be taken to ensure that messages can be delivered promptly.

REAPPLICATION

Applicants who are denied admission may reapply to Villanova Law in a subsequent year. It should be noted, however, that candidates are unlikely to be admitted unless there is some significant change since their previous application. Previous applicants who wish to reapply must:

- Submit the current application, a new personal statement, and résumé
- Submit the $75 application fee
- Register with the LSAC Credential Assembly Service if registration is no longer current, and pay for an additional report
- Send updated transcript(s) to LSAC for all academic work—undergraduate, graduate, and/or professional—completed since the last application
- While not required, we strongly suggest that you submit a new letter of recommendation to replace or supplement previously submitted letters

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

The cost of education for purposes of determining financial need includes actual costs for tuition and fees and reasonable estimated costs for such items as rent and food, books and other living expenses. Such items as the cost of purchasing a computer and parking tags may be added onto your budget on an individual basis.

Law School Budget for 2024-25 Entering Class

Housing Status	Off Campus	With Parents or Relatives
Tuition & Fees	$58,815	$58,815
Books/Course Supplies	$1,523	$1,523
Food/Sundries	$4,896	$3,351
Housing/Utilities	$13,330	$2,873
Misc. Personal Expenses	$1,900	$1,453
Transportation	$2,008	$1,891
Federal Loan Fees	$1,258	$1,090
Total Budget	**$83,730**	**$70,995**

For more information about the financial aid process for prospective students, please visit the Office of Financial Aid page.

International Students

Students who are not U.S. citizens are not eligible to receive federal student aid. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria for federal student aid, then it may be possible for you to borrow a private loan provided a U.S. citizen or permanent resident is willing to co-sign the loan.

For more information, please visit the 'Application Steps for International (Non-U.S. Citizen) Students' section on the Application Steps - Prospective Law Students page.

TRANSFER APPLICANTS

Dates and Deadlines

July 1:	Transfer application must be submitted
July 15:	Transfer application must be complete

Transfer applications will be considered only when the student has successfully completed all the courses required in the full-time 1L year of the home school. Villanova Law will only accept credit or credits for a course in which the student receives a grade of C, its equivalent, or better.

The number of credits transferred will equal the number of credits successfully completed in that program; if there are differences in the 1L curriculum between the home school and Villanova Law, transfer students will be required to complete any required Villanova Law 1L coursework as part of their upper-level coursework. The law school from which the applicant seeks to transfer must be able to certify that the applicant has completed all requirements and credits for that school's full-time first year program. Transcripts reflecting grades for all courses taken must be submitted to the Admissions Office by July 15.

Transfer applicants must be in good standing at a law school that is both a member of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) and approved by the American Bar Association (ABA). Applicants will not be reviewed until we have received transcripts for both fall and spring semesters of the first year of law school. Decisions are made on a rolling basis. You must apply online.

Transfer applicants are required to provide the same documents that are required for first year applicants (i.e. completed application form, application fee, personal statement(s)); Credential Assembly Service Law School report; academic transcripts from all institutions attended; and one letter of recommendation - preferably from a law professor).

Additionally, transfer applicants must provide a letter from the appropriate dean or administrator at the home law school indicating they are in good academic standing and eligible to continue their studies.

Transfer students are required to pay all applicable fees and tuition, and are eligible for graduation honors and participation in journal and moot court competitions.

VISITING APPLICANTS

Dates and Deadlines

April 1:	Fall or Full-Year Visiting application becomes available
July 1:	Fall or Full-Year Visiting application must be submitted
September 1:	Spring Visiting application available
November 15:	Spring Visiting application must be submitted

Villanova Law accepts non-matriculated students for a year or a semester depending on an applicant's situation. Applicants applying to visit for the academic year typically begin their studies in the fall. However, in certain circumstances, applicants may be allowed to begin their studies in the spring semester. As a non-matriculated student, credits taken at Villanova will be applied to the degree requirements of your current law school, and the degree will be awarded by that school.

To apply as a visiting student, you must be currently attending an ABA-accredited law school. You must apply online.

For a Visiting application to be considered complete, it must include: a $75, non-refundable application fee; a personal statement outlining the specific circumstances involved in your wishing to visit at Villanova Law; a copy of your resume; an official transcript from your current law school (this transcript must include all law school grades to date); and a letter from the appropriate dean at your law school indicating you are currently in good academic standing and eligible to continue your studies. This letter should state you have permission to attend Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law as a visiting non-matriculated student, that you will be awarded credit for taking classes at Villanova Law, and what academic conditions, if any, will apply to you while attending Villanova Law. This letter should also indicate that there are no disciplinary actions either pending or expected to be brought against you. Any supplemental materials, i.e. letters of recommendation, should be sent as PDF attachments to admissions@law.villanova.edu. Transcripts and Dean's certification letters may be mailed to the Admissions Office.

Non-matriculated students are required to pay all applicable Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law fees and tuition. Financial Aid will be handled through your law school.

To visit in the fall or the full academic year, applications can be submitted beginning April 1, but prior to July 1. Applicants will be informed in late July/early August of the decision on their application. If you wish to visit for the spring semester only, an application must be submitted no later than November 15.