

Proving Your Worth

The Value of a Pre-Law Program to Your College and University

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This presentation was one part of a panel presented by four pre-law advisors:

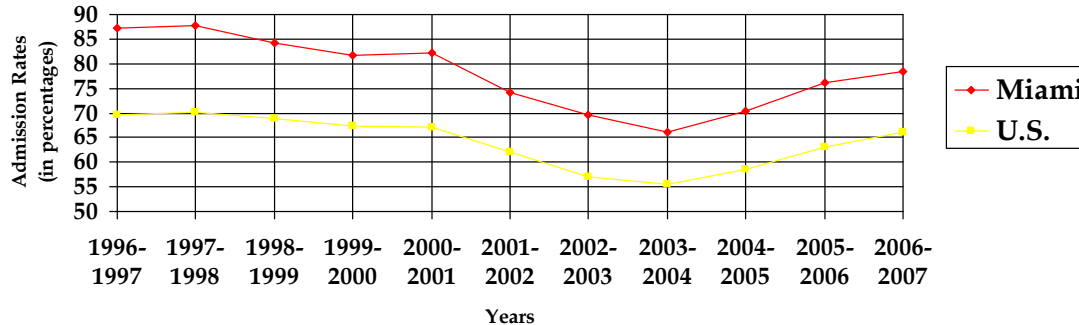
Disclaimer

- After my NAPLA presentation, I was asked to provide more information about some of the data we use in our office. I am a lawyer, not a statistician, so the information provided here has not been analyzed. I use data I receive (from LSAC reports and my own tracking systems) to gauge the effectiveness of my program to help determine where to focus my resources and efforts. I understand that there are many variables that may affect numbers and averages, and we make many assumptions when drawing our conclusions. I have blinded the numbers and names of schools because this information will vary from school to school. Also, this is not an exhaustive list of everything we measure in our program, just an overview. You should only use those measures that make sense for your program, and should feel free to adopt additional measures as necessary. The notes should serve only as a guide, and is not an exhaustive listing of how we use the data we gather in our office.
- P.S. I told you I was a lawyer 😊.

Historical Overview of Miami

Law School Admission Rates 1996-2007*

*from the Law School Admission Council (LSAC)



Note: This type of chart can help determine how your school compares to the national average. Looking at the data this way can help determine if dramatic changes in admission numbers are due to internal issues or are a result of national trends. To create this chart, I entered the actual numbers from our LSAC reports (and National Decision profiles) in each of the past 10 years. I was pleasantly surprised to find that our numbers fluctuated in the same years the national averages.

Student Advising

	Spring 2009	2008-2009	2007-2009
Total Advising Sessions	NA x 1.5	NA x 1.5	NA x 1.5
New Advisees	N+X+Y+R+S	A+F+L+H+D	M+P+Q+T+W
Class of 2009	N	A	M
Class of 2010	X	F	P
Class of 2011	Y	L	Q
Class of 2012	R	H	T
Alumni (- 2008)	S	D	W

Note: I pull these numbers from a spreadsheet I keep on all students I advise. This gives me a good idea of how many new students I see each year, by class. This is important information to track to show the continued viability of your program and to help you direct your marketing efforts. If you only see students in the final two years, you can track just those years. It is important to track total advising sessions so that you get a sense of how many times students see you, on average.

Student Advising

- Disciplines/Majors Represented

Division	# Students	Major	# Students
CAS	N (P%)	POL	A (B%)
BUS	O (Q%)	HST	C (D%)
EAS	R (S%)	COM	E (F%)
EHS	T (U%)	ENG	G (H%)
SFA	V (W%)	PSY	I (J%)

Note: I gather this information from the advising spreadsheet I keep in my office, but major information is also included in the LSAC report if you want overall numbers. I am often asked how many students I advise in each major, and I like having this information on hand. This can help if you need assistance/resources from the divisions/majors in your school and can also help if your goal is to encourage major and/or discipline diversity. I also track the top majors within each division and provide this information to the division chairs and/or chief divisional/departmental advisors.

Student Advising

	2008-2009	2007-2008	All Advisees
Average GPA	N	O	P
GPA range	A-Z	A-Z	A-Z
Average LSAT	XYZ	RST	DEF
GPA range	ABC-XYZ	ABC-XYZ	ABC-XYZ

Note: I pull this information from my advising spreadsheet. I track GPA information both at the time students enter my office and also update it annually. This particular table tracks only new students at the time that they come and see me, but I keep another table that shows this same group of students over time. This information can also be compared to the statistics provided by LSAC (if you want to compare your advisees to all applicants from your university). While these numbers may not fluctuate much from year to year, you may see more dramatic movement over a 5- or 10- year period.

2007-2008 Admission Statistics

Miami Statistics

	All Graduates	Seniors	Non-Seniors
Total # of applicants	A	B (Z%)	C (Y%)
Average LSAT	ABC	XYZ	RST
Average GPA	XY	VW	CD
# Admitted	D (X%)	E (U%)	F (T%)
# Registered	G (S%)	H (R%)	I (Q%)

Note: This information comes directly from the LSAC Report and I use this information in a lot of ways. I compare this information to the same class of advisees (so that I know how my advisees compare my the overall applicant pool). I also like to compare our alumni to our seniors. In addition, I like compare admission numbers to matriculation numbers. This can help gauge (generally) how satisfied students were with the choices they had (although many factors may affect a student's decision not to enroll in law school. I also like to compare our GPA numbers and our LSAT numbers (and percentile) to determine whether we should focus more on academic performance or LSAT prep (or both) in any given year. I also like to compare our average GPA to students across campus (a figure I get from the University Registrar).

2007-2008 Admission Statistics

Miami v. US Statistics

	Miami	US
Avg. LSAT	MNO	STU
Avg. GPA	L	R
% Accepted	P%	V%
% Registered	K%	Q%

Note: I take this information directly from the LSAC Report. I use this to compare how we are doing compared to the national averages. In any given year our average GPA or LSAT scores may fluctuate, which would cause me to investigate further and I may ultimately, shift my focus my attention and efforts on LSAT preparation or academic performance in any given year. While the numbers may not fluctuate much from year to year, there may be more significant movement over a longer period of time.

2007-2008 Admission Statistics

Miami (2007-2008 v. 2006-2007)

	2007-2008	2006-2007
Average GPA	A	B
Average LSAT	DEF	GHI
Applicants	J	K
# Admitted	L (M%)	N (O%)
# Registered	P (Q%)	R (S%)

Note: I pull this information directly from the LSAC report. I like to compare on a yearly basis as well as on a more long-term basis. I compare this information to my advising numbers to see how my advisees compare to all applicants. I also compare these numbers to the national average each year to determine whether my margin is narrowing or the gap is widening. You may also want to compare these numbers (year over year) to your university averages.

2007-2008 Admission Statistics

Top Schools Admitted

2007-2008 (Rank)	# Adm/App	2006-2007 (Rank)	#Adm/App
NKOTB Law School (15)	44/64 (69%)	ESPN Law School (19)	43/57 (75%)
ABA Law School (54)	40/60 (67%)	CPA Law School (58)	39/60 (65%)
BBC Law School (107)	32/76 (42%)	TKD Law School (115)	37/92 (40%)
TKO Law School (199)	30/51 (59%)	SNS Law School (Tier 3)	33/87 (38%)

Note: The raw data for this table is provided in the LSAC Report. Typically, I look at the top 10 or 15 schools. I also include the US News ranking for that particular year. I use this information, in part, to determine which schools our students are most interested in attending and whether they are applying to schools that are realistic for them. If this information changes drastically from year to year, I may call the school to try to determine if their overall numbers were up or down. Tracking this information can help you determine where to direct your external marketing efforts (because resources are limited) and potential opportunities for partnerships. I often will look at list by the type of school (public/private), geography, etc., as well as the rank of the school. The percentages are helpful because the raw numbers will likely fluctuate more than the percentages. You can also track this information on a 5- or 10- year basis.

2007-2008 Admission Statistics

Top Schools Matriculated

2007-2008 (Rank)	#MAT/ADM	2006-2007 (Rank)	#MAT/ADM
ABC Law School (14)	16/32 (50%)	CBS Law School (55)	21/43 (49%)
123 Law School (29)	14/44 (32%)	OMG Law School (Tier 3)	18/37 (49%)
CBS Law School (55)	13/24 (54%)	123 Law School (29)	17/28 (61%)
OMG Law School (Tier 3)	12/30 (40%)	ABC Law School (14)	12/33 (36%)

Note: You can also find the raw data for this table in your school's LSAC Report. As with the admission data, I typically will include the top 10-15 schools in this list. Because our students apply to an average of 8 law schools, this information helps me more closely gauge the schools our students are most interested in attending. This is one reason I include the ratio of matriculating students to admitted students. If one of your goals is to increase the caliber, type, or geography of law school your students attend, this is very useful information.

2007-2008 Admission Statistics

Top 25 Schools

School (Rank)	2007-2008 (ADM/APP)	2006-2007 (ADM/APP)
RUN Law School (1)	1/10 (10%)	0/7 (0%)
BAG Law School (7)	0/12 (0%)	2/9 (22%)
STR Law School (11)	2/10 (20%)	1/9 (11%)
XYZ Law School (15)	1/13 (8%)	0/5 (0%)
TAG Law School (22)	1/11 (9%)	1/9 (11%)

Note: This information helps determine how you are progressing in admitting students in the top schools (again, according to US News). I typically list the top 10-15 schools. Here, I compared the number of students admitted to those who applied and calculated the percentage. This especially helps here where overall numbers may be smaller. I track both admission and matriculation because it helps me figure out which schools my students are “qualified” to attend, versus which ones they actually attend. The LSAC report also includes GPA/LSAT information for those who applied and were admitted (assuming enough students applied). While you may only see small increases from one year to another, you may see more dramatic changes if you track it on a 5- or 10- year basis.

Goals/Benchmarks

Note: It is very important to establish goals/benchmarks for your program, even if you don't share the information with others. It helps you direct your resources and to mark the progress of your program. Here are some of the goals/benchmarks we considered for our program. We chose to focus on four of them in the short-term, but will revisit (and add to) the list in future years. After you have decided the categories of information you want to measure, you should establish SMART (Specific. Measurable. Attainable. Realistic. Timely) goals:

- Increase the number of students/alumni counseled
- Increase the number of students submitting law school applications
- Increase the number of students accepted to law school
- Increase the number of students being accepted to top tier schools using the US News & World Report rankings
- Increase the geographical diversity of the law schools where Miami students are accepted

Goals/Benchmarks (cont.)

- Increase the number of students receiving financial aid for law school
- Increase the number of students receiving financial aid for the LSAT
- Increase the number of staff for the program
- Increase/improve facilities
- Increase library/resource center
- Increase the number and geographic diversity of law schools attending Miami's Law School Fair
- Utilize surveys/questionnaires to advised students and alumni; track responses and increase the percentage of satisfied advisees.