

3+3 Program
Frequently Asked Questions

Is applying to the 3+3 Program a guarantee of admission?

No. Because the 3+3 Program is highly competitive, it requires students to complete an application and go through an interview process. Only then will a decision be rendered.

How do I apply?

- All applicants must create an LSAC account in order for a CAS Report to be generated.
- Before submitting an application, a 3+3 candidate must complete a series of meetings and interviews to ensure eligibility for the 3+3 program:
 1. Meet with your major academic advisor to discuss your remaining degree requirements, and the likelihood of completing your bachelor's degree in three years. If graduating in three years is feasible, request a course plan that reflects your anticipated graduation date. Make sure your STARS Report is updated, including all necessary course substitutions or waivers.
 2. Schedule an appointment to meet with a USC Gould Office of Undergraduate Law Advisor to determine your remaining degree requirements and the likelihood of completing your degree in three years.
 3. After eligibility has been determined with both your undergraduate advisor and a USC Gould Undergraduate Programs advisor, you will be contacted by the 3+3 Program Coordinator in the JD Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, to schedule a meeting.
- The application process is electronic for this program.
- An application may be submitted via LSAC only after meeting with all advisors and the 3+3 Program Coordinator, and completing the 3+3 Accelerated Bachelors/JD Agreement Form.
- Official transcripts and letters of recommendation MUST be sent to LSAC in order to complete your CAS report requirement.

What are the application requirements?

While you may apply via the 3+3 process with an LSAT or GRE score, you will technically be considered a 1st year applicant. This is due to the way that our accreditor, the American Bar Association, requires us to report on our first-year class.

All applicants must submit the following:

- A signed 3+3 Agreement form (available via the Forms section of the application. This form must be signed, scanned, and uploaded to the Attachments – 3+3 Agreement section of the application.
- Undergraduate transcript(s) (with grades from the first semester of college enrollment through fall of junior year) indicating a minimum 3.80 cumulative grade point average. **Acceptance is conditional upon maintaining a 3.80 or higher GPA through the final undergraduate transcript and matriculation into law school.**
- A 2-4 page (double spaced, 12-point font) personal statement with a specific discussion of the applicant's interest in the 3+3 program.
- A resume
- A minimum of two letters of recommendation. One must be academic in nature.
- A reported SAT/ACT score. Focus will be on the critical reading section. A minimum score in the 85th percentile is required. **Those who do not possess a score, or do not fall into the 85th percentile, are not eligible to apply to this program. There are NO exceptions to this rule per the ABA guidelines for non-LSAT admissions.**
- A current STARS Report
- An interview with the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, the Director of Admissions, the Dean of Student Support, and the Dean of Career Services.

Application fee?

- There is no cost to the applicant for the law school application.
- Enrolling students will be required to send all final transcripts to LSAC no later than July 1, 2024.

What if I do not have an SAT or ACT Score?

- Applicants to the 3+3 Accelerated BA/JD Program **must** have an SAT or ACT score which falls in the 85th percentile on the Critical Reading section. Those who do not possess a score, or whose score does not fall into the 85th percentile, are **NOT** eligible to apply to this program. This is an ABA requirement, and there are no exceptions.

How does the LSAT or GRE impact my application?

While you may apply via the 3+3 process with an LSAT or GRE score, you will technically be considered a 1st year applicant. This is due to the way that our accreditor, the American Bar Association, requires us to report on our first-year class.

How do the unit requirements work?

- The ideal 3+3 candidate will have all undergraduate units completed and be in receipt of their degree prior to the beginning of law school. Candidates who do not appear likely to meet that criteria will not be considered for admission.

Will I be able to use any first-year law school courses to substitute/waive undergraduate courses?

- This is up to your individual major department and its specific set of requirements.
- In no circumstances will a first-year law school course substitute or waive a GE course.
- In the event that your academic unit will consider a first-year law school course as a viable substitution to fulfill an undergraduate course or unit requirement, approval will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Final review will require approval of both your undergraduate major department and the Gould Office of Admissions.

What is the application process timeline for the program?

- The application deadline is **December 20, 2023**. This is earlier than our February 1st priority deadline for all other applications, but will still afford the opportunity to have fall semester grades included on the transcript. A firm 3.80 GPA is required at the time of application submission.
- Applicants that remain incomplete as of **January 15, 2024** will be administratively withdrawn.
- We will NOT begin to make decisions until we have an updated transcript with fall 2023 semester grades. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure we receive a transcript once those grades have been posted.
- Interviews with key stakeholders in the law school will be conducted in mid-January.
- Final decisions will be rendered on applications by February 2024.

What if I already have an MA degree via a special degree program?

- The 3+3 Accelerated BA/JD program is **ONLY** for candidates without a graduate level degree. Candidates who have already received a graduate level degree via a progressive or other special degree program are NOT eligible to apply to this program.

Will USC Gould guarantee my scholarship if I am already receiving one as an undergraduate?

- All students admitted under the 3+3 program will be awarded a USC Gould Scholarship. The amount of merit scholarship assistance that a student was receiving at the undergraduate level will be one of several factors considered in determining the amount of our scholarship offer but we do not guarantee a scholarship at the same level. All USC Gould Scholarship awards are guaranteed for all three years with the only requirements being, to maintain good academic standing, and to promptly respond to any requests we may make regarding donor acknowledgment (e.g., writing a thank you letter). There is no separate application required to be considered for USC Gould Scholarship assistance.

Next Steps:

- Meet with your major academic advisor to discuss your remaining degree requirements, and the likelihood of completing your bachelor's degree in three years. If graduating in three years is feasible, request a course plan that reflects your anticipated graduation date. Make sure your STARS Report is updated, including all necessary course substitutions or waivers.
- Make an appointment to meet with a USC Gould Undergraduate Programs advisor to discuss the program requirements, and overall candidacy. During the meeting, the advisor will review your academic record, SAT/ACT score report, and the tentative three-year courseplan created by your major academic advisor to assess your eligibility.
- After eligibility has been determined with both your undergraduate advisor and a USC Gould Undergraduate Programs advisor, you will be contacted by the 3+3 Program coordinator in the JD Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, to schedule a meeting.