

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 a “base” LSAC account in order to be issued an LSAC ID. An LSAC ID is required to submit an application.
- The application process is NOT electronic for this program. Applications must be requested via the Gould Office of Admissions and will only be provided after a prospective applicant has met with their undergraduate counselor and a USC Gould Undergraduate Programs advisor to be sure they meet all of the requirements for the 3+3 Program.
- Completed applications must be e-mailed as an attachment to the admissions office or dropped off in person. They CANNOT be submitted via LSAC.
- Official transcripts and letters of recommendation MUST be sent directly to the Gould Office of Admissions from the university registrar and recommender (these cannot be delivered third-person).

What are the application requirements?

The application requirements are similar to that of the traditional JD application with the exception that 3+3 applicants cannot have a reported *LSAT/GRE score. 3+3 applicants with a reported LSAT/GRE score or with an anticipated LSAT/GRE exam registration, are ineligible to apply. All applicants must submit the following:

- 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 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.

- An interview with the Dean and the Director of Admissions, the Dean of Students, and the Dean of Career Services.

*If either the LSAT/GRE have been taken before or after applying to the program, the score(s) will have to be taken into consideration when reviewing your file for admission.

Application fee?

- There is no cost to the applicant for the law school application.
- Enrolling students will be required to send all official transcripts to LSAC no later than July 1, 2020. USC Gould will provide fee waivers for both the CAS service and your CAS Report

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?

- Applicants to the 3+3 Program for the 2020 term are not required to take the LSAT or the GRE; however, if an applicant has already taken the LSAT or GRE, or decides to do so after applying to the 3+3 Program, the score **MUST** then be taken into account when reviewing the file.

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 **Monday, January 6, 2020**. 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 **February 1, 2020** will be administratively withdrawn.
- We will NOT begin to make decisions until we have an updated transcript with fall 2019 semester grades. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure we receive a transcript once those grades have been posted.
- Interviews will take place between January 13th and January 24th.
- Applicants may be notified of their decision as early as mid-January. We anticipate all decisions will be released prior to February 15, 2020.

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?

- Yes. If you are currently receiving a merit-based undergraduate scholarship, USC Gould will meet that scholarship amount. USC Gould will not be able to honor undergraduate need-based scholarships.
- USC Gould does not offer need-based scholarships, but If you are receiving one as an undergraduate, you will be eligible for consideration of our Merit-based scholarships along with all other applicants of our entering 1L class.

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 as early as your freshman year 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 course plan 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, the 3+3 Program Coordinator in the Gould Office of Admissions will be contacted, letting them know it is permissible for you to schedule an appointment to discuss any questions you may have about the program, and obtain an application.
- Optional, but strongly recommended, is scheduling both a class visit and tour of the law school prior to meeting with the 3+3 Program Coordinator.