



How the GRE® Test Made Law School Possible For Me

My journey to law school, like so many others, is unique. Anyone meeting me for the first time would never guess that I would become a lawyer, let alone a lawyer in the United States. When I came to the United States from China to attend law school, I entered Texas A&M (TAMU) Law School with a graduate degree in biology from Huazhong Agricultural University and previous work experience as a patent examiner.

Entering law school as an international student was daunting as I was the first in my village to study abroad and didn't have any connections in the country. I came from a family where no one advanced their education beyond elementary school, and I was determined to pursue my dream. I had one focus entering law school: pursue my passion in intellectual property (IP). Having navigated not only the study-abroad, but law application experience as an international student, my journey was made just a bit easier through my experience in taking the GRE® test.

When I made the decision to apply to law school, I initially prepared by studying for the LSAT® exam. I quickly realized that the LSAT was not my best option and made plans to prepare for the GRE test instead. The test, I believe, impacted my journey significantly and made my admittance to law school possible.

The GRE provided optimal flexibility

Working full time while applying to law school made my decision to take the GRE an easy one. The LSAT has limited exam offerings, test centers and more questions to prepare for. At most, I was presented with two options to take the LSAT in a given year and had to travel to another city to do so. The GRE provided me optimal flexibility. I could easily access testing dates and times in nearly every large city, with monthly slots open to me. With the GRE, I was quickly provided my scores, which allowed me to apply for early-decision programs as well. Submitting my applications early also increased my chances of acceptance as well as access to scholarship support.

The GRE allowed me to showcase myself in my application

A law applicant is more than just a grade or a test score. When I applied, I was required to submit not only my GRE scores, but also a personal statement, diversity statement and resume. All of these materials show who you are as an individual and give you a chance to demonstrate your perseverance and personality in order to pursue your dreams. As all application materials carry enormous weight, the GRE gave me an opportunity to supplement my application and polish my materials. It allowed me to deeply think about what law schools I should apply to, why I should choose these schools and what I wanted to do. The GRE test forced me to take the time to consider these questions carefully which has only helped further shape my law school journey.

The GRE was widely accepted among top law schools and programs

The wide acceptance of the GRE among top intellectual property law programs in the United States helped to fuel my decision and gave me the chance to consider programs I may not have otherwise applied to; among them was TAMU Law School. To this day, I couldn't be happier with my decision to attend TAMU. I chose TAMU Law for a few reasons, among them the stellar IP program with brilliant professors and faculty. In addition, the Dallas-Fort Worth area where TAMU is located in is one of the largest legal markets in the country. The high employment rate of TAMU graduates, as a result, was also incredibly appealing to me, in addition to Texas' overall positive culture and livability.

Wei Wu is a 2022 graduate of Texas A&M Law School and is originally from Wuhan, China. Postgraduation, she joined a Texas law firm practicing intellectual property law.