

CAREER IN LAW

Legal profession is a fast growing profession. In these days of globalization and liberalization, it is likely to get further momentum. Lawyers are held in high esteem in a civil society as they render valuable service to all segments of the society by getting their constitutional and legal rights enforced through courts-civil or criminal, at all levels of judiciary, that is, Trial Court, High Court, Supreme Court or Quasi- Judicial Institutions.

The legal profession in India has undergone a strategic and substantial change over the last few decades. Now-a-days the law aspirants not only figure themselves in courts but mark the presence in various corporate houses, law agencies, law firms, litigation, administrative services and many more. Earlier it was seen that the law has become a family profession. The families had been choosing law as professions for generations. But the scene has changed today, anyone having the traits and passion for this field can opt for the course and could achieve what he has set for.

A good lawyer must possess the following traits:

- Presence of mind and Quick responsiveness
- Ability to think out of the box
- Logical and analytical thinking
- Patience and endurance
- Persuasive
- Effective communication skills(Good orator, listener and speaker)

Two types of courses

The LLB course is now available in two formats -

- 1 If you have qualified 10+2/higher secondary school examination/intermediate examination or equivalent, you can look in for the five year integrated BA LLB course. Some universities also offer BCom LLB, BSc LLB and BBA LLB too.
- 2 You can go for the LLB program after being a graduate.

The interested candidates who wish to take up Law as career need to qualify any one of the entrance examinations listed below:

S.No.	Name of Exam	Participating institutes/universities	Minimum qualification	Max. Age	Availability of forms	Website
1	AILET (All India Law Entrance Test)	National Law University, Dwarka, New Delhi	10+2 with 50% marks	21 years	January	www.nludelhi.ac.in
2	CLAT (Common Law Admission Test)	14 National Law Schools/Universities	10+2 with 45% marks	20 years	January	www.clat.ac.in
3	CET (Common Entrance Test)	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi	10+2 with 50% marks+ English	21 years	December	www.ggsipu.ac.in
4	JMI	Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi	10+2 with 50% marks	21 years	March	www.jmi.ac.in
5	DU	University of Delhi	Graduate with 50% marks	No age limit	March	www.du.ac.in

*For availability of entrance exam forms and dates, please check the websites.

These Entrance Exams generally tests a student on following areas -

- English
- General Knowledge
- Current Affairs
- Legal Aptitude
- Reasoning
- Elementary Mathematics (Numerical Ability)

Job Prospects

There are a plethora of opportunities for a law graduate.

- * Legal Practice-One can either practice as an advocate in a court of law or work with corporate firms.
- * Judiciary Services- By clearing exams conducted by Public Service Commissions, a law graduate can become a judge.
- * After gaining experience, a law graduate can hope to become Solicitor General, a Public Prosecutor or offer services to government departments and ministries, Banks etc..
- * One can also work as a legal adviser for various organizations and with NGOs
- * Teaching in colleges/ universities
- * Legal Process Outsourcing
- * Media worker- working as a reporter for newspapers and television channels are other attractive options.

The **All India Bar Exam** is an eligibility exam for any law graduate to be able to practise in law in India. It is conducted by the Bar Council of India. According to the Bar Council of India (BCI), the exam is intended to "assess capabilities at a basic level and set a minimum standard for admission to the practise of law; it addresses a candidate's analytical abilities and basic knowledge of law". All students graduating from the academic year 2009-10 onwards need to clear AIBE in order to practise law in India. This is a pass or fail exam, with no ranks, percentile, percentages or marks being declared. Also, there's no limit to the number of times you can appear for the test. And once you clear the test you will get the eligibility certificate to practise in courts. The minimum marks to be secured to become eligible to clear the exam is determined by BCI.

Note:- There are some other State/Private Universities/Autonomous Institutions also imparting legal education and having their own criteria for admission.