

Freshman-Sophomore

— LSAT[®] —

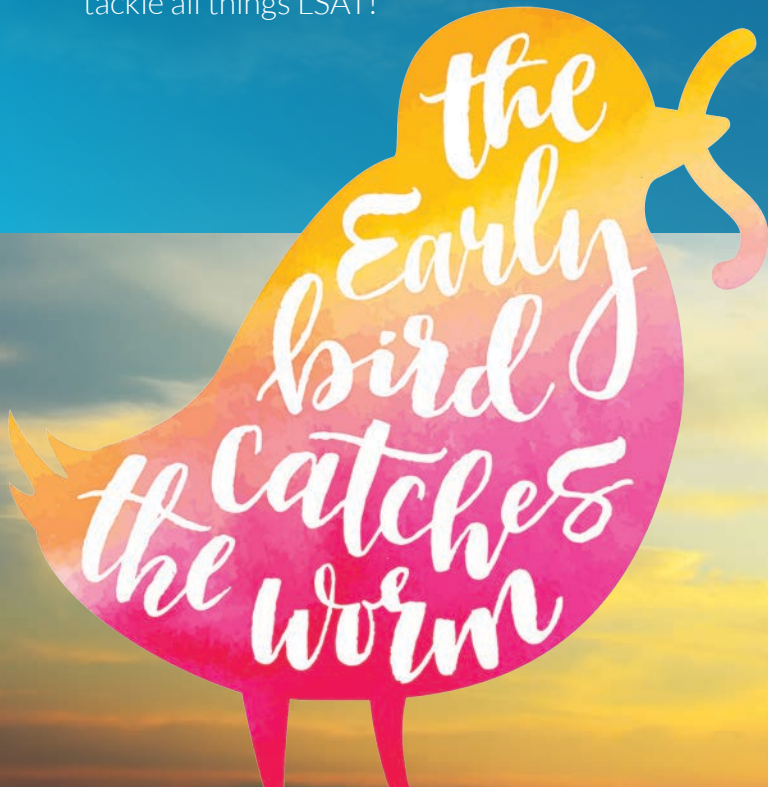
Early Study

Guide


POWERSCORE[®]
TEST PREPARATION

There's a common sentiment among students and professionals alike that it's never too early to start studying for the LSAT. In fact, so compelling and pervasive is this advice that we often hear from high school juniors and seniors (and occasionally their parents) wondering how best to begin the journey to law school. And while that's a bit premature to start seriously investing energy into hardcore LSAT prep, college freshmen and sophomores are near enough to test day that it warrants some legitimate consideration.

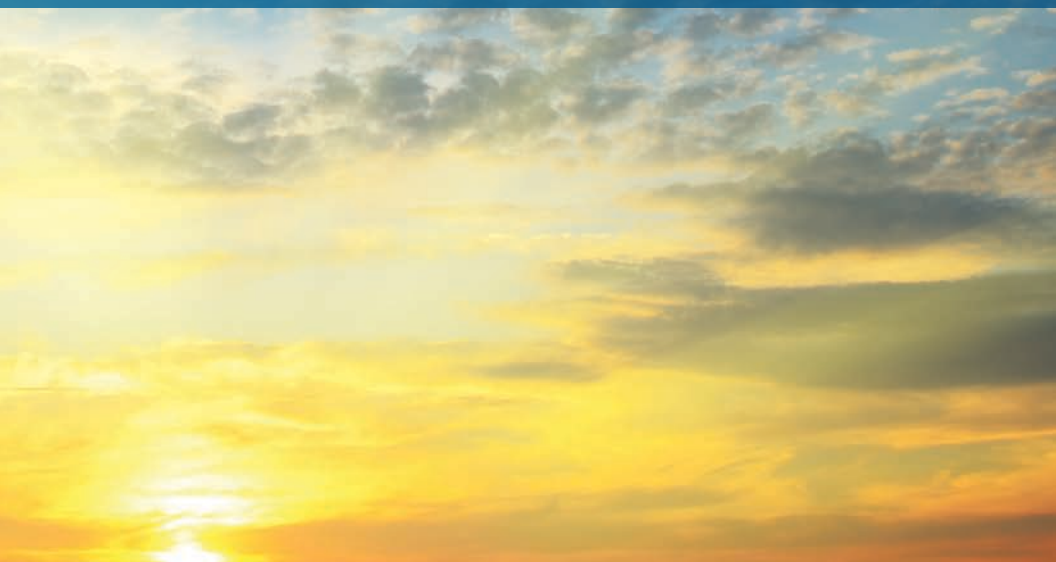
In order to help guide those in the early stages of their college careers, we've developed a comprehensive set of recommendations that should make the transition into more diligent, dedicated LSAT study far more manageable. Follow these pointers and you'll be perfectly positioned to expertly tackle all things LSAT!

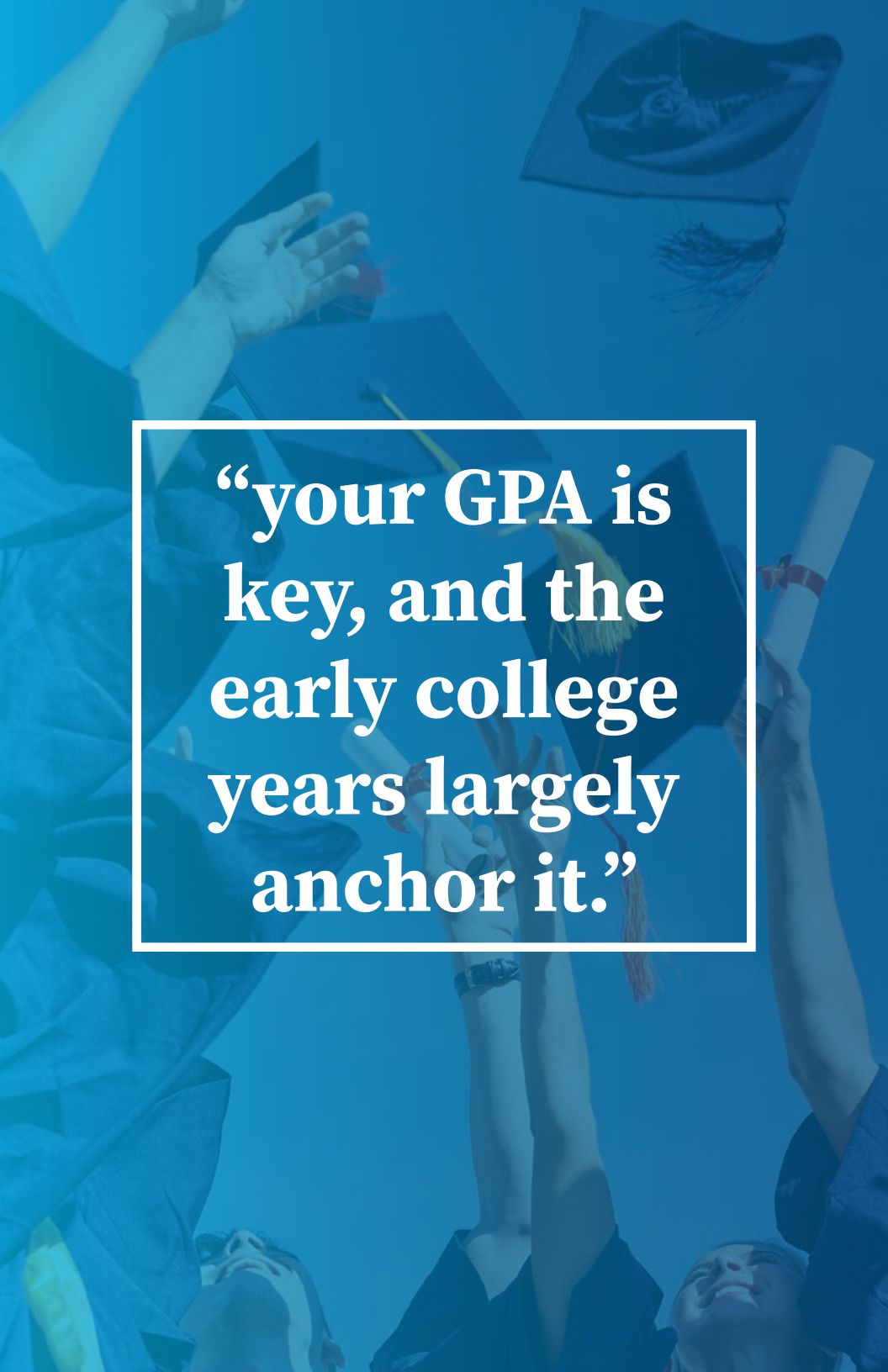


The focus in your first two years of undergrad should be on your grades. Establishing a solid GPA is paramount—there are no do-overs when it comes to that 4.0, after all—so you can't afford to sacrifice your grades for other pursuits if you're serious about attending a top-tier law school. Leave the LSAT heavy lifting for your junior year, which is typically the earliest that people looking to begin law school immediately after graduating will want to start gearing up for the exam, and use the first two college years primarily to lay academic bedrock.

That said, there's a degree of LSAT fluency that high scorers universally achieve, and there's no harm in taking steps in that direction immediately! Part of that will naturally occur as you delve deeper into academia (your reading and reasoning skills are going to improve significantly by simply being in college), but there are some more LSAT-centric moves you can also make in the short-term.

To that end, we suggest you begin incorporating the following into your routine:





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Prioritize Your GPA

As mentioned, **your GPA is key, and the early college years largely anchor it.** For one, freshman and sophomore curricula often include required courses that can be particularly, even intentionally, onerous, so work hard to secure As. Also, it's worth keeping in mind that a high GPA in a less rigorous major is, perhaps surprisingly, generally preferable to a more prestigious course of study where you don't perform as well. We'd never dissuade someone from pursuing a degree about which they're passionate, but if you're on the fence and one academic path is far likelier to produce more favorable credentials, take it. You'll find that law school is, in every sense, a numbers game, and your grades are weighted above very-nearly all else.

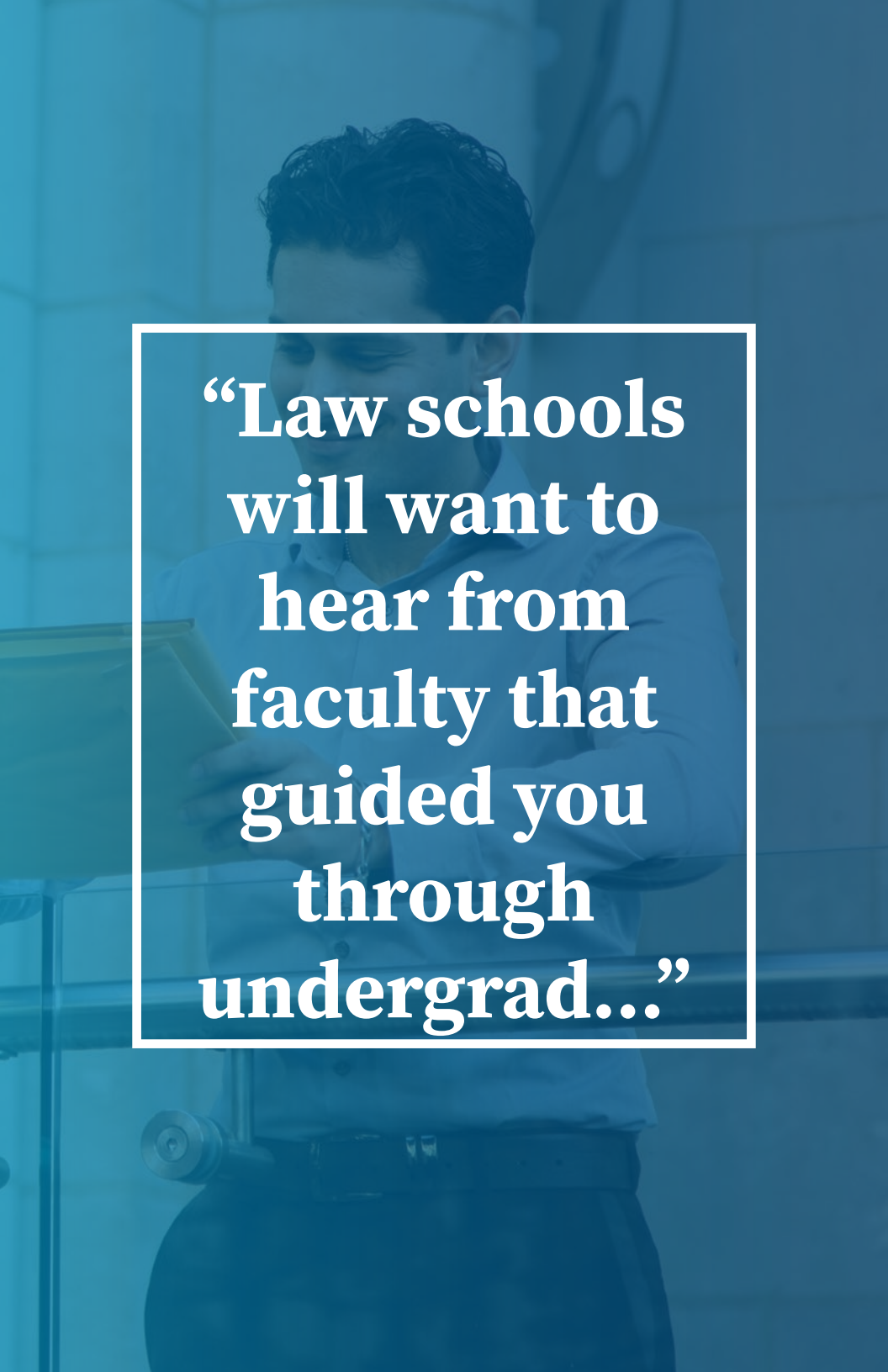


Consider Letters of Recommendation

While we're talking academics, consider letters of recommendation early. Develop relationships with professors in your first years at university, and maintain them.

Law schools will want to hear from faculty that guided you through undergrad, so the sooner you can begin to forge those bonds the better. In fact, the majority of sound freshman and sophomore advice largely hinges on establishing a forward-looking network, whether in-person or online, as you'll see in the following pages.



A man with dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is looking down at a tablet device he is holding. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A white rectangular border frames the text in the center.

**“Law schools
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**“membership
in pre-law
societies often
grants you
significant
discounts on
prep courses...”**



Join a Pre-Law Group

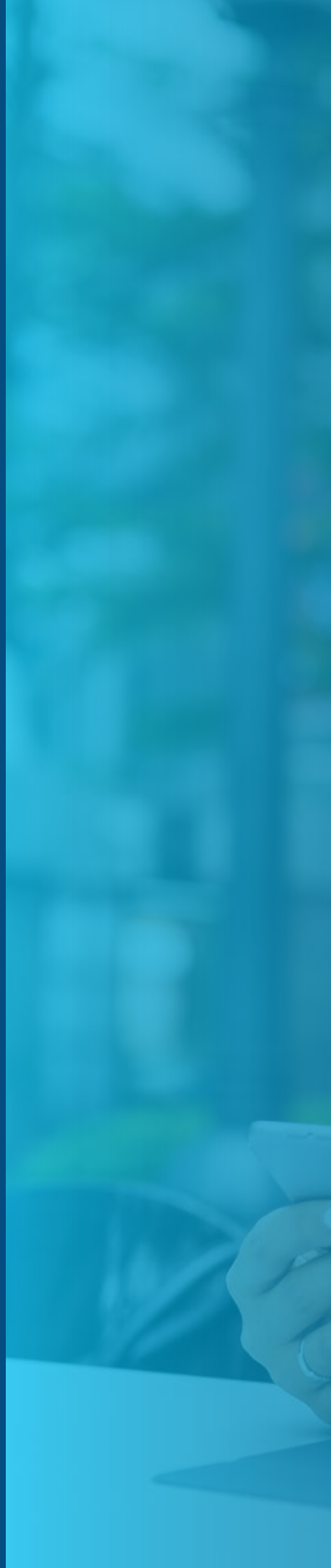
Join a pre-law group, like Phi Alpha Delta. It's hard to overstate the value at this stage of immersing yourself in a like-minded community. You'll experience camaraderie, of course, and a shared adventure as you all set sail towards a common destination, but the more tangible benefits deserve a mention too:

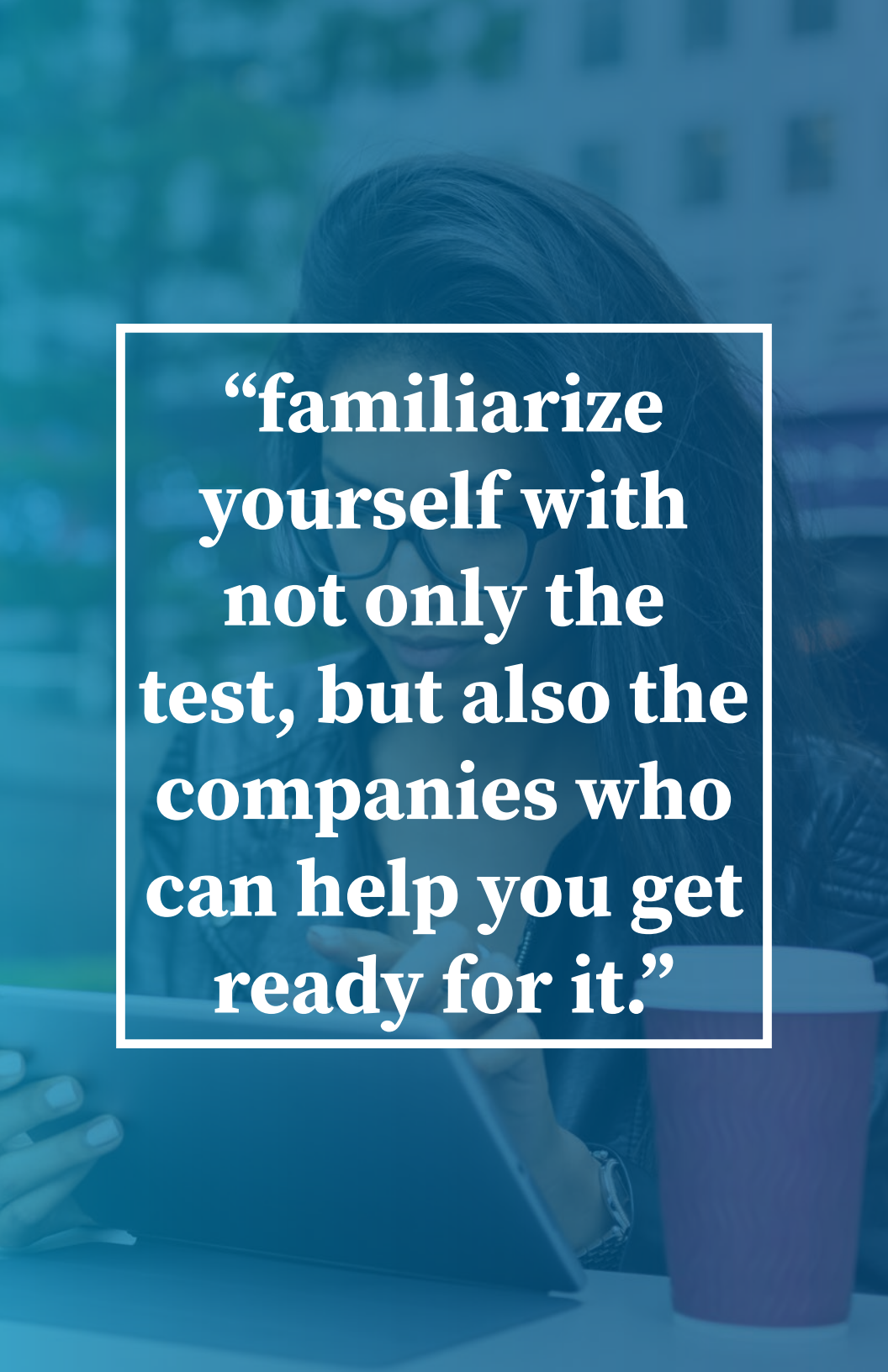
- **Membership in pre-law societies often grants you significant discounts on LSAT prep courses** and other offerings
- Most pre-law groups maintain a small library of LSAT books for you to use free of charge
- A host of other opportunities will present themselves, as well, from school visits to law school fairs to insider application tips.

Get in early and participate often!

Explore the Test Prep Industry

Subscribe to some LSAT blogs and **familiarize yourself with not only the test, but also the companies who can help you get ready for it.** You'll develop a level of trust and comfort as you journey deeper into the industry's ecosystems, and that will help you make a more informed decision down the road when your attentions turn to prep in a more devoted manner.





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**“keep your
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Stay in the LSAT Loop

Follow some industry heavyweights on Twitter, as that will keep you abreast of LSAT news/developments. The application and admissions landscape could be a great deal different in three years than at present, so the more aware you are of the ebb and flow the clearer various decisions will be when the time comes to make them.

We personally like Dave Killoran's (@DaveKilloran) and PowerScore's (@PowerScore) twitter accounts.

Similarly, immerse yourself in a number of online LSAT communities! Check out our PowerScore LSAT Forum, where you can engage with our instructors and your fellow test takers, as well as the reddit sub /r/LSAT—both are well-populated and hugely informative.


The objective in all of this is that you build a dynamic and immersive environment to **keep your ultimate goals in view and your pathway to achieving them close at hand.**

Read Daily

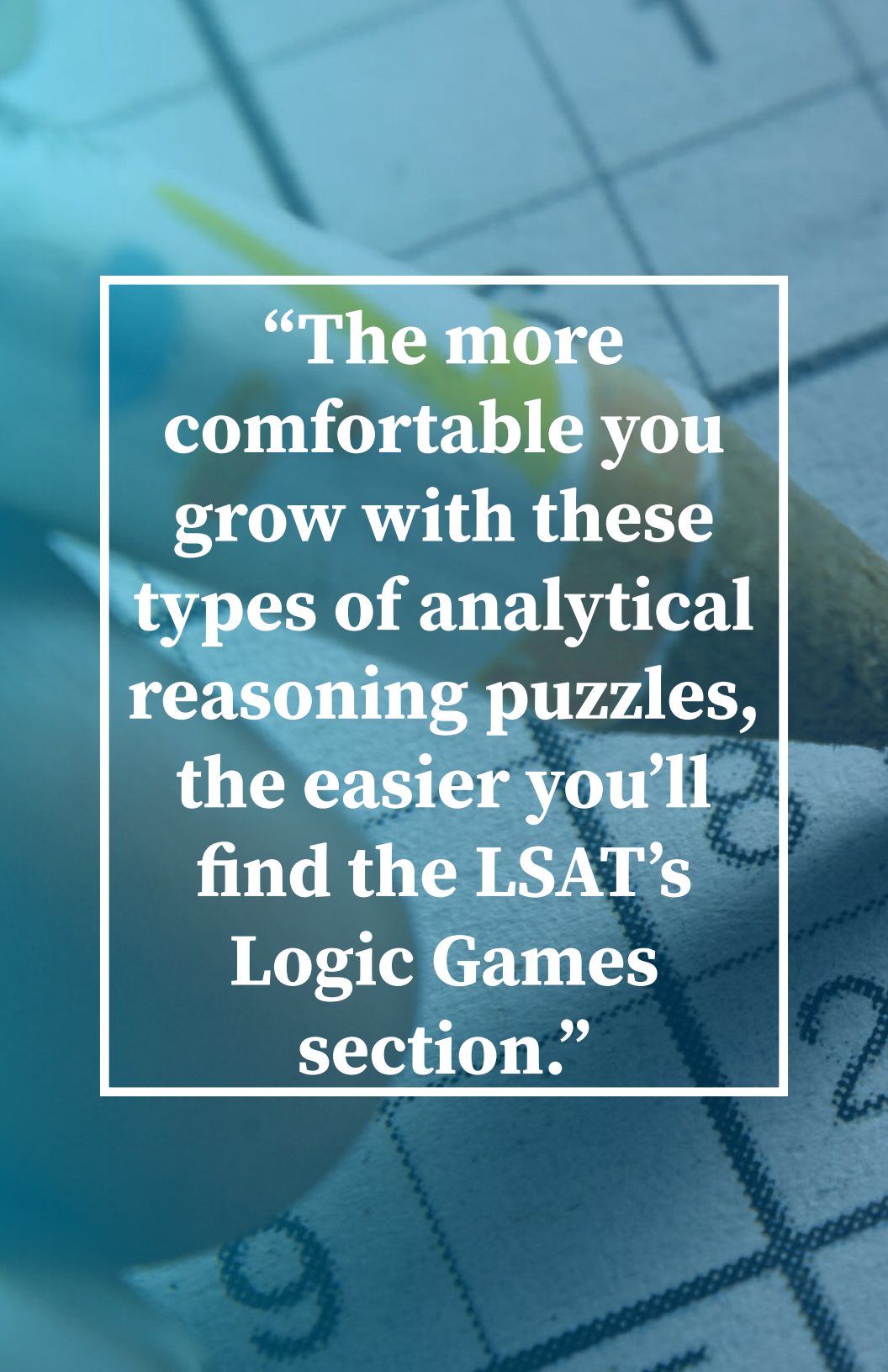
Become, or remain, an active daily reader. We can't stress this enough. **Try to read something fairly dense and academic every day**, or at least as often as possible, like articles in the Economist, Nature, the Wall Street Journal, Scientific American, and more. Not only will that make you more comfortable when faced with challenging Reading Comprehension passages on the LSAT—many of which are actually drawn from sources like those just listed—but it will also make the reading volume in law school feel more manageable. A more comprehensive list of recommended reading is available here:

powerscore.com/lSAT/help/rcrl.cfm



A student with long brown hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and a purple backpack, is seen from behind, reading a book in a library. The background is filled with wooden bookshelves packed with books. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

**“Try to read
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The background of the image is a blurred, blue-tinted photograph. It shows a hand holding a pencil, positioned over a document that features a grid pattern, likely a crossword puzzle. The text is centered within a white-bordered box.

“The more comfortable you grow with these types of analytical reasoning puzzles, the easier you’ll find the LSAT’s Logic Games section.”




Play Games

Find some logic puzzle exercises that you enjoy and can try your hand at solving on a regular basis. Sudoku is a great option, as are games on apps or sites like Brain Matrix and Addicting Games. **The more comfortable you grow with these types of analytical reasoning puzzles, the easier you'll find the LSAT's Logic Games section...** the most unique and inarguably strange component of the test for most people.

Start Saving

Put aside some funds for LSAT prep and law school admissions in general. It can be expensive, but if done right it's one of the best investments you'll ever make. For example, our average course improvement is about 14 points, **which translates into tens, even hundreds, of thousands of dollars in both scholarships and post-grad opportunities** (given that you'll be attending a far better school than the old, lower-score you could've hoped for). So you want to be able to afford the prep option that suits you best and is likely to produce the most profound results, without feeling overly-constrained by your budget.



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With such an early start you have an opportunity to successfully pre-prepare that few people experience. If you've made it here as a freshman or sophomore you're off to a great start—don't squander it! Follow the tips above and you're well on your way to the law school of your dreams.

Best of luck!



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