

2019 Admissions Deans Survey

SURVEY RESULTS

The BARBRI Group companies meet the legal education, cyber skills education and specialized training needs of law students, attorneys, IT students and other professionals throughout their careers. The companies offer a comprehensive portfolio of learning solutions for higher education institutions and law- and finance-related businesses. At the core of The BARBRI Group Companies is BARBRI Bar Review, which has helped more than 1.3 million lawyers around the world pass a U.S. bar exam. The company also provides online J.D., post-J.D. and international programs for U.S. law schools, hands-on cyber skills training for IT and criminal justice programs, and specialized ongoing training and certifications in areas such as financial crime prevention, eDiscovery and cyber literacy. The BARBRI Group, founded in 1967, is a Leeds Equity Partners portfolio company headquartered in Dallas with offices throughout the United States and around the world.

Q1 Which of the following best describes your current title?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Assistant Dean of Admissions	45.16%	42
Associate Dean of Admissions	12.90%	12
Director of Admissions	22.58%	21
Assistant Director of Admissions	7.53%	7
Associate Director of Admissions	3.23%	3
Current Law Student / Admissions Fellow	0.00%	0
None of the above	8.60%	8
TOTAL		93

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Q2 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	60.22%	56
Male	38.71%	36
Trans Male / Trans Man	0.00%	0
Trans Female / Trans Woman	0.00%	0
Genderqueer / Gender Non-conforming	0.00%	0
Different Identity	0.00%	0
Prefer not to answer	1.08%	1
TOTAL		93

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Q3 What best describes your political affiliation?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Republican Party	7.78%	7
Democratic Party	61.11%	55
Independant	21.11%	19
Green Party	0.00%	0
Libertarian Party	0.00%	0
Other	10.00%	9
TOTAL		90

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Q4 Did you graduate from law school?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.22%	56
No	39.78%	37
TOTAL		93

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Q5 When did you graduate from law school?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 37

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
> 5 years	14.29%	8
5 - 10 years	23.21%	13
10 - 15 years	28.57%	16
15 - 20 years	17.86%	10
< 25 years	16.07%	9
TOTAL		56

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Q6 Did you practice law after graduating law school?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 37

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.71%	34
No	39.29%	22
TOTAL		56

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Q7 What best describes your prior practice?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 44

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Private practice	48.98%	24
Legal Academia	6.12%	3
Public Interest / N.G.O.	10.20%	5
Governmental Agency	8.16%	4
Judicial Clerkship	2.04%	1
In-House Legal Department	4.08%	2
Other	20.41%	10
TOTAL		49

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Q8 Please identify the U.S. News Law Ranking of the law school for which you CURRENTLY serve as an admissions officer:

Answered: 87 Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rank 1-14	5.75%	5
Rank 14-50	21.84%	19
Rank 50-100	33.33%	29
Rank 100-145	21.84%	19
Rank 146-192	4.60%	4
Unranked	12.64%	11
TOTAL		87

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Q9 What best describes your feeling about the U.S. News Law Rankings:

Answered: 90 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I feel very happy that the U.S. News Law Rankings exist.	0.00%	0
I feel somewhat happy that the U.S. News Law Rankings exist.	3.33%	3
I feel neutral that the U.S. News Law Rankings exist.	26.67%	24
I feel somewhat unhappy that the U.S. News Law Rankings exist.	42.22%	38
I feel very unhappy that the U.S. News Law Rankings exist.	27.78%	25
TOTAL		90

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Q10 On average, how much time do you estimate you spend reviewing an applicant's file?

Answered: 79 Skipped: 14

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 minute	0.00%	0
2 minutes	0.00%	0
3 minutes	2.53%	2
4 minutes	3.80%	3
5 minutes	16.46%	13
5-10 minutes	36.71%	29
10-20 minutes	34.18%	27
< 20 minutes	6.33%	5
TOTAL		79

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Q11 When deciding whether to extend an offer of admission, what percent of the time do you consider the impact that the applicant will have on your law school's future U.S. News Law Ranking?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 16

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0%	22.08%	17
10%	14.29%	11
20%	7.79%	6
30%	6.49%	5
40%	7.79%	6
50%	16.88%	13
60%	6.49%	5
70%	6.49%	5
80%	6.49%	5
90%	1.30%	1
100%	3.90%	3
TOTAL		77

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Q12 When you begin reviewing an applicant's file, do you follow a general system whereby one part of the application gets reviewed first?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 13

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.00%	60
No	25.00%	20
TOTAL		80

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Q13 Which of the following standard application components do you typically review FIRST?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 33

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Undergraduate GPA Report	11.67%	7
LSAT Report	48.33%	29
Resume	1.67%	1
Personal Statement	21.67%	13
Letter(s) of Recommendation	0.00%	0
Why [Your Law School] Essay	1.67%	1
Other	15.00%	9
TOTAL		60

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Q14 Which of the following standard application components do you typically review SECOND?

Answered: 61 Skipped: 32

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Undergraduate GPA Report	44.26%	27
LSAT Report	14.75%	9
Resume	16.39%	10
Personal Statement	9.84%	6
Letter(s) of Recommendation	1.64%	1
Why [Your Law School] Essay	3.28%	2
Other	9.84%	6
TOTAL		61

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Q15 Have you, or someone from your law school, ever reviewed an applicant's social media prior to extending an offer of admission?

Answered: 79 Skipped: 14

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	63.29%	50
No	36.71%	29
TOTAL		79

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Q16 On average, what percent of the time do you review applicants' social media prior to extending an offer of admission?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 43

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0%	20.00%	10
10%	64.00%	32
20%	8.00%	4
30%	4.00%	2
40%	0.00%	0
50%	4.00%	2
60%	0.00%	0
70%	0.00%	0
80%	0.00%	0
90%	0.00%	0
100%	0.00%	0
TOTAL		50

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Q17 On average, what percent of the time does an applicant's social media negatively impact your decision to extend an offer of admission?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 43

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0%	30.00%	15
10%	48.00%	24
20%	6.00%	3
30%	10.00%	5
40%	0.00%	0
50%	4.00%	2
60%	0.00%	0
70%	0.00%	0
80%	2.00%	1
90%	0.00%	0
100%	0.00%	0
TOTAL		50

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Q18 Do you, or anyone from your law school's admission office, review Internet forums that discuss the law school admissions process (e.g., Top-Law-Schools.com, Reddit, LawSchoolNumbers.com)?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 15

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	74.36%	58
No	25.64%	20
TOTAL		78

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Q19 How regularly do you, or someone from your admissions office, review law school admissions forums on the Internet (e.g., Top-Law-Schools.com, Reddit, LawSchoolNumbers.com)?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 35

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	6.90%	4
Weekly	24.14%	14
Bi-Monthly	5.17%	3
Monthly	18.97%	11
Only when we become aware of discussion regarding our law school and/or our decision-making process.	25.86%	15
Very rarely	18.97%	11
TOTAL		58

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Q20 What percent of the time do you feel the participants law school admissions forums truthfully represent the decision-making process at your law school?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 38

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0%	9.09%	5
10%	14.55%	8
20%	12.73%	7
30%	25.45%	14
40%	5.45%	3
50%	12.73%	7
60%	7.27%	4
70%	5.45%	3
80%	3.64%	2
90%	1.82%	1
100%	1.82%	1
TOTAL		55

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Q21 For waitlisted candidates who would immediately accept an offer of admission, how often would you recommend that they express their interest to the admissions office?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 18

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Once, in a Letter of Continued Interest	28.00%	21
Only one additional time during the cycle following a Letter of Continued Interest	18.67%	14
Weekly, after first sending a Letter of Continued Interest	1.33%	1
Every two weeks, after first sending a Letter of Continued Interest	9.33%	7
Monthly, after first sending a Letter of Continued Interest	37.33%	28
Every two months, after first sending a Letter of Continued Interest	5.33%	4
TOTAL		75

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Q22 When going to your waitlist, which of the following most significantly impacts your decision to extend an offer of admission:

Answered: 75 Skipped: 18

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strength of an applicant's Letter of Continued Interest	6.67%	5
Impact that the applicant's LSAT or UGPA will have on your overall admissions statistics	61.33%	46
Whether the applicant demonstrated an intention to immediately accept your offer to attend	18.67%	14
Strength of an applicant's "Why [Your Law School]?" essay	2.67%	2
None of the above	10.67%	8
TOTAL		75

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Q23 Did your law school accept 2L transfer applicants to begin in Fall 2018?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 15

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.31%	72
No	7.69%	6
TOTAL		78

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Q24 What part a transfer application tends to be most impactful on your decision to offer admission?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 23

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Applicant's LSAT / UGPA	0.00%	0
Applicant's 1L transcript	97.14%	68
Applicant's Personal statement	0.00%	0
Professor letters of recommendation	0.00%	0
Applicant's reason for transferring	2.86%	2
Applicant's extracurricular activities during their 1L year	0.00%	0
TOTAL		70

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Q25 Have you seen an INCREASE in the number transfer applications over the past 5 years?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 23

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	27.14%	19
No	72.86%	51
TOTAL		70

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Q26 Knowing what you know about law school, the cost of a legal education, and the legal employment market, do you believe that a law degree is a sound financial investment for the MAJORITY of the students you admit?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 18

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.67%	71
No	5.33%	4
TOTAL		75

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Q27 Knowing what you know about law school, the cost of a legal education, and the legal employment market, would you strongly encourage YOUR CHILD to make the investment and attend law school?

Answered: 71 Skipped: 22

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	84.51%	60
No	15.49%	11
TOTAL		71

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Q28 If YOUR CHILD excelled during the 1L year, would you strongly encourage him/her to transfer to a T14 law school if it would provide more options for post-graduate employment?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 23

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, but only if the decision to transfer did not result in any additional costs (tuition, living expenses, etc.).	21.43%	15
Yes, unless they were offered a significant scholarship that significantly lowered the overall cost of attendance at their original school.	18.57%	13
Yes, notwithstanding the financial impact.	11.43%	8
No, not under any circumstances would I strongly encourage them to transfer.	48.57%	34
TOTAL		70

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Q29 Does your law school offer scholarships to successful first-year law students that, in part, are intended to discourage those students from transferring to a higher-ranked school?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 18

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	41.33%	31
No	58.67%	44
TOTAL		75

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