Advice for LLM Students Considering Applying for JD Admissions

If you are considering applying for transfer admission into Cincinnati Law’s JD program, you should know that the process is highly competitive. Very few LLM applicants will qualify. Here are some suggestions to make your application as competitive as possible.

- **Wait until the completion of your LLM program before applying to transfer.**
  - You are advised wait to apply until you have completed two semesters in the LLM program. With this length of study, the Admissions Committee can thoroughly evaluate your suitability for admission.
  - Although you can apply as soon as you receive first-semester grades, only a truly exceptional student would be admitted based on just one semester at Cincinnati Law. If the Committee concludes that your coursework in the first semester was not rigorous enough, or that your classroom performance was not strong enough, the Committee will deny your application. In that case, you can apply again at the end of the second semester.

- **Take a rigorous curriculum.**
  - You are strongly encouraged to take several courses on topics that are tested on the bar exam. These courses will prepare you for the rigor of the JD program, and they will also prepare you take a bar exam. The rigor of your coursework will weigh heavily in the Admissions Committee’s consideration of your application.
  - You are strongly advised to take Contracts, a course that all first-year law students take and that is heavily tested on bar exams. In fact, strong performance in Contracts is a good predictor of your likely future success on a bar exam.

- **Earn outstanding grades in all your classes.**
  - The Admissions Committee will also want to see that you have performed at high levels in your coursework, and especially in bar-tested courses. High performance in your bar-tested courses suggests that you will continue to perform well in the rest of the JD curriculum and that you are capable of passing a bar exam.

- **Identify three Cincinnati Law professors who will vouch for you.**
  - The Admissions Committee will require and carefully consider the recommendations from three full-time professors who have had you as a student. The Committee is looking for assurances that you will be successful in JD courses, that you are able to pass a bar exam, and that you are and will continue to be an asset to the Cincinnati Law community.

- **Carefully consider your financial situation.**
  - Even if you received a scholarship for the LLM program, you may not be eligible for a JD scholarship. You may apply for a scholarship, but you are not guaranteed to receive one.