WESTERN UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
PERSONAL STATEMENT
For Entry September 2018

Name: ____________________________________________ Date: _____________________

All applicants must submit a personal statement with their application. The maximum length of the statement – for both Parts A and B below – must not exceed 7000 characters.

Part A. (Maximum 5000 characters)

The personal statement allows you to expand upon information in the Autobiographical Sketch and to identify academic strengths and other achievements. The ability to succeed in a non-academic area may reflect characteristics that allows the Admissions Committee to predict success in legal studies. Suggestions are provided below. Note it is not necessary to address all these items. Choose what is most relevant to you.

- how your academic program(s) and/or employment have prepared you for the study of law
- your interest in legal study and how you plan to use your Western law degree
- personal and/or professional achievements
- excellence in non-academic endeavours
- life experiences that provide evidence of maturity, focus, leadership, self-discipline, creativity, or resiliency
- any rigorous research or writing projects you have completed and what you learned from them
- how you may contribute to the diversity of the law school in terms of your background and experience

Part B. Situational Judgment Question (Maximum 2000 characters)

You are the Chair of a three-person hiring team for a prominent local company. In April the team makes a decision to hire a university graduate (the employee) to work part-time during the summer (while he completes two final courses for his degree program) and then full-time in September. The employee is highly-qualified, well-liked by everyone on the hiring team, and was highly recommended when his references were checked. The employee’s full-time employment is dependent upon completing degree requirements.

In the middle of August the employee tells you he is unable to start full-time in September because he will not have completed one of his seminar courses. When you ask why, he tells you he was found responsible for plagiarizing part of an essay. He claims the plagiarism was inadvertent but acknowledges he should have known better and is responsible for what he submitted. He must repeat the course and will not complete degree requirements until December.
When the hiring team learns about this development it has one of two choices:

- Let the employee go because he has not met the condition upon which he was to begin full-time in September; or
- Exercise its discretion to extend the full-time start date to January and permit him to remain part-time until then.

One member of the hiring team believes the employee should not continue with the company because he lacks the integrity required for the position. He believes it is critical the employee be trustworthy because he will work on important projects with important clients. The other member of the hiring team believes the employee showed integrity by stating honestly why he could not begin full-time in September. She believes the employee is trustworthy because he assumed responsibility for his actions.

You have the final vote. What would you decide and why?

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Part C. (Maximum 1000 characters)

If you are an:

Access applicant: You may submit an additional statement to discuss the disadvantage or barrier for which you are seeking special consideration that may have affected your academic performance or LSAT score(s).

Aboriginal/Indigenous applicant: You may submit an additional statement to discuss your ties to your Aboriginal/Indigenous community.

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Note: While review of your personal statement by others is acceptable, the statement must be written by you alone. Extensive editing or rewriting by others is not permissible. When you submit your personal statement to Western University Faculty of Law you are confirming that you are the true author of the statement.