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FORUM DOMESTICUM

PERFORMANCE OF LSU LAW STUDENTS: THE 1980-81 FRESHMAN CLASS*

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With the development of a revised computer data base providing ready access to more information about law student characteristics and performance, the law school is able to produce more sophisticated statistical analyses of student achievement. The purpose of this article is to disseminate this information to the bar of the state and the law school's alumni, and more importantly, to alert potential law students about prospects for successful performance at the law school. Much misinformation about "flunk-out" rates at LSU exists, and it is hoped that this article will provide some realistic perspectives about probabilities of success to assist students in deciding whether to attend law school at LSU.

The statistics that follow are those compiled for the first year class which entered in Fall 1980.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FALL 1980 FIRST YEAR CLASS

Though enrollment is limited to 375 first-year students, LSU continues to provide legal training to students with scores on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) that are substantially lower than the scores usually required by schools of comparable quality.¹ In 1980-1981, more than half of the entering students had LSAT scores of less than 550;

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1. The LSAT is designed to measure certain mental abilities important in the study of law and, thus, to aid law schools in assessing the academic promise of their applicants. The test covers a broad range of academic disciplines and is intended to give no advantage to candidates from a particular academic background. The questions yielding the LSAT score are designed to measure the ability to read, understand, and reason.

Law School Admission Service 1982 Brochure, p.3. In the Kelso study of part time education, the rating of law schools according to resources placed LSU with schools that have the following median LSAT scores; Georgetown 673; Utah 640; Ohio State 644; Vanderbilt 640; Iowa 639. Recent average LSAT scores for various universities were: Stanford 735; University of Texas 669; Duke 678; University of Virginia 673; University of North Carolina 651. See E. EPSTEIN, J. SHOSTAK, L. TROY, BARRON'S GUIDE TO LAW SCHOOLS (4th ed. 1980). KELSO, THE AALS STUDY OF PART-TIME LEGAL EDUCATION, 319 (1972).

slightly more than one-fourth had scores of 600 or above.² Accepting a class with such low scores is part of a conscious effort by a state-supported university to provide as much opportunity for legal education as is feasible in light of faculty size and library resources.

The law faculty has been required by board of supervisors regulation to admit classes that are composed of not more than 10 percent non-residents; additionally, non-resident students must have an index score³ which is at least 100 points higher than the lowest resident score ac-

2. Nationally, the LSAT median score is about 540. A score of 600 would put a student at about the 73rd percentile. The table of percentiles below is from the 1981-82 Law School Admission Services brochure:

Score	% Below for LSAT	
	1978-1979	1974-79
780	99.8	99.8
760	99.4	99.4
740	98.6	98.8
720	97.4	97.6
700	95.4	95.9
680	92.7	93.3
660	89.1	89.8
640	84.4	85.5
620	78.8	80.1
600	72.5	73.9
580	65.9	67.2
560	58.7	60.0
540	51.1	52.6
520	43.5	45.2
500	36.6	38.1
480	30.2	31.6
460	24.4	25.8
440	19.5	20.7
420	15.2	16.3
400	11.7	12.7
380	8.9	9.7
360	6.6	7.3
340	4.8	5.4
320	3.4	3.9
300	2.4	2.8
280	1.6	1.9
260	1.1	1.3
240	0.7	0.8
220	0.4	0.5

3. The law school index is determined by adding to the LSAT score the student's undergraduate grade point average multiplied by 100. For example, a student with a 600 LSAT score and a 3.0 average would have a 900 index score.

cepted. In the fall of 1980, only 17 entering students were classified as non-residents for fee determination purposes. This figure may be distorted slightly due to the tendency of students from other states to take advantage of any Louisiana relationships they have to qualify for the lower resident tuition. Nevertheless, the student body is definitely Louisiana oriented.

Forty percent of the students received their undergraduate degree from LSU's main campus, and another 7 percent were graduated from other schools in the LSU system. One-third of the class was graduated from Louisiana public colleges, 7 percent from the state's private institutions, and 13 percent from out-of-state colleges and universities. The students tend to be recent college graduates — only 31 percent were 25 years of age or older. Women, who have been enrolling in greater numbers each year, comprised 29 percent of the 1980-1981 entering class.

The data reflects an admissions process that is virtually devoid of discretion. The top applicants according to the Law School Index are admitted without regard to consideration of other factors. The only exception is a special category of ten persons who can be admitted despite a failure to meet the general requirements, if they have other experience or qualifications from which to predict law school success. This special category was established primarily to allow special consideration for black students. Fourteen black students were registered in the 1980-81 class.

TABLE 1
STUDENT PROFILE
1980-1981 FIRST YEAR CLASS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentages</u>	<u>Cum. Percent</u>
Number of Fall 1980 Registrants	376		
Louisiana Residents	359	95%	
Non-Residents	17	5%	
Males	268	71%	
Females	108	29%	
Single	297	79%	
Married	73	19%	
Divorced	6	2%	
Blacks	14	4%	
Whites	362	96%	

TABLE 1 (continued)

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentages</u>	<u>Cum. Percent</u>
<u>Age</u>			
19-20	4	1%	
21	22	6%	7%
22	141	38%	45%
23	58	15%	60%
24	33	9%	69%
25-29	74	20%	89%
30 and above	44	12%	100%
<u>University Attended</u>			
LSU	151	40%	
LSU System ⁴	25	7%	
La. Public ⁵	125	33%	
La. Private ⁶	25	7%	
Out-of-state	50	13%	
<u>LSAT Scores</u>			
700 and up	11	3%	
675-699	12	3%	6%
650-674	16	4%	10%
625-649	29	8%	18%
600-624	33	9%	27%
575-599	34	9%	36%
550-574	40	11%	47%
525-549	47	13%	59%
500-524	48	13%	72%
475-499	54	14%	87%
450-474	29	8%	94%
450 and below	25	7%	100%

4. Includes LSU Medical Center, University of New Orleans, LSU-Alexandria and LSU-Shreveport.

5. Includes Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northeast Louisiana University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Southern University, and the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

6. Includes Centenary College, Dillard University, Louisiana College, Loyola University and Tulane University (including Newcomb College).

TABLE 1 (continued)

<u>Undergraduate Grade Point Average</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentages</u>	<u>Cum. Percent</u>
3.75 - 4.00	20	5%	
3.50 - 3.74	59	16%	21%
3.25 - 3.49	73	19%	40%
3.00 - 3.24	71	19%	59%
2.75 - 2.99	82	22%	81%
2.50 - 2.74	52	14%	95%
less than 2.50	19	5%	100%
<u>Law School Index</u>			
1050 and up	10	3%	
1025-1049	6	2%	4%
1000-1024	14	4%	8%
975- 999	12	3%	11%
950- 974	19	5%	16%
925- 949	31	8%	24%
900- 924	30	8%	32%
875- 899	35	9%	42%
850- 874	34	9%	51%
825- 849	38	10%	61%
800- 824	44	12%	73%
775- 799	40	11%	83%
750- 774	49	13%	96%
less than 750	14	4%	100%

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

LSU continues to have a rather low success rate for its students, a fact that is not surprising since the school accepts students with low academic credentials. To advance into the second semester of the first year, a student must earn an overall grade point average of 65.00 or better (65 is the lowest C), and to enter the second year of law school, the student must have an overall grade point average of 68.00 or better. This 68.00 requirement is the measure of successful performance for this study. On that standard, 57 percent of the 1980-1981 entering class performed successfully. Although 43 percent of the class was not eligible to continue, not all of those were excluded for academic reasons. After the first semester, only 64 students, or 17 percent, were excluded; after the second semester an additional 47 students, or 13 percent, were excluded. Some 51 students, or 14 percent, withdrew voluntarily. However,

a large proportion of those voluntary drops involved students with poor prospects of success.⁷

TABLE 2
OVERALL STATISTICS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Mean GPA</u>
Registered in Fall 1980	376	100%	
Withdrew in Fall	43	11%	
Took Fall Exams	333	89%	69.43
Excluded after Fall Exams	64	17%	
Eligible to Register in Spring	269	72%	
Registered in Spring 1981	262	70%	
Withdrew in Spring	1	—	
Took Spring Exams	261	69%	71.36
Excluded after Spring Exams	47	13%	
Eligible to continue as juniors	214	57%	71.52

The overall success rate has not changed dramatically over the past few years.

TABLE 3
SUCCESS RATES 1977-1981

1977-1978	65%
1978-1979	62%
1979-1980	62%
1980-1981	57%

SUCCESS RATES BY CATEGORIES⁸

Success rates differed little based on marital status or age. A minor differential is revealed when sex is considered, as men did slightly better than women. Since non-resident students must meet higher standards

7. Of 39 students who dropped in the fall semester without taking final exams, two-thirds had LSAT scores below 550.

8. The categories analyzed in this study were simply the categories of information available in the computer data base which is derived from information provided by students in their applications for admission. While it is true that other information categories might be pursued if one were attempting to construct an ideal mathematical model to predict success in law school, the information available appears to be the categories that are most significant. The regression and correlation analysis is pursued at the text at page 1388, *infra*.

to be admitted, it is no surprise that they did somewhat better than the Louisiana residents. A major differential results in the performance by race; 29% of the blacks (four students) were successful, whereas the success rate for whites was 58%, or twice as high. Considering the lower LSAT and Index scores for the black students, this result is not unexpected.⁹

TABLE 4
PERFORMANCE SUMMARY, 1980-1981 CLASS

		Number Successful	Percentage Successful	Mean GPA
Overall		216/376	57%	71.52
Residence	La. Residents	205/359	57%	71.4
	Non-residents	11/17	65%	72.8
Sex	Males	158/268	59%	71.3
	Females	58/108	54%	72.2
Marital Status	Married	42/73	58%	70.9
	Single	171/297	58%	71.6
	Divorced	3/6	50%	74.2
Race	Whites	212/362	58%	71.6
	Blacks	4/14	29%	69.9
Age	19-20	3/4	75%	
	21	11/22	50%	
	22	84/141	60%	
	23	33/58	57%	
	24	19/33	58%	
	25-29	41/74	55%	
	30-30 +	25/44	57%	

Undergraduate University

A major finding of this study is the wide disparity in student performance based on undergraduate school. The 70% success rate for graduates of LSU (the parent institution located in Baton Rouge) was much above average. This differential obtained despite the fact that LSU students did not have significantly higher undergraduate grades than students from other schools. Graduates of out-of-state schools were 56% successful, whereas the success rate for Louisiana public institutions was 49%, LSU System schools, 44%, and private institutions, 40%.

9. See text at page 1389.

TABLE 5
SUCCESS RATE BY UNIVERSITIES

	<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
LSU	106/151	70%
Out-of-State	28/50	56%
L.a. Public	61/125	49%
LSU System	11/25	44%
L.a. Private	10/25	40%
<u>L.a. Public Universities</u>		
Grambling State University	0/1	0%
Louisiana Tech University	7/17	41%
McNeese State University	6/11	55%
Nicholls State University	6/13	46%
Northeastern Louisiana University	11/19	58%
Northwestern State University	9/15	60%
Southeastern Louisiana University	7/17	41%
Southern University	0/2	0%
University of Southwestern Louisiana	15/30	50%
<u>LSU System</u>		
LSU Medical Center	0/1	0%
LSU-Alexandria	0/3	0%
LSU-Shreveport	3/6	50%
University of New Orleans	8/15	53%
<u>L.a. Private Universities</u>		
Centenary College	3/4	75%
Dillard University	0/1	0%
Louisiana College	2/4	50%
Loyola University	2/6	33%
Tulane University	3/10	30%

The results are even more striking at the top range of first year grades. Of the top 12 ranking students, 11 were graduates of LSU and 1 was a graduate of USL. Of the top 10% (22 students), 15 were LSU graduates, 5 were from out-of-state schools, and 2 were from USL.

Undergraduate Major

Another major finding was the disparity in success rate for students with different undergraduate majors. Journalism majors enjoyed the

highest rate of success (90%), while students in the miscellaneous liberal arts category were least successful (29%). Those fields emphasizing writing skills (Journalism and English) and rigorous quantitative techniques (Economics, Accounting, Psychology, Sciences) tended to do well. Persons majoring in Political Science, surprisingly, did poorly.

TABLE 6
SUCCESS RATE BY MAJOR FIELD

<u>Major</u>	<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>Percentage Successful</u>	<u>Mean GPA</u>
Journalism	9/10	90%	72.8
Economics	10/12	83%	71.2
Engineering	7/9	78%	71.8
Accounting	22/31	71%	72.6
English	11/16	69%	71.1
Psychology	9/13	69%	73.8
Sciences	11/17	65%	70.6
History	24/38	63%	72.0
Education	17/27	63%	72.7
Legal Studies	6/10	60%	70.8
Business ¹⁰	38/65	58%	70.4
General Studies	9/16	56%	72.0
Political Science	33/77	43%	71.1
Misc. Lib. Arts ¹¹	10/35	29%	71.2

Major and University

In light of the widely differing success rates for both universities and majors, it became logical to further narrow the inquiry and determine success rates by isolating those two variables. Those results follow in Table 7 and Table 8.

10. Includes General Business, Business Management, Business Administration, Finance, Management, Banking, Commerce, Business Law, etc.

11. Includes Languages, Speech, Humanities, Philosophy, Geography, Social Science, Sociology, Art, Music, etc.

TABLE 7
SUCCESS RATE BY MAJOR AND UNIVERSITY

		<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Journalism	Overall	9/10	90%
	La. Private	1/1	100%
	La. Public	1/1	100%
	LSU	5/6	83%
	Out-of-state	2/2	100%
Economics	Overall	10/12	83%
	La. Private	2/2	100%
	La. Public	2/2	100%
	LSU	3/4	75%
	Out-of-state	3/4	75%
Engineering	Overall	7/9	78%
	La. Public	2/4	50%
	LSU	4/4	100%
	Out-of-state	1/1	100%
Accounting	Overall	22/31	71%
	La. Private	1/1	100%
	La. Public	4/8	50%
	LSU	14/17	82%
	LSU System	1/2	50%
	Out-of-state	2/3	67%
English	Overall	11/16	69%
	La. Private	1/3	33%
	La. Public	4/6	67%
	LSU	1/1	100%
	Out-of-state	5/6	83%
Psychology	Overall	9/13	69%
	La. Private	0/1	0%
	La. Public	1/4	25%
	LSU	6/6	100%
	Out-of-state	2/2	100%
Sciences	Overall	11/17	65%
	La. Public	5/8	63%
	LSU	3/3	100%
	LSU System	1/2	50%
	Out-of-state	2/4	50%

TABLE 7 (continued)

		Number Successful	Percent
History	Overall	24/38	63%
	La. Private	1/4	25%
	La. Public	5/8	63%
	LSU	12/18	67%
	LSU system	3/3	100%
	Out-of-state	3/5	60%
Education	Overall	17/27	63%
	La. Public	5/8	63%
	LSU	11/16	69%
	LSU System	1/1	100%
	Out-of-state	0/2	0%
Legal Studies	Overall	6/10	60%
	La. Public	3/5	60%
	LSU	3/5	60%
Business	Overall	38/65	58%
	La. Private	1/3	33%
	La. Public	10/23	43%
	LSU	23/30	77%
	LSU System	1/4	25%
	Out-of-state	3/5	60%
General Studies	Overall	9/16	56%
	La. Public	0/1	0%
	LSU	9/14	64%
	Out-of-State	0/1	0%
Political Science	Overall	33/77	43%
	La. Private	1/6	17%
	La. Public	16/34	47%
	LSU	10/18	56%
	LSU System	3/9	33%
	Out-of-state	3/10	30%
Misc. Lib. Arts	Overall	10/35	29%
	La. Private	2/4	50%
	La. Public	3/13	23%
	LSU	2/9	22%
	LSU System	1/4	25%
	Out-of-state	2/5	40%

TABLE 8
SUCCESS RATE BY UNIVERSITY AND MAJOR

	<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>LSU</u>		
Overall	106/151	70%
Accounting	14/17	82%
Business	23/30	77%
Economics	3/4	75%
Education	11/16	69%
Engineering	4/4	100%
English	1/1	100%
General Studies	9/14	64%
History	12/18	67%
Legal Studies	3/5	60%
Misc. Liberal Arts	2/9	22%
Journalism	5/6	83%
Political Science	10/18	56%
Psychology	6/6	100%
Sciences	3/3	100%
<u>Out of State</u>		
Overall	28/50	56%
Accounting	2/3	67%
Business	3/5	60%
Economics	3/4	75%
Education	0/2	0%
Engineering	1/1	100%
English	5/6	83%
General Studies	0/1	0%
History	3/5	60%
Misc. Liberal Arts	2/5	40%
Mass Communications	2/2	100%
Political Science	3/10	30%
Psychology	2/2	100%
Sciences	2/4	50%
<u>La. Public Colleges</u>		
Overall	61/125	49%
Accounting	4/8	50%
Business	10/23	43%
Economics	2/2	100%
Education	5/8	63%

TABLE 8 (continued)

	<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Engineering	2/4	50%
English	4/6	67%
General Studies	0/1	0%
History	5/8	63%
Legal Studies	3/5	60%
Misc. Liberal Arts	3/13	23%
Mass Communications	1/1	100%
Political Science	16/34	47%
Psychology	1/4	25%
Sciences	5/8	63%
 <u>LSU System</u>		
Overall	11/25	44%
Accounting	1/2	50%
Business	1/4	25%
Education	1/1	100%
History	3/3	100%
Misc. Liberal Arts	1/4	25%
Political Science	3/9	33%
Sciences	1/2	50%
 <u>La. Private Colleges</u>		
Overall	10/25	40%
Accounting	1/1	100%
Business	1/3	33%
Economics	2/2	100%
English	1/3	33%
History	1/4	25%
Misc. Liberal Arts	2/4	50%
Mass Communications	1/1	100%
Political Science	1/6	17%
Psychology	0/1	0%

UGPA & LSAT Score

As has been the case in past years, the LSAT serves as a better predictor of success in law school than the undergraduate grade point average (UGPA). One would hardly expect the latter to be very significant, considering the grade inflation of recent years and the inconsistency in grading standards among different institutions. Even within a large university such as LSU, the lack of consistency in grading makes the

UGPA an imperfect guide to law school grades.¹² For 1980-1981, the UGPA results were as follows:

TABLE 9
UGPA

<u>UGPA</u>	<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
3.75-4.00	13/20	65%
3.50-3.74	39/59	66%
3.25-3.49	44/73	60%
3.00-3.24	41/71	58%
2.75-2.99	49/82	60%
2.50-2.74	21/52	40%
less than 2.5	9/16	47%

Substantial differences in success rates are not manifested until UGPAs of less than 2.75 are examined. Even then, the fact that those with less than a 2.5 average did better than those with 2.5 to 2.74 demonstrates the unreliability of undergraduate GPA in forecasting law school success. There is little difference in success rates among students with GPAs of 2.75 or better.

The LSAT results are as follows:

TABLE 10
LSAT

<u>LSAT</u>	<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
700 & up	11/11	100%
675 - 699	10/12	83%
650 - 674	16/16	100%
625 - 649	19/29	66%
600 - 624	25/33	76%
575 - 599	26/34	76%
550 - 574	24/40	60%
525 - 549	26/47	55%
500 - 524	20/48	42%
475 - 499	21/54	39%
450 - 474	12/29	41%
less than 450	6/25	24%

12. Internal studies by the Office of Institutional Research indicate that the overall mean grade point average at LSU has varied significantly:

Because the class was divided into such small cells for this table, some dramatic results may be masked. For students with an LSAT score of 550 or above, the success rate was quite high—131 of 175 students, or 75%, were successful. For those with scores of less than 500, 39 of 108 or 36% were successful. A student in the 1980-1981 class would have had to have scored between 525 and 549 on the LSAT in order to have an even chance for success.

Law School Index

Since the Index combines the UGPA (maximum of 400) and the LSAT (maximum 800, median 540),¹³ the LSAT is the more heavily weighted factor in the Index. Therefore, one would expect results similar to that of the LSAT. Such is the case, but surprisingly, the Index has a slightly higher correlation with success rate than the LSAT alone. The statistical analysis is pursued later; here, the breakdown is listed.

TABLE 11

<u>Index</u>	<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1050 and up	9/10	90%
1025 - 1049	5/6	83%
1000 - 1024	11/14	79%
975 - 999	12/12	100%
950 - 974	17/19	89%
925 - 949	24/31	77%
900 - 924	21/30	70%
875 - 899	25/35	71%
850 - 874	15/34	44%
825 - 849	23/38	61%
800 - 824	19/44	43%
775 - 799	11/40	28%
750 - 774	22/49	45%
less than 750	2/14	14%

Fall 1968	2.36
Fall 1970	2.46
Fall 1972	2.53
Fall 1974	2.55
Fall 1976	2.53

For Fall 1976, the college mean varied from a 2.529 (University College) to 3.037 (School of Music).

13. Beginning with the June 1982 LSAT test, a new scale will be used, ranging from 10 to 50, with 30 being the median score. LSU will have to develop a new admissions index to account for these new scores.

Again, breaking the table into such small increments tends to mask some of the major differences. For example, students with indices of 875 and above were quite successful—124 of 157, or 79%. Students between 825 and 875 had about an even chance of success—38 of 72, or 53%. Students below 825 had a success rate of 52/137, or 40%.

REGRESSION & CORRELATION ANALYSIS

The descriptive statistics already discussed give a general indication of the characteristics which can be used as predictors of success in law school, and the performance tables have used discrete analysis techniques (success or failure) to indicate probabilities of success. However, more sophisticated statistical tests are required to test the validity of the predictors. The standard regression and correlation analysis goes beyond the discrete analysis and tests the validity of predictors for the whole range of law school grades. It determines the *extent* or degree to which a dependent variable changes as an independent variable changes. This measure of correlation is an r value that ranges from 0 to ± 1 ; the higher the figure the greater the correlation. The LSAT, as shown in the table below, does quite well in this analysis. If the r value is squared, the result is a figure which explains how much of the variation in the dependent variable is due to the variation in the independent variable.

TABLE 12
CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS¹⁴

	r	r^2	<u>Number of Observations</u>
LSAT/Fall average	.46	.21	336
LSAT/Spring average	.36	.13	261
LSAT/Overall average	.45	.20	261
UGPA/Fall average	.20	.04	336
UGPA/Spring average	.36	.13	261
UGPA/Overall average	.37	.14	261
Index/Fall average	.49	.24	336
Index/Spring average	.47	.22	261
Index/Overall average	.55	.30	261

Although the LSAT is a less accurate predictor for the spring semester than for the fall semester, this is compensated for by adding

14. Significant at the 1% level. (The probability of this correlation coefficient having occurred by chance when in fact there was none was less than 1 in 100.)

the consideration of the UGPA—which by itself is not a strong predictor—thereby producing the Index which is quite highly correlated to the overall average. The r value of .55 and the r^2 value of .30 are both quite high for this kind of predictor.¹⁵ These figures are very strong evidence of the validity of the LSAT and the Index for use as predictors of law school performance,¹⁶ and reinforce the implications of the discrete analysis pursued in Table 10 and Table 11.

BLACK STUDENTS

As was mentioned earlier, only four of fourteen black students earned semester averages of 68.00 or better. Further detail about the characteristics of those students are shown in Table 13.

TABLE 13
BLACK STUDENTS

	<u>Index</u>	<u>LSAT</u>	<u>GPA</u>
Of Those Who Succeeded:	974	669	2.75
	798	502	2.96
	765	447	3.18
	755	498	2.57
Of Those Who Did Not:	860	539	3.21
	835	469	3.66
	810	474	3.36
	810	429	3.81
	769	477	3.19
	757	456	3.01
	753	449	3.04
	735	370	3.65
	722	481	2.41
	720	485	2.35

Surprisingly, university and degree produce no helpful predictive results for these students. It is interesting to note that the universe of blacks in this sample tended to be students who majored in the "softer"

15. Recent validity studies indicate a range of r scores from .07 to .67 across the nation. 1981-82 Law School Admission Council Brochure, p. 11. Validity studies of 94 law schools in 1967-68 yielded a median validity of .32 for the LSAT; studies at 99 schools in 1972-73 yielded a median validity of .33 for the LSAT. F. HART & F. EVANS, MAJOR RESEARCH EFFORTS OF THE LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION COUNCIL 17 (1976).

16. For the 1979-80 freshman class, the overall correlation figures were similar. The r figure for Index/Overall Average was .48; for LSAT/Overall Average it was .44; for UGPA/Overall Average, it was .22.

curricula like political science and miscellaneous liberal arts. Undergraduate grade point average is of virtually no predictive value, except perhaps inversely—of the students who earned 68.00 or better, three of four had less than 3.0 averages; of the students who were not successful, only two of ten had less than a 3.0 average.

The most significant predictors come forth when one looks to LSAT score and Index. The value of the LSAT as a predictor, despite charges of cultural bias, is greater for blacks than for whites. Table 14 indicates the general figures according to groups of LSAT scores.

TABLE 14
BLACK STUDENTS

<u>LSAT</u>	<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>Percent</u>
675 - 699	1/1	100%
525 - 549	0/1	0%
500 - 524	1/1	100%
475 - 499	1/4	25%
450 - 474	0/3	0%
450	1/4	25%
500 & above	2/3	67%
less than 500	2/11	18%
475 & above	3/7	43%
less than 475	1/7	14%

The standard regression and correlation analysis reveals that the measure of correlation between LSAT and cumulative average is substantially higher for blacks than for whites. However, the correlation between UGPA and cumulative average is much lower for blacks than for whites.

TABLE 15¹⁷

	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
	<u>r</u>	<u>r</u>
GPA/Cum. Average	-.01	.37
LSAT/Cum. Average	.62	.44
Index/Cum. Average	.62	.55

17. Significant at the 10% level.

The figures would suggest that the Law Center's efforts to increase black enrollment should not proceed by selection of students with an emphasis on UGPA, undergraduate university, or major. The LSAT and the Index are much more reliable predictors of success for black applicants.¹⁸

18. By the terms of a recent consent decree, the Paul M. Hebert Law Center has a goal of 7.5% minority enrollment by 1986.

