

Frequently Asked Questions - Application Materials and Landing the Job

As you think through the four pillars of the 1L Career Foundations program, you might have some questions about certain aspects of the legal profession or your law school experience. Please consult these FAQ documents to help put the things you are learning in context. Each FAQ document will focus on one aspect of the 1L Career Foundations program. Please feel free to reach out to OCS or OPICS for more information.

How long should my resume be?

Most legal resumes should be limited to one page (with a reasonable font size and margins!). Many public sector and specialty employers are fine with resumes that are longer than one page, as long as the content on your resume is relevant. Private sector employers, including law firms, often expect to see one-page resumes.

If you have any questions about what should be included and what should be removed from your resume, we encourage you to include everything on an initial draft resume, and then speak with your OCS or OPICS advisor for advice on what to cut. Find additional tips in our [Guide to Writing a Legal Resume](#), and we encourage you to use the Sample Resume Template available on our [Resumes and Cover Letters page](#).

What materials will I be asked to provide when applying for a summer position?

It depends on the employer, but you may be asked to provide a resume, cover letter, undergrad and/or law school transcript (unofficial copies are usually fine), a writing sample, and/or a list of references. You can find additional information [here](#).

What questions might I be asked during an interview?

In general, legal interviews tend to be [conversational in nature](#), i.e. attorneys usually will *not ask* you substantive legal questions that will require on-the-spot analysis or a deep knowledge of legal subject matter.

Rather, you will have to answer questions on your background, reasons for attending law school, and your interest in the position and practice area. Also remember that every item on your resume is fair game; so do not volunteer any information you are not able to discuss in detail. Interviewers might also ask

[behavioral questions](#), e.g., “tell me about a time when you worked with a diverse group of people,” or “tell me about a time when you overcame a unique challenge.”

How should I prepare for an interview?

If you have an upcoming interview you should first review our interview preparation materials on the [Job Search Toolkit](#). Reflect on your experiences and have specific stories from each to discuss during your interview. You can also schedule a mock interview with an OCS or OPICS advisor to hone your answers and craft your overall narrative.

What if I haven't heard back about an application? Should I follow up?

If you haven't heard back from an employer, it is generally appropriate to follow up to reaffirm your interest after two to three weeks. Keep your communications professional and to the point. But, we recommend that you do not get too attached to any one position and continue to apply to new positions until you hear back from an employer. When communicating with public sector employers, consult the [OPICS Quick Guide on Communicating with Public Sector Employers](#).