TS189 Record Format

Version 8.0

October 2024

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1. Overview

LSAC uses the TS189 format to transmit your electronic application files. This format is a standard that was defined by the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council.

Because this file format is capable of handling much more data than you need to receive, only segments of this file format are used by LSAC. This document outlines what segments will be used, a summary of the data these segments will contain, and specific examples of the data positions, type, and values. Some of these segments are identified as Loop segments; that is, they can be looped through multiple times to provide a set of data (such as employment information) under multiple conditions (such as different employers).

Please note that all the data in this file, with the exception of the data contained in the RQS loop segment, has been identified as common or "core" data. This "core" data is common to every school's application and will be included in every Electronic Application Clearing House file. The RQS loop will contain data outside of this core data only if it exists on your school's application.

Knowledge of the full TS189 format is not necessary for the successful use of this file.

2. How to Use this Document

Only the segments that we would use are defined in this document. There are field lengths as well as the maximum length for a given segment. You can also find out what type of fields by using the following key:

- Nn= Numeric

- R= Decimal

- ID= Identifier (A predefined value)

- AN= String Value

- DT= Date

- TM = Time

Example:

DMG*D8*19631010*F***1

Segment ID,

D8= Date in format CCYYMMDD (Length=2(ID)),

19631010 = actual date (Length=35(AN)),

Gender code (Length=1(IN)), skip next two fields,

 Citizenship Status 1= US or blank for other (Length=1(IN))

3. Special Notes

ISA and GS Segments: These segments will precede any transmissions from LSAC to your school. These segments will also be school specific and will include your LSAC Law School Code from page 25 of the LSAC Information Book. For the purposes of these transmissions you will only ever see one ISA and GS Segment.

GE and IEA Segments: These segments will denote the end of a transmission from LSAC to your school. These segments will also be school specific and will include your LSAC Law School Code from page 25 of the LSAC Information Book. For the purposes of these transmissions you will only ever see one GE and IEA Segment. Note: In the IEA Segment the first field will always contain a "1". The reason for this is that the only types of functional groups we are sending are applications. The GE segment will always contain the number of applications for a given transmission. An application begins with the ST segment and ends with the SE segment.

Ethnicity: Ethnicity will be provided within the RQS Segment of the TS189 Record Layout. This location will contain your school specific data.

College Codes: In the PCL segment of the TS189 layout we will provide you with a college code. These are the LSAC defined college codes that can be found in our Information Book in Appendix E (pages 35-46). If the applicant did not select or changes the College Code we will pass you a value of "9999" in the PCL Segment.

Major Codes: In the FOS segment of the TS189 layout we will provide you with a major code. These are the LSAC defined major codes that can be found in our Information Book in Appendix F (page 47). If the applicant did not select or changes the Major Code we will pass you a value or "999" in the FOS Segment.

COM Segment: Please review the COM segment on page 11 for the phone types the TS189 will report. Please note if your application asks for two types of email addresses, that the TS189 will only report the current email in the COM segment. The second email will be reported in the RQS segment.

DTP Segments: Please note that in this documentation you will see the Date Time Period (DPT) Segment following school information, employment information, and address information. However, depending on how you school application is laid out this data is mapped to the RQS segment instead of the DTP segment. The primary reason for this is that there is no clean way for us to breakout the dates, because they tend to be lumped together.

RQS Segment: Please note that the RQS segment has had an additional "ZZ" (Mutually Defined Indicator) added to stay in line with the Standard.

SES Segment: Please note that the SES segment has been added to the PCL loop. The SES will show the start date that corresponds to the start date of the PCL segment.

4. Revision History

Version 2.0 changes:

BGN Segment: Modifications have been made to the end of the Beginning Segment shown below. The modifications contain the Law School code, application year, type of application, term and the version of the application.

BGN*00*202508000*20000315*114041*ET*1205.2003.A1.1.01

Segment ID, 00= Original (Length=2(ID)), Transaction Set Number (Length=9(AN)),,20000315 is the date, 114041 is the time , ET is Eastern Time (Length=2(ID),Law School Code(9999), Application Year (9999),X9 Type of application A=J.D. L=LL.M. 9=number) JD will always be a 1 and LLM can be 1, 2, 3, up to 9). 9 will be the term, which we will use 1. Will always start at 01 and denotes the version of the application.

E-Signature: Will be contained in the first part of the RQS Segment – signature.

E-Payment: Will be contained in the first part of the RQS Segment – epayment.

Version 3.0 changes:

Efees: Will be contained in the first part of the RQS Segment for the credit card fees – efees will contain 5.5 % which is what we charge the schools to process the electronic payments.

Feewaived: Will be contained in the first part of the RQS Segment for the fee waivers –feewaived will contain LSAC (for fees that are waived on a need basis) or CRS (which are fees that are waived via the CRS query in Unite).

Version 4.0 changes:

LSAC account number: Addition of the LSAC account number to the first line of the RQS segment. The format is LNNNNNNNN RQS*ZZ*ZZ*LSACAcctNum*L24125685

Version 5.0 changes:

LSAC account number: In addition to displaying the LSAC account number to the RQS segment, it will also be displayed in the REF segment as follows: REF*LR*L99999999

DTP Segment for addresses only: For address dates the following format will be used: D8 = Date format = CCYYMMDD

Version 7.0 changes:

Revised ethnicity note.

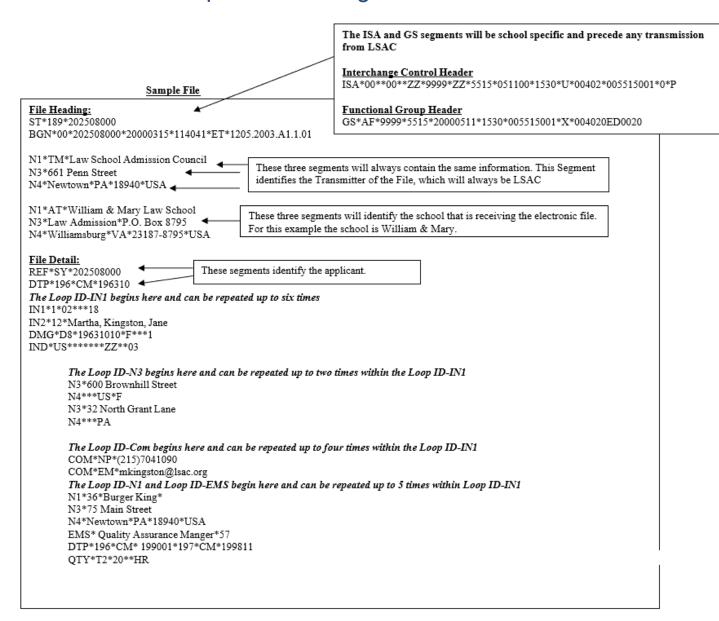Deleted IND (Additional Individual Demographic Information) section.

Version 8.0 changes:

Reformatted for accessibility.

In the Overview, removed the Standards Organization reference,

because this website is no longer available.

5. Illustration of a sample file showing the data elements:

The ISA and GS segments will be school specific and precede any transmission from LSAC

Interchange Control Header
ISA*00**00**ZZ*9999*ZZ*5515*051100*1530*U*00402*005515001*0*P

Functional Group Header
GS*AF*9999*5515*20000511*1530*005515001*X*004020ED0020

Sample File

File Heading:
ST*189*202508000
BGN*00*202508000*20000315*114041*ET*1205.2003.A1.1.01

N1*TM*Law School Admission Council
N3*661 Penn Street
N4*Newtown*PA*18940*USA

> These three segments will always contain the same information. This Segment identifies the Transmitter of the File, which will always be LSAC

N1*AT*William & Mary Law School
N3*Law Admission*P.O. Box 8795
N4*Williamsburg*VA*23187-8795*USA

> These three segments will identify the school that is receiving the electronic file. For this example the school is William & Mary.

File Detail:
REF*SY*202508000
DTP*196*CM*196310

> These segments identify the applicant.

The Loop ID-IN1 begins here and can be repeated up to six times
IN1*1*02***18
IN2*12*Martha, Kingston, Jane
DMG*D8*19631010*F***1
IND*US*******ZZ**03

The Loop ID-N3 begins here and can be repeated up to two times within the Loop ID-IN1
N3*600 Brownhill Street
N4***US*F
N3*32 North Grant Lane
N4***PA

The Loop ID-Com begins here and can be repeated up to four times within the Loop ID-IN1
COM*NP*(215)7041090
COM*EM*mkingston@lsac.org
The Loop ID-N1 and Loop ID-EMS begin here and can be repeated up to 5 times within Loop ID-IN1
N1*36*Burger King*
N3*75 Main Street
N4*Newtown*PA*18940*USA
EMS* Quality Assurance Manger*57
DTP*196*CM* 199001*197*CM*199811
QTY*T2*20**HR

Sample File Continued:

```
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG1Q5**White
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_CountryOfCitizen**USA
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG1Q14**LSDAS
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_CurGoodToDate8_**01
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_CurGoodToDate6_**01
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_CurGoodToDate7_**01
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_CurStreetAddress0_**661 Penn Street
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_CurEvePhone2**(215) 544-2400
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_PermStreetAddress0_**325Tree Lane
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_PermEvePhone2**(215)329-1378
RQS*ZZ**PG1Q11*N
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG1Q12**FirstYear
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG1Q13TXT1*N
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_UGDegDegreeA0_**B.S. Business
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_CollegeDegreeA0_**Law
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_CollegeDegreeB0_**Business
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_CollegeDegreeC0_**B.S. Business
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_ScholasticHonors**I have to go to lunch really soon
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_ExtracurricularActivity**Swim Team, Cross Country
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_Employer5_**Y
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG3Q19Description**Burger King
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_EmployHoursFreshman**10
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_EmployHoursSophmore**20
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_EmployHoursJunior**10
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_EmployHoursSenior**20
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG3Q20Branch**USA
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_MilitaryStartDate**10/15/89
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_MilitaryEndDate**10/15/95
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_WorkFTSLeftA0_**Personal
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_WorkFTSLeftB0_**Vacation
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_WorkFTSLeftC0_**New Job
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_WorkFTSLeftD0_**Personal
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG3Q23*N
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG3Q24*N
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG3Q27*N
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG3Q28*N
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG3Q25*N
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG3Q26*N
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG3Q29*N
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_Military2**YES
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*PG3Q21*N
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_LSATDateTaken99_**02/12/200, 12/4/1999
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_LSDASRegistrationDate2**05/03/99
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*_FathersPhone2**(215) 329-1377
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*SA1StatementTitle**Statement One
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*SA1FillText2**03/15/2000
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*SA1FillText3**This is just a test to see how things are currently working. Hao is
working awayMSG* and Tom will be helpng very soon..... So this is a personal statement.....
RQS*ZZ*ZZ*SA2StatementTitle**This is Statement number two
```

This is the RQS Segment of the TS189.
This segment will be school specific. For this example we have used the William and Mary Application.

The data for this section is defined in three ways:
1- By page number and question number
2- By Common data, these fields start and end with an underline symbol "_"
3- By the Flow data, these fields start with the underline symbol only "_"

This would be an example of the Common data, starts and ends with the underscore symbol "_"

This would be an example of the Flow data, only starts with the underscore symbol "_"

This would be pg 3 of the application question #23, the response is 'N"

Sample File Continued:

Loop ID-SST begins here. This contains High School Information and can be repeated up two times.
SST*B18*CM*200006**
SSE*19800610*19840610*EB4*
N1*HS*Girls High School*
N3*16 Broad Street
N4*Philadelphia*PA*18900*USA

    Loop ID-TST begins here, it can be repeated up to six times. This section contains the LSAT score.
    ST*803*The College Boards Scholastic Aptitude test*CY*1988
    Loop ID-SBT begins here.
    SRE*1*160

Loop ID-PCL begins here and can be repeated up to 12 times (within the PCL loop). This section contains information about Previous Schools.
PCL*ZZ*2906*RD5*05/1988 - 09/1990**1990*Temple school of Law**1990
N3*7600 Hill Lane
N4*Philadelphia*PA*18940*USA

Loop ID-DEG begins here and can be repeated up to 12 time. This section contains Degree information
PCL***RD5*09/1981 - 05/1983**1983*Pierce Junior College
SES*198109
FOS*M*ZZ*752*Law
DEG*2.4*CM*198305*Business
FOS*M**Business

Loop ID-LT begins here and can be repeated up to four times. This section contains Letter of Recommendation information.
LT*E2*Supervisor recommendation*James Madison*
DTP*102*D8*20001011
COM*W8*2159991234
N1*BU*Motorola
N3*125 Westwood Court
N4*Newhope*PA*18940*USA
MSG*This is a free form field up to 264 characters to contain the recommenders comments

Transaction Set Trailer
SE*6*W200100303_202508000_9999F_XX_ZZ

Functional Group Trailer
GE*1*005515001

Interchange Control Trailer
IEA*1*005515001

6. List of Segments by Name

Seg ID	Name of Segment	Description Information/Sample Note: "*" is a Delimiter	Max Length of Segment	Page Reference to TS189
ID-PCL		**contains previous schools attended.**		
PCL	Previous College	**PCL*ZZ*2906*RD5*05/1988 - 09/1990**1990*Temple school of Law**1990** Segment ID, ZZ= Mutually Defined **(Length=2(ID)**),2906= LSAC defined school code for Temple University **(Length=4(AN))** , RD5= Range of date in format CCYYMM-CCYYMM **(Length=3(ID)),** actual date **(Length=35(ID)),** skip next field, Name of school **(Length=80(AN)),**skip next field, CCYY **(length 35(AN))** Degree Date	Max of 159	95
SES	Academic Session Header	**SES*198109** Segment ID, 198109= Starting date of the session, **(Length = 6(AN))** Format = CCYYMM	Max of 35	103
N3	Address Information	**N3*76 Hill Lane** Segment ID, Address **(Length=110(AN))**	Max of 110	97
N4	Geographic Location	**N4*Philadelphia*PA*18940*USA** Segment ID, City Name = Philadelphia**(Length=30(AN))**, State **(Length=2(ID)),** Postal code **(Length=15(ID)),** Country = **US (Length=2(ID))**	Max of 50	98
SSE	Entry and Exit Information	**SSE*** Segment ID, Format =CCYYMMDD**(Length=8(DT))**, dates the student entered the institution **(Length=8(DT)) ,** Status Reason code **(Length=3(ID))**	Max of 19	99
Loop ID-DEG		**For this particular loop LSAC will loop through up to 12 times within the PCL Loop. This Section contains degree information**		

Seg ID	Name of Segment	Description Information/Sample Note: "*" is a Delimiter	Max Length of Segment	Page Reference to TS189
DEG	Degree Record	**DEG*2.5*CM*199009*Law** Segment ID, Academic Degree code **(Length=3(ID))**, <u>**Values for Academic**</u> <u>**Degree:**</u> 2.2 = Postsecondary Certificate or Diploma 2.3 = Associate Degree 2.4 = Baccalaureate Degree 4.2= Master's Degree 4.4= Doctoral CM = Date in format CCYYMM **(Length=3(ID))**, the actual date **(Length=35(AN))**, skip next field, Free form field description of title of degree **(Length=80(AN))**	Max of 118	111
FOS	Field of Study	**FOS*M*ZZ*752*Law** Segment ID, Academic field of study M= Major **(Length=1(ID))**, ZZ= Mutually Defined **(Length=2(ID))**, 752= LSAC Defined Undergraduate Major Codes **(Length=3(AN))**, Free form Description of field of study **(Length=80(AN))**	Max of 86	116
Loop ID LT		**For this particular loop LSAC will loop through up to 12** **times. This section contains LOR information.**		
LT	Letter of Recommendation	**LT*E2*Supervisor recommendation*James Madison*** Segment ID, Relationship code E2= Supervisor **(Length=2(ID))**, Freeform text to describe the relationship code **(Length=80(AN))**, freeform field for name of recommender **(Length=60(AN))**	Max of 142	121
DTP	Date or Time or Period	**DTP*102*D8*20001011** Segment ID, 102=issued date of letter **(Length=3(ID))**, D8= Format CCYYMMDD **(Length=3(ID))**, actual date **(Length=35(AN))**	Max of 43	122
COM	Communication Contact Information	**COM*W8*2159991234** Segment ID, Description of type of communication number WP= Work Phone Number **(Length=2(ID))**, the actual number **(Length=256(AN))**	Max of 256	125
N1	Name	**N1*BU*Motorola** Segment ID, BU= Place of business **(Length=3(ID))**, free form description of Business name **(Length=60(AN))**	Max of 63	126

Seg ID	Name of Segment	Description Information/Sample Note: "*" is a Delimiter	Max Length of Segment	Page Reference to TS189
N3	Address Information	**N3*125 Westwood Court** Segment ID, Address **(Length=110(AN))**	Max of 110	128
N4	Geographic Location	**N4*Newhope*PA*18940*USA** Segment ID, City Name = Newhope **(Length=30(AN))**, State **(Length=2(ID)),** Postal code **(Length=15(ID)),** Country = **US (Length=2(ID))**	Max of 50	129
MSG	Message Text	**MSG*This is a free form field up to 264 characters to contain the recommenders comments** Segment ID, free form field up to 264 characters to contain the recommenders comments	Max of 264	132
Transaction Set Trailer		**This will signal the end of the transmission for a particular applicant file. It will also provide the total count of transmitted segments. This count will include the beginning (ST) and ending segments (SE).**		
SE	Transaction Set Trailer	**SE*99*202568180** Segment ID, Number of segments **(Length=10(N0))**, Transaction Set control Number	Max of 19	133
Transmission Trailers				
GE	**Functional Group Trailer**	**GE*999999*000000001** Segment ID =GE, 999999 = the number of transaction sets in the transmission, 000000001 = Group Control number assigned by LSAC (Should match the Interchange Control Number)		
IEA	**Interchange Control Trailer**	**IEA*99999*000000001** Segment ID = IEA, 99999 = Number of functional Groups in transaction, 000000001 = Interchange Control Number (Should match the Interchange Control Number)		