

LEAP Fellowship - Applicant Information Sheet

So, you want to go to Law School?

What is LEAP?

Legal Education Access Pipeline (LEAP) is a diversity pipeline fellowship program that comprehensively prepares participants (fellows) for a successful career in the law by teaching components of applying to law school, succeeding as law students, and excelling as lawyers in their legal communities. This nine (9) month fellowship includes a competitive application process and is provided at no cost to the students admitted into the program.

Who Does LEAP Serve?

LEAP serves first generation college students, students of color, students who identify as LGBTQ, and/or students who are or have been socio-economically disadvantaged. The fellowship is geared for juniors/seniors in college or recent college grads who have already decided that law school and the legal profession is the career path for them. Our workshops will be held at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles and in the bay area at Santa Clara Law School, once we are allowed to meet in person.

Program Overview:

The LEAP fellowship spans over the course of nine (9) months, where fellows will be guided through the law school admissions process, will prepare key components of their applications (including a FREE LSAT course), learn about what law school is really like from a host of speakers, will meet members of the legal community, and will get to experience professionalism and lawyering skills through creative and informative panels, discussions, and exercises. LEAP begins with a welcome reception/speed mentoring event in January 2023 which is followed by a series of 8 monthly academies that hit on six curriculum modules, coupled with mentoring from a law student and a lawyer, visits to courtrooms and law offices, and a moot court competition. Each fellow is expected to attend all 8 workshops in order to qualify for the certificate for a FREE LSAT course.

The program model includes:

- **Saturday Academies:** The 8 monthly academies are hosted at Loyola Law School for our Southern California chapter and Santa Clara Law School for our Northern California chapter. They are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on one Saturday each month beginning in February 2023. Each session will focus on a variety of skills and knowledge including the anatomy of a law school application, professionalism, excelling in law school, being a citizen of the world, lawyering skills, and strategies for social justice. Panels of different practitioners will present each month including judges, prosecutors, law firm attorneys, law school admissions officers and consultants, and general counsel.

- **Mentoring:** A triad model will be used to bring together a law Fellow, current law student, and an experienced attorney. Mentors will come from partner firms and local bar associations representing minority groups and will work with their fellows throughout the fellowship.
- **Soft Skills Development:** The fellowship includes soft skills development intended to raise social capital among students such as training in the art of networking, etiquette in law firms/legal offices, and crafting professional communications.
- **Networking:** Fellows will be invited to attend local bar association events and meetings in addition to job shadowing opportunities. Fellows will also visit a variety of courts to view trials, jury selection, and visit judges in chambers.
- **LSAT Prep:** Fellows will earn a FREE LSAT prep course, which will begin in the second half of the fellowship.
- **Pre-L Classes:** Once you are accepted to law school, fellows will participate in a 6-month series of classes to be held virtually covering a wide variety of topics in order to prepare you for your 1L year.

Curriculum:

The interactive curriculum is designed around five learning modules, with panels, discussions, speakers, and assignments that hit on each module in every workshop. The modules are Professionalism; Lawyering Skills; Law School Orientation; Social Justice; Anatomy of a Law School Application, and, Practitioner Panels.

Timeline:

Application Opens: September 1, 2022

Application Deadline: September 29, 2022 at 5pm (PST)

Applications Reviewed: October 2022

Interviews (invite only): October/November 2022

LEAP offers of Acceptance: November/December 2022

Welcome Reception: January 2023 (in person)

Monthly Academies: February 2023 through September 2023 (both in person and virtually, 9 a.m.to 4 p.m.)

Please note: participation in all 8 fellowship academies and other events is mandatory to receive the FREE LSAT course.

Intended Outcomes: What Will I Gain as a LEAP Fellow?

In addition to the learning and network building opportunities provided to each fellow through LEAP, the following goals have been set forth by LEAP organizers for each fellow at the end of the program.

- Outcome 1: Fellows will improve their LSAT exam score from the first to last practice exam
- Outcome 2: Fellows will be educated on the resources involved in financing their legal education including FAFSA, private loans, scholarships, post-grad repayment programs.

- Outcome 3: Fellows will be ready to apply to law schools by Thanksgiving 2023
- Outcome 4: Fellows will have working drafts of their résumé, personal statement, and diversity statement by September 2023
- Outcome 5: Fellows will develop meaningful relationships with their mentors who will support their fellow mentees in their admissions process to law school as well as provide helpful advice for success in their legal education and careers.

How do I Apply? Glad you asked...

Applications will be available online beginning Sept. 1

Submit on the LEAP website the following required components of the application packet:

- A completed application form, which includes four short essay questions (**max 2 pages TOTAL** for all 4 questions (not 2 pages for each question!))
- A resume
- An unofficial college transcript (**minimum 3.0 GPA preferred**)
- Two references (no letters required)

Applicants will submit their application packet by uploading documents on the LEAP website at: <https://www.legalpipeline.org/contact/apply/>