LEAP
LEGAL EDUCATION ACCESS PIPELINE

Frequently Asked Questions for Prospective Fellows

1. Who qualifies to be a LEAP fellow?
Applicants should be aspiring law students from underrepresented backgrounds who are committed to pursuing a legal career. The program is open to those who have completed their undergraduate degree, college juniors, and seniors. "Underrepresented backgrounds" include people from backgrounds that are disproportionately underrepresented in the legal field, people with disabilities, and first-generation college students.

2. What does the application process look like?
Beginning September 1st, we will accept applications on the LEAP website. All applications are due by September 22nd. In October, a panel of attorneys and LEAP staff will review all applications, then invite candidates for interviews in October and November. We will make final decisions and notify fellows of acceptance status in December.

3. What is the fellowship timeline?
A virtual orientation event for fellows is held in December before the program starts, then the initial fellowship program runs for nine months, starting in January and running through September monthly workshops, and in the summer months, LSAT tutoring. LEAP fellows who are admitted to law school will join the six-month Pre-L bootcamp to prepare for law school, running from February through July in the year following the initial fellowship.

4. How many hours will I need to dedicate to the fellowship?
Fellows should anticipate spending approximately 10-15 hours per month between workshops, mentorship meetings, and independent assignments during the core 9-month fellowship. Fellows will spend more time preparing for the LSAT from March-August. During the Pre-L Bootcamp, fellows should allocate between 3-4 hours per month for workshops.

5. What is expected of me as a fellow?
Fellows are expected to attend workshops and LSAT classes and participate actively. They are expected to participate in mentorship with their law student and attorney mentors, to complete assignments on time, to complete pre- and post- participation evaluations surveys, and engage respectfully and thoughtfully with their cohort and mentors. You are required to attend all Saturday workshops in person.

6. What are the benefits of the LEAP fellowship?
Fellows benefit from carefully tailored law school admissions and application guidance, LSAT preparation, professional development workshops, financial aid guidance and opportunities, a supportive peer and mentor network, and access to alumni and legal community events.

7. What does it cost money to participate?
Participation in all programming is provided freely to all fellows, thanks to the generous support of LEAP's donors and partners.

8. How does mentorship and networking work in the program?
Each fellow is paired with two mentors—an attorney and a current law student—who offer guidance and support throughout the fellowship. They might advise on your law school application materials, offer perspectives on different law schools, or answer questions that come up throughout the application process. LEAP fellows also have opportunities to connect with a broad network of legal professionals and alumni.

9. Can I work or go to school while participating in LEAP?
Yes. Nearly all fellows work or attend classes during the fellowship. Sessions are scheduled to accommodate busy student and work schedules—workshops are for at least six hours on Saturdays, once a month.