

UCLA Law Fellows Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Law Fellows Program?

The Law Fellows Program is an educational initiative that aims to de-mystify the law school admissions process, law school, and various practice areas within the legal field. Participants attend a series of “Academies”, where they interact with admissions professionals, current law students and faculty, and an array of practicing attorneys. By providing valuable information and resources, the Program empowers Fellows to make informed, confident decisions about pursuing a legal degree. Once Fellows are ready to apply to law school, the Law Fellows Program helps its participants navigate the application process by offering personalized admissions consulting until matriculation to law school.

What is the structure of the Program? / What does it entail?

The program’s central component is a series of “Academies.” Academies consist of workshops, panels, guest lecturers, and mock law classes by UCLA Law Faculty. They offer Fellows a preview of law school and different practice areas within the legal field, while also preparing Fellows for the admissions process. Academies are held **one full Saturday per month, from January to May, the Academies are held in person on the UCLA campus. Fellows must attend all five academies in order to participate in the Program.**

Additionally, each Fellow receives:

- Professional-Level Instruction by Law School Faculty
- Personalized Juris Doctor (Law School) Action Plan
- Mentoring by Current UCLA Law Students
- LSAT Preparation Training and Counseling
- Presentations by Practicing Attorneys and Leaders in the Law Community
- Financial Aid Workshop
- Legal Research Primer by Law Library Staff
- Follow-Up Activities and Counseling until Law School Matriculation

What is the time commitment like? What are the start and end dates?

Fellows must attend all five Saturday Academies in order to successfully complete the Program. Saturday Academies take place one full Saturday per month (9AM-4PM), from January to May on the UCLA Law campus.

Do I need to live in Los Angeles in order to participate in the program?

No. Fellows must attend all five Saturday Academies in order to successfully complete the Program. Saturday Academies take place one full Saturday per month (9AM-4PM), from January to May on the UCLA Law campus.

Does the LFP provide a travel stipend for participants from out of town?

We do not provide financial assistance to Fellows who commute from out of town or out of state. Every year, we aid Fellows by facilitating carpool, especially for those traveling from Northern California. While these efforts help many participants, it is each Fellow's responsibility to finalize her/his own travel and accommodation plans to ensure attendance at each Academy.

Are there costs associated with applying to or participating in the program?

Application to the Program and participation are free of charge.

Does my admission decision to the Law Fellows Program have any bearing on my application to UCLA Law?

No. The admissions process to the Law Fellows Program is separate and independent from the admissions process to UCLA Law. Admission to the Law Fellows Program does not guarantee admission to UCLA Law.

APPLYING TO THE LAW FELLOWS PROGRAM

How do I become a Law Fellow?

Admission to the program is by selection. Please submit a **completed** application in order to be considered (consult the last page of the application to learn what constitutes a completed application packet).

When is the best time in my undergrad career to apply to the program?

We believe the Program benefits anyone who is seriously interested in pursuing a legal career, regardless of whether he/she/they are a sophomore, junior, senior or graduate. Each applicant should evaluate his/her/their personal timeline in order to best access the optimal year to apply to/participate in the Program.

May I visit the office and speak with staff about the program?

The office is currently open but the staff cannot accept walk-ins. Please email us at Outreach@law.ucla.edu with questions.

I'm applying to law school right now. Can I still apply to the program?

Yes. Even if you are applying concurrently to law school, you may still participate and benefit from the Program's educationally intensive Academies, networking opportunities, and counseling. The counseling option will be tailored to help you navigate wait lists, decide which school to attend, and consider different financial aid packages.

Who is eligible to apply to the Program? What are the eligibility requirements?

Any prospective applicant who has at least a **3.3 cumulative undergraduate GPA from a four-year institution** may apply to the Law Fellows Program. Additional factors such as age, undergraduate institution attended, or graduated status do not have any bearing on an applicant's eligibility.

I just transferred from community college. Since I took summer classes, I do meet the 3.3 requirement, but I have very few four-year units in my GPA. Can I still apply?

Yes. In order to supplement your GPA, you may submit recent graded assessments (e.g., midterms, labs, essays, etc) from the current academic term. You may submit these assessments along with your application or send them to us separately once they become available. Submission of these additional materials is **optional**. **Please do not submit graded assessments unless you are a recent transfer.**

Please be advised that many of our selected applicants have a GPA that reflects a greater number of units from their four-year undergrad institution (e.g., the equivalent of at least one year of academic work). If you are a recent transfer with few four-year units, and you do not receive admission to the program, we strongly encourage you to re-apply next year, once you have increased the number of four-year units in your GPA.

I did not have at least a 3.3 as an undergraduate, but my graduate school GPA meets/exceeds 3.3. May I apply with my graduate school GPA?

No. Our eligibility criterion is a 3.3 cumulative GPA from a four-year undergraduate institution. However, we'd also be happy to send you information on other law school application programs that you may be eligible for.

I do not meet the 3.3 eligibility criterion. Can I still apply?

We strongly discourage applicants who have below 3.3 from applying. In the last three years, we have been unable to grant exceptions to the 3.3 cut-off, due to the growing size of an increasingly competitive applicant pool. Additionally, please note that a 3.3 GPA makes one eligible to apply, but does not guarantee admission to the program.

What transcripts do I need to submit with my application? What counts as an "unofficial transcript"?

Please submit ALL undergraduate transcripts. This includes any community college and summer coursework. An unofficial transcript from the registrar (i.e., unsealed) or a printout of your online grade report (e.g., DPR, Oasis Star Report) constitutes an unofficial transcript.

I attended community college. Do I need to submit my community college transcripts?

Yes. Please submit the transcripts of *all* colleges attended.

Can I send my transcripts separately from my application?

Yes. However, we would prefer if everything including transcripts were sent in **together** with your application.

What do you look for in an applicant? How can I make my application more competitive?

Please refer to the cover page of the application for information regarding the Program's mission statement.

How do I submit my application?

1. Please submit all materials as PDF documents. All applications and supporting materials should be submitted in one, single PDF document.

Email to: Outreach@law.ucla.edu

What should be included in my application packet? How should I prepare my application?

A completed application must include:

- Application
- Financial aid award letter (if applicable)
- Letter of recommendation
- Personal Statement
- Resume
- Transcript(s) (unofficial acceptable)

How many applications do you typically receive?

Last year we received over 500 applications and admitted just under 100 applicants to participate in the program.

AFTER I'VE SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION

I'm taking the October and/or December LSAT.

Please contact the office to update your application as soon as a score report is available.

Will I receive confirmation that the Academic Outreach Resource Center has received my application? And that it is complete?

No, you will not receive confirmation upon receipt. If you would like to confirm receipt of your application, please wait at least one week from the date of your submission before following up with our office. If your application is missing components, you may be contacted by the Outreach Assistant, but due to the sheer number of applicants it is your responsibility to follow up and ensure that your materials were received and complete. For efficiency purposes and peace of mind, it is best to wait until your application is COMPLETE before checking on its decision status.

When will I receive notification of my decision? How will I receive notification of my decision?

Notification decisions will be sent out via e-mail from December to the beginning of January. The Program commences late-January.

Should I reapply to the Law Fellows Program? Does the office encourage reapplication?

Yes. We welcome reapplication.