

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, on the UCLA Law campus. Fellows must attend all five academies in order to participate in the Program.**

Additionally, each Fellow:

- Is paired with a law student mentor
- Receives ongoing admissions counseling with the directors of the program (in constructing a J.D. Action Plan)
- Receives a scholarship for an LSAT preparation course after completion of the Academies. *Please note: Although scholarships with other vendors may be available, Fellows who have enrolled in a Testmasters course previously will not be eligible for the Law Fellows Testmasters scholarship.*

Because timelines for applying to law school differ among Fellows, each Fellow utilizes the counseling and scholarship options when he/she is ready to apply to law school.

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.

After completion of the Program, Fellows may use the personalized counseling and LSAT prep course scholarship whenever they are ready to apply to law school.

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

No, you do not have to live in Los Angeles in order to participate. However, Fellows are responsible for transportation to and from the UCLA Law campus once per month to attend the Saturday Academies.

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 and hosting arrangements, 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).

In order to obtain an application, please visit <http://www.law.ucla.edu/admissions/outreach> or e-mail our office at outreach@law.ucla.edu.

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 is a sophomore, junior, or senior. Each applicant should evaluate his/her 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?

You may, but if you're interested in stopping by the office with a question, comment, or concern please first call us at (310) 794-4157 or email Outreach@law.ucla.edu to schedule an appointment.

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.

Can I send more than one letter of recommendation?

We do not prohibit your sending more letters. However, one letter of recommendation is sufficient and *recommended*. Please use your best judgment when determining the number of letters you will submit, if you submit more than one.

Whom should I ask for a letter of recommendation?

We recommend asking someone who knows you well in an academic or professional setting, such as a professor or an employer. It is likely that someone who knows you in this context can speak to your critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills, as well as other personal strengths that would be of interest to the admissions committee (e.g., specific achievements, challenges overcome, etc.)

Can my letter of recommendation be sent separately from my application packet? Can my recommender mail/e-mail the letter directly to the Outreach office?

Yes. Either you or your recommender may submit your letter of recommendation. The letter may be submitted separately, before or after submission of your application. Your recommender has the options of faxing, emailing, or mailing his/her completed letter. In your application packet, please indicate that your letter of recommendation is not included and will be arriving separately. Our staff may contact you if your recommendation has not been received, but it is ultimately your responsibility to follow up with your recommender and our office to ensure receipt.

Your recommender may fax their letter of recommendation to (310) 794-8840. They may email it to outreach@law.ucla.edu. Or, they may mail it to: UCLA School of Law, Academic Outreach Resource Center, Box 951476, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1476.

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?

You may submit your application via mail, e-mail (as a .doc or .pdf only), fax, or drop it off using the addresses or fax number listed below. **Please do not submit your application more than once.**

You may submit your application in **one of four ways:**

1. Via mail to:
UCLA School of Law
Academic Outreach Resource Center
Box 951476
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1476
2. Via fax at (310) 794-8840.
3. Via email at outreach@law.ucla.edu.
4. Drop it off at the Outreach Office. We are on the UCLA campus in the basement of Dodd Hall in room 59.

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)

Please **do not staple** together any of the pages of your application materials.

How many applications do you typically receive?

We typically receive 400 to 500 applications and admit 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. 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 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 mid-January.

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

Yes. We welcome reapplication.