



Columbia Law School

Leadership Experience Admission Deferral (LEAD) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Are you thinking about attending law school?

Do you have a significant employment or academic pursuit, or project, venture, or other innovative undertaking you are eager to pursue upon graduating from college?

If so, LEAD is perfect for you!

The LEAD program is a unique deferred admissions pathway to Columbia Law School open to college juniors and seniors.

LEAD Fellows are granted assured, deferred admission to enable them to pursue meaningful employment and/ or to found, expand, partner with, or advance a commercial or nonprofit project prior to entering law school.

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Leadership Experience Admission Deferral (LEAD) Fellowship Program

Program Overview:

- Apply during the spring of your junior or senior year with a decision to follow by mid-July
- Mandatory two-year deferral following college graduation to pursue your stated undertaking
- Potential funding of up to \$10,000 for certain approved LEAD project plans
- Opportunities to hone leadership skills

Through our new Leadership Experience Admission Deferral (LEAD) fellowship program, Columbia Law School seeks to admit and support self-starting undergraduate students who plan to pursue significant employment opportunities, undertake structured missions, participate in unique educational pursuits, or launch meaningful ventures in the public or private spheres prior to entering law school.

Prospective students who are interested in pursuing a JD degree from Columbia Law School and who also first aspire to engage in qualifying undertakings as described above are invited to apply to the Law School through the LEAD fellowship program. In addition to being granted assured, deferred admission, successful applicants will have opportunities to participate in leadership programs and events at the Law School during their two-year mandatory gap period between completing their undergraduate studies and commencing their studies at the Law School. Additionally, select successful applicants who submit an optional, qualifying project plan may be awarded a funding grant of up to \$10,000 to enable them to finance and pursue their venture.

Dates and Deadlines:

November–February: Prospective LEAD applicants are invited to attend information sessions and tour the Law School, as well as consult with a pre-law advisor. Prospective LEAD applicants who have not already done so should register with LSAC.org.

March 15: LEAD Program applications become available

June 15: Deadline to submit LEAD Program application and financial aid application

July 1: Deadline to submit standardized test scores

July: Application review and admissions interviews

By or before end of July: Admissions decisions released

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