

# Columbia Law School J.D. Application

Fall 2024

**FOR PREVIEW PURPOSES ONLY**

*This document is intended solely for applicants' use in preparing to apply to Columbia Law School. Please refer to the application on LSAC.org for the current application instructions and questions.*



Columbia  
Law School

Please note that applications to Columbia Law School must be submitted electronically through LSAC. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Kindly note that any application materials must be submitted directly by the applicant to LSAC or to Columbia Law School - as applicable in accordance with our instructions - not through an agent or third-party vendor. This requirement does not apply to letters of recommendation, which must be submitted directly from the recommender, nor to dean's certifications or academic transcripts, which must be submitted directly from an official university registrar or other administrator (please continue reading below for additional information regarding these requirements). In addition, the applicant will be required to attest to the accuracy and authenticity of all information and documents submitted to LSAC and to Columbia. If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact the Office of Admissions at [admissions@law.columbia.edu](mailto:admissions@law.columbia.edu).

Columbia Law School expects that all applicants submit work that is their original writing and/or work product. Assistance in completing any components of your Columbia application, including but not limited to using the services of an agent, third party vendor, educational consultant, or artificial intelligence (AI) tool or service is strictly prohibited. If dishonesty in this regard is discovered, it is grounds for immediate rescission of an admission offer and, if already enrolled, disciplinary proceedings (possibly leading to expulsion or, if later discovered, revocation of the degree earned).

To avoid any confusion or delay in the processing of your application, please ensure that you enter your name consistently throughout your application materials, and keep us informed of any mailing address, telephone number, or email address changes during the application process, and write your LSAC account number on all correspondence with the Office of Admissions

Columbia Law School reserves the right to withdraw an offer of admission if an applicant: (1) shows a significant decline in academic performance or fails to graduate; (2) misrepresents any matter in dealing with the Office of Admissions, Financial Aid Office, or any other representative of Columbia Law School; (3) behaves in a manner that indicates a serious lack of judgment, sincerity, or integrity; or (4) reserves a place in our entering class and simultaneously commits to enroll at another law school or submits a deposit to another law school. Columbia Law School further reserves the right to make the continuing validity of an offer of admission contingent upon an applicant providing further information or authorizing the release of information from other parties in connection with any matter relevant to the foregoing.

## Method of Application

### Early Decision Plan

For Early Decision candidates, the law school application process is simplified and expedited considerably; it is less expensive in terms of time, effort, and money. Early Decision candidates must complete their applications by November 15, 2023 and are generally notified of the Admissions Committee's decision in December. Candidates applying on an Early Decision basis commit themselves to matriculate at Columbia if admitted. Successful Early Decision candidates may not initiate any new law school applications, must immediately withdraw other applications once notified of their Columbia acceptance, and must decline any acceptances they may have received prior to admission to Columbia under the Early Decision Plan. Failure to honor these commitments will result in Columbia revoking its offer of admission.

Some Early Decision applicants not offered admission will be reviewed again in April as part of the Regular applicant pool; others will be informed that their application for admission has been denied and will not be evaluated again that year.

### Regular Admission

Candidates for Regular admission should submit their applications as soon as possible after September 1, 2023. Applications are not evaluated by our Admissions Committee until all required materials have been received and are generally evaluated in the order in which they are completed. Every effort is made to notify all applicants of the Admissions Committee's decision by the end of April, provided that their files are completed by February 15, 2024 —Columbia's application deadline for Regular admission to the JD program.

Please note that candidates who have completed at least one year of an ABA-approved J.D. program in the three years prior to the intended semester of matriculation or the LL.M. program at Columbia Law School are not eligible to apply for regular admission and must apply as transfer candidates. Graduates of all other ABA-approved LL.M. programs at U.S. institutions must apply for regular admission and are not eligible to apply as transfer candidates.

### Three-Year JD/MBA Program

Candidates applying simultaneously to our Three-Year JD/MBA Program must complete the [joint application through Columbia Business School](#) and complete the JD/MBA supplemental form on [LSAC.org](https://lsac.org). Applicants to this program should not complete this application for regular and early decision admission to our J.D. program. The deadline to be considered for the Three-Year JD/MBA Program is February 15, 2024.

## Law School Admission Test (LSAT)/ Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

All applicants are required to submit scores from the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) to be considered for admission to Columbia Law School.

The LSAT and the GRE are administered in many locations throughout the world. Your application will not be considered without the results of the LSAT or GRE. For additional information about the LSAT, contact LSAC at 215.968.1001 or visit [www.LSAC.org](http://www.LSAC.org). For additional information about the GRE, contact Educational Testing Services (ETS) at 866.473.4373 or visit [www.ETS.org](http://www.ETS.org).

Candidates who submit scores from more than one LSAT administration and/or GRE administration are strongly encouraged to provide a brief addendum that explains their testing history.

### LSAT

Candidates applying for admission to the 2024 entering class as regular applicants may submit LSAT scores earned on or after the June 2019 administration but no later than the January 2024 administration. Early Decision applicants must take the LSAT no later than October 2023.

All LSAT scores from administrations within the last five years will automatically be forwarded with a candidate's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) Report.

### GRE

Candidates applying for admission to the 2024 entering class planning to submit GRE scores are required to have sent from ETS all GRE scores from exams taken within the last five years using Columbia Law School's ETS code 4046. Candidates applying for admission to the 2024 entering class as regular applicants may submit GRE scores from tests taken between June 1, 2019 and February 1, 2024. Early Decision applicants must take the GRE no later than a November 1, 2023 administration.

GRE scores submitted to Columbia Law School prior to January 1, 2023 must be resubmitted during the application process to be considered complete.

Note: As per the American Bar Association, you must submit any and all LSAT test scores, even if you also plan to submit one or more GRE test scores. Candidates with multiple GRE scores, applying on the basis of the GRE, must submit all GRE scores on file from test administrations within the last five years, including tests taken after the application for admission to Columbia Law School has been submitted.

## Credential Assembly Service (CAS)

All applicants are required to participate in the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) for processing of transcripts, whether you are submitting LSAT or GRE test scores. For more information about the CAS, please call 215.968.1001 or visit [www.LSAC.org](http://www.LSAC.org).

### U.S. Transcripts

Applicants must request that the Registrar of each college (and each graduate and professional school, if applicable) attended send an official transcript to the CAS for processing. If you have participated in summer sessions or studied abroad, you must send these transcripts directly to the CAS, unless such courses and corresponding grades are also included on the other college transcripts being forwarded to the CAS. Please forward updates of your transcripts to the Office of Admissions as soon as they become available. In particular, candidates enrolled in a degree-granting program at the time the application is submitted are strongly encouraged to forward their fall 2023 transcripts as soon as they become available. Unofficial transcript copies that include fall 2023 grades may be submitted to [admissions@law.columbia.edu](mailto:admissions@law.columbia.edu).

### International Transcripts

Applicants who have completed more than one academic year of post-secondary work outside the United States and Canada are required to submit such transcripts to the CAS for processing. Such transcripts must be submitted in their original language with an official English translation, if the original language is not English. Please forward updates of your transcripts to the Office of Admissions as soon as they become available. In particular, candidates enrolled in a degree granting program at the time the application is submitted must also forward their fall transcripts as soon as they become available.

Candidates who studied abroad for one academic year or less are strongly encouraged to submit official copies of their transcripts if the grades do not appear on the home institution's transcript. If candidates run into difficulty having these transcripts sent from institutions abroad, then an unofficial copy of the transcript (PDF format preferred) may be uploaded in the "Addendum" section of the application. In most instances, the Admissions Committee prefers to consider a candidate's performance in study abroad courses, and requesting transcripts can often slow down the review process.

## Letters of Recommendation

### Requirements

Columbia requires two letters of recommendation to complete your application.

- *Candidates completing their undergraduate degrees in 2022, 2023, or 2024:* Applicants currently in school or recently graduated (i.e., applying within less than approximately two years of receiving their

degree) are required to submit two academic letters from faculty who can provide insight about their candidacy. Academic letters must come from individuals who have taught applicants in the classroom or have evaluated applicants in a significant academic capacity (e.g., an independent study project or thesis advisor).

- *Candidates who completed their undergraduate degrees in 2021 and earlier:* Applicants with substantive work experience who are not recent graduates are strongly encouraged to submit one professional letter and at least one academic letter of recommendation.

Candidates who believe they may jeopardize their employment status by requesting professional letters of recommendation may submit an academic letter of recommendation instead and should include a brief addendum explaining why they have not included a professional letter of recommendation.

While the Committee will accept up to four letters of recommendation, we suggest that applicants use discretion when determining the appropriate number of letters to submit. Kindly note that your application will be deemed complete after we have received two letters unless we are notified otherwise in question 9.2.

### **Suggested Content**

Recommenders should address matters of significance that speak to the ability of the applicant to thrive in an intellectually stimulating academic environment. For example, recommenders may address the strength of the applicant's overall intelligence, analytical skills, independence of thought, problem-solving skills, effectiveness of oral and written communication, motivation, self-confidence, concern for others, emotional maturity, personal initiative, judgment, leadership ability, and organizational skills.

### **Submission of Letters of Recommendation**

Columbia Law School strongly prefers that letters of recommendation be sent through the LSAC Letter of Recommendation Service. LSAC regularly sends Columbia letters of recommendation; therefore, your letters of recommendation will essentially be forwarded to us as they become available. Please do not send duplicate letters directly to Columbia Law School.

If absolutely necessary, recommenders may themselves send letters of recommendation directly to Columbia Law School in a sealed envelope with their signature across the envelope seal. We do not accept letters of recommendation via fax or email. Please note that sending hard copies of recommendation letters directly to Columbia Law School may delay completion of an application.

## **Supporting Documents**

Applicants must submit electronically through LSAC the following documents:

### **Application Form**

Applicants are required to complete and submit the application for admission.

### **Personal Statement**

Applicants must submit a personal essay or statement. It must be electronically submitted at the time of the initial application.

We kindly ask that applicants submit a personal statement that is double-spaced and approximately two pages.

### **Résumé**

Applicants must submit a résumé, detailing significant full- or part-time employment positions they have held. This may include internships, summer employment, and community service. In addition, the résumé should include a summary of written scholarship, presentations, principal extracurricular activities, and any honors or awards received. It must be electronically submitted at the time of the initial application. Applicants may submit résumés longer than one page in length but should exercise discretion when determining résumé length.

### **Optional Supplemental Statements**

Applicants, if they wish, may submit a brief supplemental statement that will provide useful information to the Admissions Committee in evaluating the application. Please refer to Section 14 - Supplemental Statements for additional information. Please note that these questions are completely optional and if an applicant chooses not to submit a response to any of these questions, it will not have an impact on their admissions decision.

### **Optional Addenda**

Candidates may add additional brief statements they believe will enable the Admissions Committee to make a fully informed decision on the application. Should you have multiple addenda, please combine (on separate pages, if necessary) these into one document and upload in the attachments section.

### **Dean's Letter, if applicable**

If you answered yes to question 8.1 and/or 8.2, please have the dean or administrative officer in charge of student records forward a detailed explanation of the incident to the Columbia Law School Office of Admissions. Should you receive an offer of admission and ultimately matriculate at Columbia Law School, you are also required to submit a completed Dean's Certification Form, which will be made available to you by the Office of Admissions at a later date.

These forms must be emailed from an official university address to [deanscerts@law.columbia.edu](mailto:deanscerts@law.columbia.edu) (strongly preferred method) or sent in hard copy form (faxed copies cannot be accepted) to the Office of Admissions. Please note that sending a hard copy directly to Columbia Law School may cause a delay in our receipt of such documents and should only be done if necessary.

## Application Fee

The application fee is \$85 (U.S. funds only). It is strongly preferred that applicants pay online with a credit card when submitting their applications through LSAC. Applicants who can only pay using a check or money order must print out, sign, and mail the Certification Letter to the Office of Admissions along with the check or money order (made out to Columbia University). Applicants who plan to pay by check or money order should do so well in advance of the deadline to allow sufficient time for processing.

## Candidate Interviews

Some candidates may receive an invitation to participate in an interview with a member of the Admissions Committee. We understand that many of our applicants will want to interview, and we appreciate your enthusiasm, but interviews are by invitation only.

## JD Program Information

Please refer to the Columbia Law School Admissions [website](#) for a full description and exploration of the JD program. You may also access an electronic copy of the [Viewbook](#) or contact the Office of Admissions to request a copy.

## Admission to the JD Program

The Admissions program at Columbia Law School is designed to identify and select individuals with diverse perspectives, experiences, and interests. We aim to compose a student body that shares a discernible commitment to excellence, has demonstrated unusual promise for distinguished performance at the Law School, and possesses potential for high service to the legal profession and the community.

Applicants to Columbia Law School must have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent by the time they matriculate at the Law School. (Note: this does not apply for applicants to our Accelerated Interdisciplinary Legal Education (A.I.L.E.) Program.)

## Notice to All Applicants

An application is considered complete when all required application materials have been received by Columbia, including receipt of the candidate's LSAC Law School Report. In taking steps to ensure that the application to Columbia is completed before the appropriate deadline, an applicant should factor into planning the few weeks that it will take the Law School Admission Council to produce the LSAC Law School

Report.

## Submission of Additional Materials

Applicants are expected to be diligent in providing all necessary information for review of their candidacy prior to the completion of their applications. Once an application is complete, please do not submit additional materials unless they convey essential information, as there is no guarantee such materials will be placed in your application prior to the evaluation and may potentially slow down the review of your candidacy. Applicants may submit address changes and letters of continued interest (Hold or Reserve applicants only) through our online upload portal. Notification of events that are responsive to questions 8.1-8.6 must be emailed to [admissions@law.columbia.edu](mailto:admissions@law.columbia.edu).

## Selection Criteria

Evaluation of an applicant for admission to Columbia Law School includes a determination of the candidate's intellectual and academic qualifications, aptitude for legal study as measured by the LSAT and/or the GRE, and assessment of whether or not the candidate has demonstrated personal qualities considered requisite to scholastic success, professional distinction, and public service. In addition, the Admissions Committee examines the applicant's personal statement and letters of recommendation, as well as the course selection, special honors and awards, fellowship opportunities, publications, extracurricular involvement, community service, political activity, professional contributions, and other work experience.

## Undergraduate Preparation

Columbia Law School subscribes to the curricular guidelines provided by the Association of American Law Schools' "Statements on Prelegal Education." These guidelines recommend a prelaw program involving education for "comprehension and expression in words, a critical understanding of the human institutions and values with which the law deals, and creative power in thinking." A review of undergraduate majors of recently enrolled students indicates that approximately 20 percent have backgrounds in political science and government, 9 percent in pure science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, 8 percent in economics, 7 percent in history, 7 percent in other social sciences like anthropology, psychology, and sociology, 6 percent in philosophy, and 4 percent in international relations. Other concentrations include business/finance/accounting, literature, and policy studies.

## Selectivity

Competition for admission to Columbia Law School is exceptionally keen. In recent years, nearly 8,000 applicants have applied for approximately 400 spaces in each year's entering class. And, in any given year, the majority of applicants to Columbia are highly qualified academically. In addition, admissibility to Columbia is difficult to

predict because, as previously described, personal accomplishments, professional achievements, and other nonquantifiable factors that serve to enrich the student body, affect an applicant's chance of admission. Thus, although Columbia is among a handful of the most highly selective law schools in the country (as measured by grade point averages and LSAT statistics), it is not possible to predict with precision the probability of admission using those numerical indices alone.

## Committee Decisions

Following evaluation, candidates will be admitted, denied, or placed in the Reserve group. Decisions related to Reserve candidates will be released throughout the cycle. In addition, the Committee may postpone making a decision on some candidates by placing them in the Hold category. Such applicants can expect to receive a decision on their candidacy by the end of April.

## Dean's Certification

A Dean's Certification Form (as distinct from the Dean's letter referred to in the application) or an equivalent certification of good standing will be required from all students after admission and prior to matriculation at Columbia Law School.

This Form will be mandatory from each educational institution where you are currently enrolled in a degree program; from which you have already earned a degree; and at which you were matriculated toward a degree (regardless of whether a degree was conferred). Please note that it is not necessary that the dean or other administrator responsible for such certification know you personally. The dean or other administrator may complete the Dean's Certification Form (or equivalent certification) on the basis of official records. Please note that for the Dean's Certification to be deemed complete, all questions on the form must be answered. This form must be emailed from an official university address to [deanscerts@law.columbia.edu](mailto:deanscerts@law.columbia.edu) (strongly preferred method) or sent in hard copy form (faxed copies cannot be accepted) to the Office of Admissions. Please note that there may be delays in processing of hard copy documents sent to the Office of Admissions.

## Accepting an Offer of Admission

An admitted student who wishes to accept Columbia Law School's offer of admission may secure a seat by submitting a \$600 seat deposit on or before May 1, 2024. The deposit may be paid either electronically through the Admitted Student Portal (the easiest and strongly preferred method) or manually by check. Candidates who decide after submitting the seat deposit not to attend Columbia Law School may receive a deposit refund of \$150 if the written request is submitted by July 1, 2024.

## Deferred Admission

An admitted student who wishes to defer matriculation for one or two

years should submit a request, in writing, to the Office of Admissions after having been offered admission, but prior to the deadline set forth in your admissions packet. This request should include a general statement explaining how the intervening time will be spent, as well as whether the student desires a one- or two-year deferral. Please note that all deferred candidates must accept the offer of admission (including payment of the seat deposit) on or before the deposit deadline of May 1, 2024, as applicable.

## Tuition, Financial Aid, and Housing

### Tuition

Tuition for 2023-2024 is \$78,444. There are additional mandatory fees for health services, student activities, and University services and support, which will be \$2,848 for 2023-2024. Insurance for hospital care and standard medical coverage is also required (\$4,541) unless U.S. students can show proof of comparable coverage. To help ensure that international students have access to the highest quality of care on- and off-campus, Columbia University requires all international students to enroll in the Columbia Student Health Insurance Plan. For details regarding this requirement, please visit the [Health Services website](#). The total budget for the nine month academic year, including tuition, fees, housing, food, books & supplies, and personal expenses is \$118,357. Expenses are adjusted annually.

### Financial Aid

Admission decisions at Columbia Law School are made without regard to an applicant's financial need. Therefore, grant applications are reviewed only after a student has been admitted. If you are interested in grant assistance, you must complete your application as early as possible so that it can be evaluated soon after you have been admitted. Students admitted under the Early Decision Plan are reminded that they should not expect to be notified of their financial aid package before the end of March, at the earliest. We strongly recommend that applicants file the required forms by no later than February 15, 2024, even if they have not yet received an offer of admission. Admitted candidates who submit the required forms after February 15, 2024 may be considered for need-based grant assistance contingent upon availability of funds.

The Law School awards grant assistance primarily on the basis of demonstrated financial need. However, there are a number of fellowships which are not based on financial need that are awarded by the Office of Admissions at the time an applicant is admitted to the Law School. There is no separate application for these fellowships. Each year a portion of the entering class receives a Law School grant, which is in the form of a partial tuition waiver. However, by far the largest form of financial aid for all law students is educational loans, with most students borrowing to finance a part, or all, of their educational expenses. To assist JD graduates pursuing public interest and public service careers manage what might be a significant educational loan burden, the

Law School provides continuing financial support through its Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP).

U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens may be eligible for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans. Currently, the annual limit is \$20,500 for this program. In addition, the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan program as well as several private educational loan programs are available to provide financing for law students. Since these programs require applicants to be creditworthy, you are strongly advised to obtain a copy of your credit report to determine if there are any problems that might make you ineligible for such loans. If you have an adverse credit history, and are unable to correct it, you may not have access to important sources of loan funds. If this is the case, you will need to have others borrow on your behalf or find other means to finance your education. Law School funds will not be available to replace unavailable credit-based loans.

International students (not U.S. citizens and not those holding a U.S. permanent resident visa) are eligible to apply for Law School grants and for loans from private educational loan programs. They are not eligible for federally guaranteed assistance programs. In addition, they typically need to provide a U.S. cosigner in order to apply for private educational loan programs. Please visit our website for additional loan information. Since there are no fully funded fellowships for law students in Columbia's JD degree program, international students needing to finance their education may need to arrange for cosigners for each of the three years of law school.

## How to Apply for Financial Aid for 2024-2025

The following is a summary of application procedures for the various types of financial aid. For detailed information on financial aid policies and procedures, costs, budgets, and various loan programs, please review the [financial aid website](#).

Before completing any financial aid forms, it is important first to decide which types of aid you are seeking: (1) loans and Columbia Law School grants or (2) loans only.

### 1. Loans and Columbia Law School grants

Submit the following by February 15 to ensure timely consideration for a Law School grant. Do not wait to receive an offer of admission before filing the FAFSA and CSS Profile Applications:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor (U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens)
- CSS Profile application to The College Board
- Columbia Law School Financial Aid Questionnaire to the Office of Financial Aid (admitted students only)
- 2022 Federal income tax forms for student, spouse, and parents to

the College Board using the Institutional Documentation (IDOC) Service (admitted students only: by February 15 or immediately after admission)

- Loan application(s) to the Office of Financial Aid (admitted students intending to enroll—preferably by mid-May)

### 2. Loans only

Submit the following by no later than mid-May to ensure timely processing:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor (U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens)
- Columbia Law School Financial Aid Questionnaire to the Office of Financial Aid (admitted students only)
- Loan application(s) to the Office of Financial Aid (admitted students only)

Deciding the type of aid will determine which forms you will need to submit, and when. If you are uncertain about whether you should apply for a Law School grant, please refer to the section entitled “Scholarship Grants” within the section “Applying for, Receiving, and Repaying Aid” on the [financial aid website](#).

## Financial Aid Deadlines

- Loans and Columbia Law School Grants—February 15, 2024
- Loans Only—May 15, 2024

## Financial Aid Forms

### FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Completed by all U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens applying for financial aid and submitted to the federal processor to establish eligibility for federal student aid. Apply online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

### CSS Profile Application

Required of all applicants who are seeking consideration for Columbia Law School grants. Financial information must be submitted for the applicant, both of the applicant's parents, and, if applicable, the applicant's spouse. Apply online at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>. For questions, call 844.202.0524.

### Columbia Law School Financial Aid Questionnaire

Admitted students receive this form shortly after their offer of admission. Admitted students applying for ANY type of financial aid must send the completed form to the Office of Financial Aid.

### 2022 Federal income tax forms

Admitted students applying for a Law School grant must submit complete copies of federal income tax forms for the applicant, both of the applicant's parents\*, and, if applicable, the applicant's spouse to the

College Board using the Institutional Documentation (IDOC) Service. If 2022 returns are not available by February 15, 2024, admitted students should submit complete 2021 returns by February 15 for a preliminary award decision, and complete 2022 tax returns by the end of April for grant confirmation.

## **Loan Application(s)**

Admitted students intending to enroll at the Law School should submit complete loan applications to the Office of Financial Aid, preferably by mid-May in order to ensure timely processing and the availability of loan funds at the start of the school year.

\* Columbia requires financial information from both parents to be submitted when you are requesting financial aid. Exceptions to our policy are made on an individual basis -- usually when there is only one parent in your life. In situations where both parents are living, an appeal for a waiver must be made, in writing, to the Director of Financial Aid and accompanied by a written statement from a third-party (e.g., an attorney, clergyperson, employer, social worker, counselor, etc.) or court documents, detailing the nature of the relationship.

## **The Loan Repayment Assistance Program**

Columbia Law School's Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) supports Columbia JD graduates who pursue public interest and public service careers by providing them with financial assistance to service the educational debt they assumed while at the Law School. In addition to the traditional LRAP, participants may elect to participate in both the Columbia Law School LRAP and the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. Finally, several fellowships for public interest have been established, and fellowship recipients may receive assistance for all loan payments on their Law School debt borrowed up to the standard cost of attendance. A full description of our LRAP can be found on the financial aid website, or may be requested from the Office of Financial Aid.

## **Housing**

Housing accommodations for Columbia Law students are excellent in terms of availability, quality, variety, convenience and, relative to other New York City law schools, expense. All admitted first-year law students who apply for housing by May 1, 2024, are prioritized to receive a housing selection appointment. All Law School student housing is in apartments owned and managed by the University, and most is located within blocks of the Law School. Rents are significantly lower than New York City market rates, because our housing is heavily subsidized by the University.

Detailed descriptions of the University housing programs are provided to prospective law students at the time of admission. General housing information is also available at the Columbia Residential website

(<http://residential.columbia.edu/>).

## **Columbia University Non-Discrimination Policy**

Columbia University admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the university. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender (including gender identity and expression), pregnancy, religion, creed, marital status, partnership status, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, military status, or any other legally protected status in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other university-administered programs.



## Biographical

### Prefix

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ind        | <input type="checkbox"/> Misc             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr.        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr.              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs.       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mx.        | <input type="checkbox"/> First Lieutenant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Captain    | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporal         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lieutenant | <input type="checkbox"/> Sergeant         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Prefix  |   |

First (given) name \_\_\_\_\_

Middle name/initial \_\_\_\_\_

Last (family) name \_\_\_\_\_

Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Previous (other) name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred first name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: City \_\_\_\_\_

SSN/SIN \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Gender

- Intersex
- Male
- Female
- Transgender Male
- Transgender Female
- Non-Binary or Gender Non-Conforming
- None of the above

## Additional Biographical

We recognize that gender identity can be expressed in a variety of ways. Should you wish to elaborate beyond your response to the gender question in the previous section, you are invited to complete the section below.

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What pronouns do you use?

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If you wish to identify as LGBTQ+, please check the box below.

I wish to identify as LGBTQ+.

If you checked affirmatively in response to the previous question, please indicate whether or not you are amenable to being contacted (by phone, email, or post) by [OutLaws](#) or [QTPOC](#).

- Yes
- No

## Additional Biographical continued

If neither of your parents completed a 4-year undergraduate degree (or its equivalent), please check the box below:

The statement above applies to me.

If English is not your native language, when did you start to learn it?

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If you were born outside the United States, but currently live in the United States, how old were you when you began living in this country?

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## Demographics

### Citizenship

Citizenship:  Non-Resident Alien  US Citizen  US Permanent Resident

Country of citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent City \_\_\_\_\_

Visa type \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/SEVIS number \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Country \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent resident number \_\_\_\_\_

### Tribal Affiliation

Tribal Affiliation or village name \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment number (enrolled members only) \_\_\_\_\_

## Contact Information

### Current Address

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Street address—line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Street address—line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Street address—line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Current mailing address good until date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Permanent Address

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Street address—line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Street address—line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Street address—line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address good until date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Other Contact Information

Primary e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_

Columbia Law School can send text messages to my mobile phone:  Yes  No

## Education

List ALL educational institutions attended.

Institution type:  High School  Undergraduate  Graduate  Law  Other Post Graduate

Institution name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Start date \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ End date \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Date degree granted \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

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Institution type:  High School  Undergraduate  Graduate  Law  Other Post Graduate

Institution name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Start date \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ End date \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Date degree granted \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

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Institution type:  High School  Undergraduate  Graduate  Law  Other Post Graduate

Institution name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Start date \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ End date \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Date degree granted \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

## Education continued

Institution type:  High School  Undergraduate  Graduate  Law  Other Post Graduate

Institution name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Start date \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ End date \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Date degree granted \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever attended any law school?  Yes  No

Did you leave the law school under less than good standing:  Yes  No

If you did not leave the law school in good standing, explain the circumstances:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Has your education in college, university, or professional school been interrupted for one term or more for any reason:  Yes  No

If your education was interrupted, explain the circumstances:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LSAT/GRE

Candidates using the GRE as a basis for admission must submit all GRE test scores from exams administered within the last five years, in addition to any LSAT test scores from exam administrations within the last five years. Candidates may submit LSAT test scores as the sole basis for consideration, even if they have taken the GRE.

I will submit all LSAC and/or GRE scores (as applicable).

LSAT Test Date \_\_\_\_\_ LSAT Test Date \_\_\_\_\_

LSAT Score \_\_\_\_\_ LSAT Score \_\_\_\_\_

GRE Test Date \_\_\_\_\_ GRE Test Date \_\_\_\_\_

GRE Verbal Reasoning Score \_\_\_\_\_ GRE Verbal Reasoning Score \_\_\_\_\_

GRE Quantitative Reasoning Score \_\_\_\_\_ GRE Quantitative Reasoning Score \_\_\_\_\_

GRE Analytical Writing Score \_\_\_\_\_ GRE Analytical Writing Score \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide GRE Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Information

Have you previously applied to this law school?  Yes  No

Were you offered admission? If “yes,” you must provide an explanation regarding your decision not to matriculate in the “Attachments” section of the application.  Yes  No

Are you applying under the Early Decision Plan? If you answer “Yes,” you must attach a signed Early Decision Contract in the “Attachments” section of the application.  Yes  No

Are you deferring matriculation at a law school that requires you to abstain from applying to other law schools? If you answer “Yes,” you must attach an explanation and have a Dean or administrative officer forward a statement expressly granting you permission to apply to Columbia Law School.  Yes  No

Do you intend to apply for a need-based financial aid grant? If you answer “Yes,” you must complete the FAFSA (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>) and the C.S.S. Profile Application to the College Board (<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>). The recommended deadline is February 15, 2024.  Yes  No

Do you plan to apply for the Columbia Law School Academic Scholars Program? To learn more about the Program, please visit our [website](#).  Yes  No

## Additional Information

Optional: In the space below, feel free to share any “fun facts” about yourself (hobbies, interests, special talents, and accomplishments, etc.) that the Admissions Committee may not be able to glean otherwise from your application. Please note that whether you choose to answer the question or not, there will be no impact on your admissions decision.

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In the space below, please list any languages with which you are familiar and the corresponding level of fluency (intermediate, professional, fluent, native, etc.).

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## Character & Fitness

If you answer “Yes” to questions 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, or 8.6 in the “Character and Fitness” section, you must attach a detailed, complete, and truthful written explanation in the “Attachments” section of the application. Please answer honestly, irrespective of any advice you may have received to the contrary. Should you have questions about whether or not to report an infraction, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Office of Admissions for clarification. If you answer “Yes” to question 8.1 and/or 8.2, please have the dean or administrative officer in charge of student records forward a detailed explanation of the incident to the Columbia Law School Office of Admissions at [deanscerts@law.columbia.edu](mailto:deanscerts@law.columbia.edu). Please read the application instructions for additional information.

Have you ever been on academic probation or subjected to disciplinary action for scholastic or other reasons by any college, university, graduate school, or professional school you have attended? This should include matters that have been expunged. In addition to attaching a written explanation in the “Attachments” section of the application, kindly have the Dean or administrative officer in charge of student records forward a detailed explanation of the incident.

Yes       No

Are there any disciplinary charges pending or expected to be brought against you? In addition to attaching a written explanation in the “Attachments” section of the application, kindly have the Dean or administrative officer in charge of student records forward a detailed explanation of the incident.

Yes       No

Have you ever been cited, charged with, indicted, convicted or tried for, or pleaded guilty to, the commission of any felony or misdemeanor or the violation of any law, except minor parking violations? Please note that you should have available and be prepared to submit or exhibit copies of police and court records regarding any matter you disclose in reply to this question. You may answer “no” if your record has been expunged or sealed; if your conviction was vacated; if you were the subject of a juvenile delinquency or youthful offender proceeding; or if you have received a pardon. If you answered “yes,” you must attach a detailed, complete, and truthful explanation, including a statement of the charge(s), the disposition thereof and the underlying facts. Please answer honestly, irrespective of any advice you may have received to the contrary.

Yes       No

Are there any criminal charges pending or expected to be brought against you?  Yes       No

Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action by a professional organization, e.g., an employer, certifying agency, or accreditation board?  Yes       No

Will you be enrolled in an undergraduate program on or after August 1, 2024?  Yes       No

In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

I acknowledge the above statement.  Yes



## Letters of Recommendation

Do you intend to provide more than two letters of recommendation?

Yes

No

If you answered “Yes,” please indicate if you would like us to delay the completion of your file until all letters of recommendation are received by our office. If you answered “No,” we will complete your application upon receipt of the first two letters of recommendation.

Yes

No

List the names of all recommenders:

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## Family Information

### Parent/Guardian 1

Please check before continuing

Parent/Guardian's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased:  Yes  No

US Citizen?  Yes  No

Employment information (occupation; employer; retired). Enter N/A if not applicable.

\_\_\_\_\_

College information (college; degree; year of graduation). Enter N/A if not applicable.

\_\_\_\_\_

Professional or graduate school information (university; degree; year of graduation). Enter N/A if not applicable.

\_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian 2

Please check before continuing

Parent/Guardian's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased:  Yes  No

US Citizen?  Yes  No

## Parent/Guardian 2 (Continued)

Employment information (occupation; employer; retired). Enter N/A if not applicable.

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College information (college; degree; year of graduation). Enter N/A if not applicable.

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Professional or graduate school information (university; degree; year of graduation). Enter N/A if not applicable.

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## Military

Have you served or are you now serving on full-time, active US military duty?  Yes  No

Date of entrance (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of discharge (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Expected military reserve or National Guard status during law school \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Discharge type \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been separated from any branch of the US armed forces under less than honorable conditions?  Yes  No

If you have been separated from any branch of the US armed forces under less than honorable conditions, explain the circumstances.

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## Résumé

Please upload a résumé of up to two pages detailing significant full- or part-time employment positions held. This may include internships, summer employment, and community service. In addition, the résumé should include a summary of written scholarships, presentations, awards and honors, and extracurricular activities. I confirm that I have uploaded my résumé:

Yes  No

## Required Essays

Candidates to Columbia Law School are required to submit a personal statement supplementing required application materials. We are curious about your interests, goals, and aspirations and how the J.D. program at Columbia can help you achieve these. You are encouraged to think about the contributions you hope to make to both the Columbia community and the legal profession while considering your personal, intellectual, and professional background and any relevant information that you may not have conveyed through your other application materials. Please note that the personal statement should be double-spaced and approximately two pages in length. I confirm that I have uploaded my personal statement:

Yes  No

## Supplemental Statements

Optional Supplementary Statements. Please note that these questions are completely optional and if an applicant chooses not to submit a response to any of these questions, it will not have an impact on their admissions decision. Applicants should choose no more than one supplemental statement, which should be no longer than 500 words double spaced. Kindly note that supplemental statement may be shorter than 500 words.

1. A hallmark of the Columbia experience is being able to learn and thrive in an equitable and inclusive community with a wide range of perspectives. Tell us about an aspect of your own perspective, viewpoint or lived experience that is important to you, and describe how it has shaped the way you would learn from and contribute to Columbia's diverse and collaborative community.
2. We recognize that many applicants have faced adversity in myriad ways and to varying extents throughout their lives. Tell us about an example of adversity or a challenging circumstance in your own life and describe how you overcame it and how that experience has shaped your life and your own perspective.
3. Columbia Law School aims to prepare its students to be advocates as well as effective leaders. Tell us about an example of leadership in your own life whether in an educational, professional, or personal setting and how those leadership skills and qualities would contribute to your legal education and the profession.
4. Columbia Law School's mandatory pro bono program requires that every student devote at least 40 hours to public interest law service during their time in law school. Tell us about your own commitment to public service and describe how volunteer work, advocacy, community service, pro bono work, and/or extra-curricular activities have shaped who you are today and how you want to continue serving the public good during law school.
5. Tell us why you are applying to Columbia Law School and how the Law School's programs, faculty, curricular and extra-curricular offerings, location, and/or community would be a good fit for your legal education given your own academic, professional, or personal goals.

I understand

## Certification

Please be aware that this application and the materials filed in support, including your answers and any information included in the Character and Fitness section, will be retained by Columbia Law School and made available to the committee of character and fitness of the state(s) in which you intend to practice. Admission to any state bar depends on adequate academic performance, satisfactory completion of the bar examination, and proof of good character as required by the particular jurisdiction. Honesty in the law school application and admission process is essential in satisfying the requirements of good character required by state bars. Please be sure to consult the bar admission authorities in the state(s) in which you intend to practice for all the requirements necessary for admission to that jurisdiction.

By submitting this application, I certify that I submitted all materials directly, not through an agent or third-party vendor, except as set forth in the application instructions pertaining to letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, and dean's certifications. I further certify that the application I have provided is exclusively my own work and that no agent, third-party vendor, educational consultant, or artificial intelligence tool or service has written or modified any component of the application, essays, attachments, or any other material submitted as part of the application for admission.

I understand that materials received by Columbia Law School in connection with this application become the property of the school; as such, all materials are subject to verification by the Admissions Committee and are not returnable.

I further certify that I have reviewed all materials submitted to Columbia University and/or LSAC as part of this application and confirm that all are accurate, authentic, true, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I shall promptly amend the foregoing application should there be a change in any of the facts therein and shall notify the Office of Admissions of such changes as they occur.

I agree and understand that any misrepresentation due to misdirected, inaccurate, or omitted information, false statements or falsified documents will be grounds for an examination of misconduct in the admissions process, rejection of my application, rescission of admission offer, disciplinary action, including cancellation of academic credit, suspension, expulsion, or revocation of degree if discovered at a later date.

I further agree and understand that Columbia Law School reserves the right to withdraw an offer of admission if I: (1) show a significant decline in academic performance or fail to graduate; (2) misrepresent any matter in dealing with the Office of Admissions, Financial Aid Office, or any other representative of Columbia Law School; (3) behave in a manner that indicates a serious lack of judgment, sincerity, or integrity; or (4) reserve a place in Columbia Law School's entering class and simultaneously commit to enroll at another law school or submit a deposit to another law school. I also agree and understand that Columbia Law School further reserves the right to make the continuing validity of an offer of admission contingent upon my providing further information or authorizing the release of information from other parties in connection with any matter relevant to the foregoing.

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Applicant's Signature

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Date