Columbia Law School J.D. Application

Fall 2026

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

www.law.columbia.edu

Please note that applications to Columbia Law School must be submitted electronically through LSAC. Paper applications will not be accepted. Applicants may not apply to the J.D. program at the same time as the LL.M. program, the Three-Year JD/MBA program, or one of the international dual degree programs at Columbia Law School.

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.

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, Office of Financial Aid, 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, 2025 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 15, 2025. 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, 2026—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 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. Applicants to the Three-Year JD/MBA program should not complete this application for regular or early decision admission to our J.D. program. The deadline to be considered for the Three-Year JD/MBA Program is February 15, 2026.

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LEAD Fellowship Program
Candidates applying to the Leadership Experience Admission Deferral (LEAD) Fellowship Program must complete the LEAD Fellowship application, which will be available in mid-April. Applicants to the LEAD Fellowship Program should not complete this application for regular or early decision admission to our J.D. program and may not be considered for both programs in the same application cycle. The deadline to apply for the LEAD Fellowship Program is June 15, 2026.

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. For additional information about the GRE, contact Educational Testing Services (ETS) at 866.473.4373 or visit 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 2026 entering class as regular applicants may submit LSAT scores earned on or after the June 2021 administration but no later than the January 2026 administration. Early Decision applicants must take the LSAT no later than October 2025.

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 2026 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 2026 entering class as regular applicants may submit GRE scores from tests taken between June 1, 2021 and February 1, 2026. Early Decision applicants must take the GRE no later than a November 1, 2025.

GRE scores submitted to Columbia Law School prior to January 1, 2025 must be resubmitted during the application process to be considered complete.

Note: As per the American Bar Association, if you sat for an LSAT test administration during the aforementioned period, 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.

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 2025 transcripts as soon as they become available. Unofficial transcript copies that include fall 2025 grades may be submitted to 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.

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Letters of Recommendation

Requirements

Columbia requires two letters of recommendation to complete your application.

- *Candidates completing their undergraduate degrees in 2024, 2025, or 2026:* We require applicants currently in school or recently graduated (i.e., applying within less than approximately two years of receiving their degree) 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 2023 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 as they are processed.; Therefore, 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.

International Student Statement

International students must submit a statement that discusses their reasons for wishing to study in the United States. It must be electronically submitted at the time of the initial application.

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 15—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

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attachments section.

Dean's Letter, if applicable
If you answered yes to question 9.1 and/or 9.2, 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 (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) and must be paid online with a credit card when submitting the application through LSAC unless an applicant has received an applicable fee waiver.

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.

Admission to the JD Program and Selection Criteria

Columbia Law School's admissions process is designed to identify and select individuals who have demonstrated exceptional promise for distinguished performance at the Law School and, subsequently, for high service to the legal profession and community through diverse perspectives, personal and professional experiences, and broad-ranging interests, all of which denote a candidate's discernible commitment to excellence.

The Law School takes a holistic approach when assessing applications. We do not rely on mechanical comparisons and truly believe in the value of thoroughly reviewing each candidate on an individual basis when determining admissibility.

To assess intellectual and academic qualifications and aptitude for legal study at Columbia Law School, we rely on a candidate's body of undergraduate (and, if applicable, graduate) coursework, and pertinent standardized test scores, such as the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE). While these components are significant, there is no minimum test score or GPA requirement, and no standardized test score and GPA combination alone can solely determine admissibility. In reviewing a candidate's academic record, we undertake a comprehensive analysis of a candidate's transcripts and track their academic journey while considering (among other factors) course selection and rigor, involvement in experiences outside the classroom, including volunteer or pro bono activities, co-curricular activities, work and/or family obligations, special honors and awards, fellowship opportunities, research, publications, and trends in performance.

We look beyond the quantitative criteria of test scores and grade point averages to assess the unique contributions each applicant can make to our community and the legal profession. Our admissions process is designed to be inclusive, seeking applicants with varied perspectives and life experiences. In doing so, we take into account a range of factors (within the confines of the law), including demonstrated leadership qualities and having overcome significant challenges or adversity, such as socioeconomic disadvantage. In addition, we consider how candidates have chosen to commit their time, energies, and talents through community service, civic activity, public service, volunteer work, advocacy, and other meaningful work experience.

Our goal is to assemble a class which is academically outstanding, ready to act as conscientious citizens, and excited about careers in the law and the future of the legal profession.

Completion of an Application

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

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upload portal. Notification of events that are responsive to questions 9.1-9.6 must be emailed to admissions@law.columbia.edu.

Undergraduate Preparation

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.)

Columbia Law School subscribes to the curricular guidelines provided by the Association of American Law Schools' "Statement 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 19 percent have backgrounds in political science and government, 14 percent in other social sciences like anthropology, psychology, and sociology, 11 percent in economics, 10 percent in pure science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, 10 percent in philosophy, 8 percent in history, 6 percent in finance and business, and 6 percent in international relations. Other concentrations include humanities, 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.

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 (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, 2026. The deposit may be paid either electronically through the Admitted Student Website (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, 2026.

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, 2026, as applicable.

Tuition, Financial Aid, and Housing

Tuition

Tuition for 2025-2026 is $85,368. There are additional mandatory fees for health services, student activities, and University services and support, which will be $3,022 for 2025-2026. Insurance for hospital care and standard medical coverage is also required ($5,367) 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 Columbia Health website. The total budget for the nine-month academic year, including tuition, fees, housing, food, books and supplies, and personal expenses is $125,416. 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

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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, 2026, even if they have not yet received an offer of admission. Admitted candidates who submit the required forms after February 15, 2026 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 that are awarded by the Office of Admissions. 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. In addition, 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.

Grants and scholarships awarded by the Law School remain in effect as long as you make satisfactory academic progress toward your degree and maintain good academic and disciplinary standing at the University and Law School.

How to Apply for Financial Aid for 2026-2027

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)
- 2024 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, 2026
- Loans Only—May 15, 2026

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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.

2024 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 2024 returns are not available by February 15, 2026, admitted students should submit complete 2023 returns by February 15 for a preliminary award decision, and complete 2024 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 J.D. graduates who pursue public interest and public service careers by providing them with financial assistance to service the educational debt owed for institutionally approved and certified loan programs 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.

Bridge to Opportunity Scholarship ("BOS")

The Bridge to Opportunity Scholarship supports up to ten students from each entering class with financial need who are the first in their family to graduate from college. Recipients will receive a scholarship that covers the cost of tuition for full-time enrollment for three years (six semesters) at Columbia Law School. In addition to financial support, BOS Scholars will have access to peer mentorship from Columbia First Generation Professionals; academic support; a robust and diverse network of alumni working in the public, private, and non-profit sectors; and individualized financial aid counseling as well as financial literacy training.

To be eligible to receive the BOS award, you must:

1. Identify as a first generation college graduate in accordance with Question 2.5 on the application; and
2. Submit all documents necessary for the need-based financial aid application.

Although not required, you may opt to submit a statement (500 words or less) that discusses the contributions you will make to the Columbia Law community and beyond as a first generation college graduate. Kindly identify your attachment clearly as the Bridge to Opportunity Statement. You must submit all materials to be considered for the Bridge to Opportunity Scholarship at the time you submit your application.

Greene Public Service Scholarship ("Greene Scholarship")/Public Interest Fellowship ("PIF")

Columbia Law School has a long and proud tradition of preparing leaders in the public interest, government, and human rights fields. As part of that tradition, Columbia Law School awards five full-tuition scholarships for three years (six semesters) of full-time study at the Law School to incoming 1L students who are committed to public interest or public service careers.

In order to apply for a Greene Scholarship/PIF, you must answer "yes"

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to Question 8.9 and attach a supplemental statement to your Columbia Law School application. In the statement, kindly address your public interest and/or public service experience and motivations, your career goals and aspirations in the public interest/public service field, and the ways in which a law degree from Columbia would advance those goals. As recipients of the Greene Scholarship/PIF gain automatic admission into the Berger Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program, please also identify what you hope to contribute to the Berger Fellows Program and the broader public interest/public service community at Columbia Law School. Your statement should be no longer than 800 words double spaced and clearly identified as the "Greene Scholarship/PIF Statement." You must submit all materials to be considered for the Greene Scholarship/PIF at the time you submit your application.

Please note that as an applicant for the Greene Scholarship/PIF, if you are admitted to the Law School, your entire application will be made available to the Greene Public Service Scholarship/Public Interest Fellowship Committee. Only applicants who are admitted to the Law School will be actively considered for the Greene Scholarship/PIF.

Academic Scholars Program ("ASP")

The Academic Scholars Program identifies and provides academic and financial support for incoming J.D. candidates with strong potential and ambition to become law professors. Academic support includes mentorship by a member of the faculty and support in entering Ph.D. studies, if that will advance the Scholar's career. In addition to the automatic admission to the Legal Scholarship Practicum and an annual research and conference stipend, Academic Scholars receive a half-tuition grant for all three years (six semesters) of full-time enrollment at the Law School for the J.D. program.

In order to apply for the Academic Scholars Program, you must answer "yes" to Question 8.10 and follow the instructions as outlined on the website.

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, 2026, 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.

Columbia University Non-Discrimination Policy

Columbia University does not discriminate on the basis of age, alienage or citizenship status, color, creed, disability, familial status, gender (sex), gender identity, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran or active military status, or any other protected characteristic as established by law, in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other university administrated programs.

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Biographical

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 _____

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?

_____

_____

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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Additional Biographical

Do you have a federal tribal affiliation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please list the federal tribal affiliation or village name.

_____

_____

Please list your enrollment number (enrolled members only).

_____

Demographics

Citizenship

☐ Non-Resident Alien ☐ US Citizen ☐ US Permanent Resident

Country of citizenship _____

Visa type _____

Visa/SEVIS number _____

Permanent resident number _____

Permanent City _____

Permanent State/Province _____

Permanent Country _____

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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

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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 _____

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 _____

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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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:

_____

_____

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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 5 years. If an applicant takes a GRE examination after the application for admission to Columbia Law School is submitted, they must resend a score report for all GRE examinations taken until a final decision is rendered. Candidates may submit LSAT test scores as the sole basis for consideration, even if they have taken the GRE. Please note that files of applicants who list GRE scores below will not be rendered complete until we receive the official reported scores from ETS. Thus, if you are applying with an LSAT test score (s) and would not like your GRE scores to be considered, please do not list them below. Please include any future LSAT/GRE administrations below or your file may be completed and reviewed without those scores. Space permitting, candidates should include the two most recent and/or future test administrations below. All other valid scores will be included in a candidate's official LSAT/GRE score report.

☐ I will submit all LSAT 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

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Additional Information (continued)

For informational purposes only, kindly answer if you are simultaneously applying for admission to another graduate program at Columbia University or the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs with the intention of pursuing a dual or joint degree; or are you currently enrolled in another graduate program with the intention of pursuing a dual or joint degree? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered "Yes" to Question 8.5 please specify the school and program, as well as your current status at the school (e.g., applicant, admitted student, current student, etc.).

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Do you intend to apply for a need-based financial aid grant? If you answer “Yes,” you must complete the FAFSA and the C.S.S. Profile Application to the College Board. The recommended deadline is February 15, 2026. ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you responded "Yes" to Question 2.5, you may choose to submit a statement (one page or less) that discusses the contributions you will make to the Columbia Law School community and beyond as a first generation college graduate. Please note that this statement is optional and is not required for consideration. I have submitted an optional statement in support of consideration for the Bridge to Opportunity Scholarship. ☐ Yes ☐ No

I have attached a statement to be considered for the Greene Public Service Scholarship/Public Interest Fellowship. ☐ 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

Are you an international student (i.e., non-U.S. citizen and non-Permanent Resident? If you answer "Yes," you must submit a statement that discusses your reasons for wishing to study in the U.S. ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Additional Information (continued)

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 admission decision.

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

Please select your two top areas of interest. The information in this section will not be used for the purpose of determining admission to the Law School. To the extent possible, the information will be used to connect admitted students with members of the community who share similar interest; however, the question is optional.

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Character & Fitness

If you answer "Yes" to questions 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, or 9.6 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 9.1 and/or 9.2, 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. 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, 2026? ☐ 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

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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

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Parent/Guardian 2 (Continued)

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.

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 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 collaborative community.
2. Describe a time when you engaged with someone whose beliefs or experiences differed from your own. What did you learn, and how did it shape your perspective?
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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

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Certification

Please be aware that this application and the materials filed in its 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 Date