

Texas Appleseed Law School Access Program - 2026

Texas Appleseed is committed to increasing access to law school for highly qualified and motivated students who otherwise might not have access to law school admissions resources and information. To this end, Texas Appleseed has partnered with Kaplan LSAT Test Prep to provide free, online LSAT test preparation* to selected program participants. The Texas Appleseed Law School Access Program is open to qualified, aspiring law students who are residents of Texas and are applying to be admitted into law school before or during Fall 2027. As deemed necessary, Texas Appleseed and Kaplan, individually or jointly, reserve the right to alter the program at their discretion.

*Please visit <https://www.kaptest.com/lSAT/courses/lSAT-prep-live-online> to view course details.

REQUIREMENTS: Please read carefully.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY THE DESIGNATED DEADLINE or EMAILED BY 11:59 PM CENTRAL ON THE DESIGNATED DEADLINE DATE.

<u>Application Round</u>	<u>DEADLINE for Applications</u>	<u>LSAT Test Date^{1,2}</u>
Round 1	February 13, 2026	June 2026-August 2026
Round 2	May 7, 2026	September 2026-December 2026
Round 3	September 1, 2026	January 2027 - April 2027

1 Or alternate dates for Sabbath observers.

2 Please note that all dates are approximate until the LSAC lists precise testing dates.

Scholarship recipients must:

- a) Be a Texas resident and apply to take the LSAT on the designated date they have selected that corresponds to their **Application Round**. (Example: Round 3 scholarship recipients must take the LSAT between January 2027 and April 2027.)

To apply, applicants must submit all of the following: Please include your full name on each item submitted.

- 1) Complete the attached application below in full.
- 2) Résumé or CV, including work experience and community service.
- 3) Copy of transcripts from college and any graduate schools from which you have received a degree or are currently enrolled (official preferred, unofficial accepted).

- 4) Financial need documentation: proof of financial aid received at college or most recent tax return.
- 5) One letter of recommendation, preferably one from a professor or employer/supervisor.
- 6) A statement of the applicant's economic need and the impact this financial support will have on the student's capacity to attend law school (max 500 words).
- 7) A personal essay that (1) explains how the applicant has faced or overcome a challenge in their personal, academic, or professional life that has informed the applicant's desire to attend law school and pursue a career in the legal profession, or (2) describes a relationship or experience that has inspired the applicant to apply to law school and pursue a legal career (max 500 words).
- 8) A skills-based essay that addresses a current societal issue that interests the applicant and how the legal community could address the issue (max 750 words).

A panel of Texas Appleseed board members and staff will review applications. The panel's decisions will be final. Applications will be evaluated based on criteria such as academic achievements, academic or professional recommendation, economic need, work experience, community service, and essay strength. Students will be selected for the Program approximately 4 weeks after the application deadline.

Texas Appleseed and Kaplan reserve the right to use the names of scholarship recipients in any advertising or promotional materials relating to this program without further notification, permission, or compensation to the recipients.

**Employees of The Washington Post companies, affiliates, and subsidiaries are ineligible.*

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Please type or print

I. Personal Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____
First Name Last Name Middle I.

How would you like us to address you?: ___ He/Him ___ She/Her ___ They/Them

How did you hear about this program? _____

II. Contact Information

Permanent Address: _____
Street Address Apt. # City State Zip

Where do you prefer to receive your mail? (circle one) Permanent Address OR Current Address

Current Address: _____
Street Address Apt. # City State Zip

As of what date will you be at this address? _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email for future communication: _____

III. Education

Are you currently enrolled in college? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, what year of school are you in? _____

Name of College Currently Attending or Last Attended: _____

Undergraduate GPA: _____ Current OR final total: _____

Other College(s) Attended (*Please provide information on all colleges/universities you have attended. If necessary, you can include a separate page with this information.):

College*	City/State	GPA	Dates Attended

Graduate Institution(s)*, if any

Graduate degree(s) _____ Graduate GPA _____

IV. Statement of Economic Need. Write a statement explaining your economic need and the impact this financial support will have on your capacity to attend law school (max 500 words).

V. Personal Essay Question. Write an essay that (1) explains how you have faced or overcome a challenge in your personal, academic, or professional life that has informed your desire to attend law school and pursue a career in the legal profession, or (2) describe a relationship or experience that has inspired you to apply to law school and pursue a legal career (max 500 words).

VI. Skills-Based Essay. Choose one of the following three essay prompts and write about your thinking on that topic (750 words).

Civil rights law includes a robust discussion of the ways in which the law has historically discriminated against people for certain characteristics like race, ethnicity, sex, and sexual orientation, and the ways in which the law can be used to address that discrimination fairly. Below are three common aspects of these discussions.

These are challenging topics that even the highest-ranking judges have wrestled with. Do not look to outside sources or existing case law to make your argument. Focus on supporting your conclusion, rather than trying to give the “right” answer. As a skills-based question, we are looking at the way you make your argument rather than which position you chose.

1. Equal Opportunity & Hostile Environments

Civil rights discourse and discussion addresses the impacts of discrimination and hostile work environments where a person is regularly treated differently because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, older age, disability, or genetic information, such as family medical history, and how severe and pervasive the treatment must be to necessitate a legal remedy.

How do you think the courts should determine what is severe and pervasive enough to make a “hostile” work or academic environment? Why do you believe this? What do you think is the strongest argument against your own position?

2. Societal vs. Legal Discrimination

Civil rights discussions include distinctions between societal discrimination (e.g., *de facto segregation*) and discrimination that appears in the law itself

(e.g., *de jure segregation*). In other words, some discrimination may happen at a personal level, and other discrimination has been allowed by law.

How, if at all, do you think the courts should address social vs. legal harms? What role should the courts play in society? Why do you think this? What do you think is the strongest argument against your own position?

3. Time & Ongoing Effects of Past Discrimination

Civil rights discussions often include consideration of the effects of past legal discrimination, such as slavery, prohibitions against education and voting, and discriminatory lending and business practices. Some argue that the effects will naturally fade over time as greater access is provided, while others argue that legal interventions must be made to provide equal access to justice.

What do you believe? Why do you believe this? What do you think is the strongest?

Please attach each essay separately and include your full name on each essay.

VII. Please mark the Application Round for which you are applying:

Mark Here	<u>Scholarship Application Round</u>	<u>Deadline for Applications</u>
	Round 1 applicants must apply to take the LSAT between June and August 2026	February 13, 2026
	Round 2 applicants must apply to take the LSAT between September and December 2026	May 7, 2026
	Round 3 applicants must apply to take the LSAT between January and April 2027	September 1, 2026

(The program may be extended to include preparation for other test dates on a case-by-case basis.)

Please read the following and sign below:

I understand that if I am selected for the Texas Appleseed Law School Access Program:

- I must take the LSAT Test within the designated timeline for the application round for which I have applied.
- I must apply to at least one Texas law school for admission in Fall 2027 at the latest.
- I must attend all my scheduled Kaplan LSAT Prep classes and take all diagnostic (practice) LSAT exams.
- If I am selected, I must keep Texas Appleseed informed of my LSAT score and whether I am admitted to and attend law school. I authorize the release of practice scores to Texas Appleseed.

- I will not sign up for any Kaplan LSAT Prep classes in anticipation of being accepted for the scholarship before I am notified of my Texas Appleseed Law School Access Program scholarship status.

I acknowledge that by signing below, I represent that all statements and information provided by me in connection with my application to the Texas Appleseed Law School Access Program are accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. Further, I acknowledge that if I receive a scholarship, it is non-transferable. I will not sign up for any Kaplan LSAT Prep classes, in anticipation of acceptance of the scholarship, prior to notification of my Texas Appleseed Law School Access Program scholarship status.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS IN ONE ENVELOPE or ONE PDF DOCUMENT TO:

Texas Appleseed Law School Access Program
1609 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 201, Austin, TX 78701
talsap@texasappleseed.org

Please do not fax applications.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY THE DESIGNATED DEADLINE or EMAILED BY 11:59 PM CENTRAL ON THE DESIGNATED DEADLINE DATE. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Texas Appleseed and Kaplan are not responsible for lost, misdirected, mutilated, postage-due, and ineligible applications, and they will not be considered. All materials submitted will become the exclusive property of Texas Appleseed and Kaplan and will not be returned.