

PRE-LAW UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM - 2005

Sponsored by the Law School Admission Council

Operated by Villanova University School of Law in collaboration with Lincoln University

Students are invited to participate in the Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program, sponsored by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) and operated by Villanova University School of Law (VLS) in Villanova, Pennsylvania and Lincoln University (Lincoln) in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania. The goals of the PLUS Program, which is funded by the Law School Admission Council, are:

- 1) To provide a legal preparatory program for students who seek admittance into law school.
- 2) To prepare the participating PLUS students for success on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT)
- 3) To provide the participating PLUS students with a curriculum that requires critical thinking, critical reading, problem solving, analytical writing, informational and persuasive speaking.

More specifically, the VLS/Lincoln PLUS program aims to enhance the ability of students of color to think logically, critically analyze challenging reading material, solve problems through creativity and reason, write with precision, engage in precise oral argument, and argue persuasively.

Eligibility: The program is open to students from groups that are underrepresented in the legal profession who have completed either their freshman or sophomore years. Those who have completed their junior year will be admitted if space permits. Ten program spots are reserved for students from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania with preference given to Pennsylvania residents. Six slots are open to Pennsylvania residents and/or members of groups that are underrepresented in the legal profession.

Students must have an interest in pursuing a legal career and a grade point average of 3.0 or above. Preference is also given to students who have come from a disadvantaged background or who have overcome significant odds to achieve.

Stipend: Students will receive a stipend of \$150 per week.

Program Length and Location: The program will run for five weeks, beginning on May 23, 2005 and concluding on June 24, 2005. Classes will be held at the Villanova

University School of Law, and students will reside in dormitories on the Villanova University campus.

Course credit and tuition: Participating students will receive six academic credits (three per course) for successful completion of 1) Legal Problem Solving and Skills Development, and 2) Critical Reasoning. Tuition will be paid by the PLUS program.

Lincoln University will award each participant three credits per class for successful completion. It is the student's responsibility to check with his home institution to determine whether it will accept the academic credit that Lincoln will award.

Core Curriculum: The program curriculum will emphasize the critical, analytical, mathematical, and problem-solving skills necessary to succeed in law school. The centerpiece of the curriculum will consist of two classes:

1) Legal Problem Solving and Skills Development. This course is designed to specifically prepare students for the LSAT. Students will critically read texts, engage in discussions, and participate in regular testing of legal analysis and problem solving skills. Note: this course is not a LSAT prep course as provided by a commercial test preparation company. However, the skills learned during this class should assist students in performing on the LSAT.

2) Critical Reasoning: Students will be taught skills of critical reading, analytical and logical reasoning, and problem solving.

Other academic program components:

1) Writing for Publication – Junior Law Review: Students will participate in an intensive writing seminar class to prepare them to produce a high quality research paper focusing on legal issues. Each student will be required to write at least one research paper for publication in a PLUS program publication called the Junior Law Review. Part of this seminar will focus on Sources of Law/Legal Research.

2) Advocacy and Listening Skills: Students will be taught the skills of oral advocacy by being required to debate current legal issues each week and participate in a final debate or Moot Court program.

3) Time Management and Study Skills: Students will participate in workshops on time management, effective use of study skills, and stress management designed to provide them with the skills to improve their performance in undergraduate courses and put them in the best position for graduate study.

Exposure to the legal profession: Students will be exposed to members of the legal profession through workshops, seminars, lectures, conferences, field trips or law fairs.

Law School Application and Financial Aid Process: Students will participate in workshops providing an overview of the law school admissions and financial aid process.

**2005 PROGRAM APPLICATION:
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW/LINCOLN UNIVERSITY
PRE-LAW UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM (PLUS)
May 23 – June 24, 2005**

Name _____

E-mail address: _____

Mailing Address:
(campus) _____

(home) _____

Phone: (campus) _____ (cell) _____ (home) _____

Year Completed (circle one): Freshmen Sophomore Junior

Major: _____ Grade Point Average: _____

TRANSCRIPT

Please attach an official transcript to your application.

ESSAY

Students who participate in the PLUS program must have an interest in a legal career. Preference will be given to students who have come from a disadvantaged background or who have overcome significant odds to achieve. **Please attach a one-page, typed explanation of why you are interested in a legal career and how your background meets the criteria described in the previous sentence.**

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Please attach two letters of recommendation to this application or have the person who is recommending you send the letter as directed below. Each letter of recommendation should speak to your strengths and/or potential strengths as a critical thinker, writer, speaker, student. The reference should also indicate your interpersonal strengths and desire to become a lawyer.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Please return this application by Friday, April 8, 2005.

Please send all materials to Sheilah Vance, Assistant Dean for Academic Support, Villanova University School of Law, 299 N. Spring Mill Rd., Villanova, PA 19085. If you have questions, please contact Dean Vance at 610-519-7136 or at vance@law.villanova.edu.