About CUNY SLU

◉ ## Mission

The CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU) was established in 2018 with a mission to expand access to higher education for working-class and underrepresented communities. Building on decades of labor education within CUNY, SLU prepares students for careers in public service, labor, and social justice. Through rigorous academic programs and a strong commitment to equity, SLU empowers students to become advocates, leaders, and change agents in their workplaces and communities.

◉ ## People & Partnerships

SLU brings together a diverse community of students, many of them working adults, first-generation college students, and union members, with faculty who are both scholars and practitioners. The school partners with labor unions, community organizations, and public agencies to create meaningful, real-world learning experiences rooted in social change.

What is CSTEP?

- The Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) is a statewide initiative funded by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Its mission is to increase access, retention, and professional opportunities for historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students pursuing careers in STEM fields and licensed professions, including law.

- NYSED distributes CSTEP funding to colleges and universities across New York State through a competitive grant process. Institutions awarded CSTEP grants design and operate programs, like Project LAW at CUNY SLU, that align with the state's goals and provide targeted academic support, professional development, and career exploration opportunities to eligible students.

What is Project LAW

- Project LAW is a CSTEP-funded program at the CUNY SLU.

- Designed for underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students exploring legal careers.

- Helps students assess whether law school and a legal profession are the right fit.

- Offers academic preparation, career exposure, and mentorship.

- Structured in two parts:
  - Part I (Fall/Spring): Non-credit courses in Law Literacy and LSAT Methods.
    - All classes are online
  - Part II (Summer): Free Kaplan LSAT Live Online + Legal Research course (by invitation only)

Project LAW Team

Instructional Team

- Ellen Dichner, Distinguished Lecturer of Labor Studies, CUNY SLU
- Asima Chaudhary, 2L Evening Skills Instructor, CUNY Law School
- Carolyn Nelson, Pipeline to Justice Instructor, CUNY Law School
- Aleka Asamoah, Law Seminar Instructor, CUNY Law School

Administrative Team

- Elizabeth Sergile, Program Director
- Christina Johnson, Associate Director
- Krafins Valcin, Academic Technologist
- Xalya Branch, Events Coordinator
- Przemyslaw Bielawski, Web Designer

That's me!

CONTACT
US
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Project LAW Goals

- Introduce students to foundational legal concepts, reasoning, and the structure of legal education

- Guide students through the process of determining whether law school aligns with their personal, academic, and career goals

- Provide targeted academic and professional support to help students build competitive law school applications

- Strengthen analytical and test-taking skills to improve LSAT outcomes

- Inspire commitment to public interest law and equip students for careers focused on social justice and community advocacy

Basic Eligibility

- New York State Residency
  Must have lived in NYS for at least 12 consecutive months before applying.

- Enrollment Status
  Must be currently enrolled in a NYS-registered undergraduate or graduate degree program.

- Member of an underrepresented group
  - African American, Latino/Hispanic, Native American/Alaska Native
      OR
  - meet NYSED criteria for economic disadvantage.

Economic Eligibility

Applicants must provide proof of economic eligibility with:

- A copy of the applicant's or parent/guardian's most recent IRS 1040 tax return or IRS tax transcript

- A copy of the applicant's Student Aid Report (SAR) from the FAFSA, which must clearly show total household income and household size

ONLY REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS CLAIMING ELIGIBILITY BASED ON INCOME

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income ($)
1	$27,861
2	$37,814
3	$47,767
4	$57,720
5	$67,673
6	$77,626
7	$87,579
8	$97,532
Each additional person	Add $9,953

Documents must reflect the most recent available tax year.

If you are a dependent student, your parent or guardian's information is required. If you are an independent student, your own income and household size may be used.

Other Criteria

We are looking for students who have a realistic path to law school and demonstrate a capability to succeed in law school.

- Academic Standing:
  - Undergraduate students with 60 or more completed credits and current graduate students.
  - GPA of 3.0 or higher

- Strong interest in legal careers focused on social justice, advocacy, and public service.

- Commitment to attend all classes, complete assignments, and engage with peers and instructors throughout the program.

Part I Program Components

1. Law Literacy Course
   - 1.5 Hour Class, 2 hours homework/study, 8 weeks
   - Analyze real labor court cases to learn key legal concepts
   - Learn how to write up case summaries for law school
2. LSAT Methods Course
   - 1.5 Hour Class, 2 hours practice, 8 weeks
   - Get familiar with the LSAT format and key test-taking skills
3. Guest Speakers
   - CUNY Law
   - SUNY Buffalo
4. Tutoring/Supplemental Instruction (Optional)
   - Assistance completing class assignments
   - Help with law school admissions essays
   - Available even after completing the program

Fall or Spring

Part II Program Components

1. Legal Research Course
   - 2 Hour Class, 2-4 hours homework/study, 8 weeks
   - Analyze real labor court cases to learn key legal concepts
   - Learn how to write up case summaries for law school

1. LSAT Applied Practice
   - Kaplan LIVE course, various schedule options
   - Study on your own time with weekly classes & exam practice

summer

ONLY OPEN TO STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE PART 1

Fall 2025 Program Schedule

Week #	Class Dates (Fridays)	Law Literacy	LSAT Methods
1	9/12	Class 1	Class 1
2	9/19	Class 2	No Class
3	9/26	Class 3	Class 2
4	10/3	Class 4	Class 3
5	10/10	Class 5	Class 4
6	10/17	Class 6	Class 5
7	10/24	No Class	No Class
8	10/31	Class 7	Class 6
9	11/7	Class 8	Class 7
10	11/14		Class 8

Classes and guest sessions are online via Zoom. Online tutoring will also be provided, schedule to be announced.

LAW Literacy
Mornings- 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM
Evenings- 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM

LSAT Methods
Mornings- 9 AM to 10: 30 AM
Evenings- 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS
CUNY Law
SUNY Buffalo
Dates to be announced
Aiming for Nov 14

Successful Completion of Part I

- No more than one (1) unexcused absence

- No more than one (1) unexcused missed CSTEP Project LAW assignments

- Active engagement and participation with professors, fellow participants, and guest speakers

- Professors have the ultimate discretion on what is deemed "successful completion" of the CSTEP Project LAW program and will consider situations on a case-by-case basis
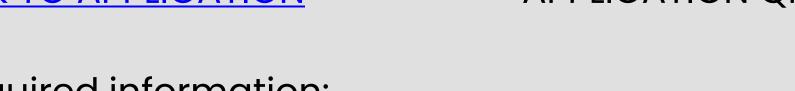
Successful Completion of Part I

- Students who successfully complete Part I will receive:
  - Credly electronic badge
  - Stipend
    - Receiving it is not guaranteed, the amount available depends on the funding amount from NYSED
    - You must submit required payment paperwork to receive the stipend
  - An invitation to participate in Part II of Project LAW for Summer 2026
    - Space is limited
    - Possible not all students who complete Part I will be able to participate in Part II

How to Apply

- [LINK TO APPLICATION](#)
- APPLICATION QR CODE:

- Required information:
  - Eligibility questions
    - Documentation of income and household size needed if eligible based on income
  - Demographic questions
  - Academic information
    - Transcripts required for non-CUNY schools attended (unofficial copy ok)
  - Short answer questions
    - Describe your interest in studying law
    - Why do you believe you are a strong candidate for Project LAW?

- Deadline for Fall 2025 is August 24

Application Review and Enrollment

- Review Period: August 25–28, 2025

- Rolling Review: Applications will be reviewed in the order received

- Admission: Students who are accepted will receive an email invitation to register

- Registration Deadline: Registration will close as soon as all spots are filled

- If you are accepted, but registration is filled, you will be offered priority enrollment for Spring 2026