The University of Kansas School of Law offers a weeklong summer program for diverse students entering their freshman or sophomore year of college.

The mission? To support, mentor, and encourage students to attend law school and pursue legal opportunities in the region.

Studies show that fewer black and Latino students graduate from high school and college and are underrepresented in the legal profession. The number of women entering law schools runs consistently below 50 percent of the class.

This program invites applications from any student interested in a legal profession. Our intent is to support a diverse student body at KU Law by identifying promising students from a variety of backgrounds not commonly represented in the practice of law. Our goal is that these students, after experiencing the program and being paired with a mentor to help navigate the path through higher education, will eventually pursue a legal career.

Possible topics and activities include: criminal law, business law, contract negotiations, civil rights law, intellectual property, mock trial participation, and interaction with students and legal professionals.
The Journey to J.D. program...

- encourages students to pursue a law degree, and explores tools to succeed in law school.
- gives students a basic understanding of the legal system.
- allows undergraduate students to learn from current law students.
- provides opportunities to meet alumni from all fields of law, including attorneys, judges and business leaders.
- teaches interviewing skills.
- enables students to experience law school and meet peers from across the region.

For parents

Private support covers the cost of attendance for students admitted to the program, including tuition and food during class times. Students will be supervised by law students at all times. They will learn in a structured, small-class environment with a focus on the academic to professional spectrum.

How to apply

Students entering their freshman or sophomore year of college are eligible. Download application materials at law.ku.edu/journeytojd. In addition to a completed application form, students must supply:

- an essay explaining their interest in participating in the program.
- a personal statement.
- a list of accomplishments.
- a signed consent/release of liability form.
- high school and college transcripts.
- one letter of recommendation from a nonfamily member.

Applications and all supporting documents are due by March 31, 2013.

Students selected for the program must pay a nonrefundable $50 deposit to reserve their spot. Students may request a fee waiver if this presents a financial hardship. Contact Arturo Thompson at arturo@ku.edu with the subject line “J2JD fee waiver.”

Questions?

Contact Arturo Thompson at arturo@ku.edu or (785) 864-9257.

Find more information online at law.ku.edu/journeytojd