

THE VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL
LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LRAP)
2025 - 2026

Program Description

The Vanderbilt University Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program assists graduates who practice law in the public interest to repay student loan debt incurred while in law school. The accumulation of education loan debt may affect career choices for Vanderbilt law graduates since public interest positions may pay lower salaries. The goal of the program is to assist Vanderbilt students in making career choices without regard to educational debt and to increase the likelihood that graduates will be able to work in their jobs of choice while repaying loans. In addition to the repayment program, Vanderbilt uses its scholarship program to reduce the educational debt of many students. Many graduates who choose to work at public interest organizations will enter the profession with a lighter debt burden as a result of grants awarded during law school. The LRAP is subject to annual review and modification. Vanderbilt Law School reserves the right to make changes to the terms and funding of the program at any time. The benefits and eligibility described below are in effect from July 2025 to July 2026.

Eligibility

Students who have outstanding educational loans incurred while enrolled at Vanderbilt Law School, and who are engaged in full-time public interest work are eligible to participate in the program. Public interest work includes employment in the public sector and in non-profit organizations that represent persons or organizations that could not otherwise obtain legal services. Eligible recipients must be using their legal skills in a position that requires passage of a bar examination. Graduates engaged in private practice or pursuing judicial clerkships are NOT eligible. To be eligible for the Vanderbilt LRAP, graduates must participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program with William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans or other loans consolidated into a Direct Loan, participate in the Income-Based Loan Repayment Program yielding the lowest monthly payment, and must have filed their taxes in the final year of law school. Participants will be eligible to participate in the LRAP program for a maximum of ten years. Documentation to determine eligibility will be required annually. Each applicant must supply information on the nature of employment, annual salary, annual loan debt, and any other financial information required by the Law School. Eligibility will be determined by income. A graduate's spousal income and number of dependents will be considered. Net worth and assets will not be factors unless Vanderbilt receives more applicants than can be served by available funds. The Dean may then consider net worth and assets in choosing among applicants.

Benefits

Effective for the Class of 2024 onwards, subject to funding availability, students earning less than \$70,000 will have 100% of their loan payment covered by Vanderbilt Law School. In addition to this increase described above, VLS is working diligently to continue expanding the LRAP benefit available to Public Interest graduates.

For previous graduating classes the previous LRAP program, described below, will remain in effect:

Graduate Income	Percentage of Loan Payments Covered
\$70,000 or above	Ineligible
\$65,000-\$69,999	25%
\$60,000-\$64,999	33%
Below \$59,999	50%

Application Process

To apply, please email Felicia Vaden at Felicia.Vaden@vanderbilt.edu to request an application.

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