INCREASING REPRESENTATION
IN LAW SCHOOL THROUGH
PIPELINE PROGRAMS

Presented by:
Kelsey Risman and Sherrie Godette, PhD

AccessLex Summer Webinar Series
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INTRODUCTIONS

Kelsey Risman
Senior Evaluation Methodologist
AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence®
INTRODUCTIONS

Sherrie Godette, PhD
Senior Research Analyst
AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence®
AGENDA

- Definition of and basis for pipeline programs
- Legal education pipeline programs
- Introduction to LexScholars
- Preliminary findings
ON PIPELINE PROGRAMS
A pipeline program provides individuals from historically underrepresented groups with information and resources premised on aiding their successful matriculation into education spaces or professions.
U.S. Population in 2020

Legal Profession in 2020

- White
- Black
- Hispanic
- Asian
- Other

REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION
THEORETICAL BASIS OF PIPELINE PROGRAMS

Social Epidemiology

↓ inequality = ↑ health
↓ inequality = ↓ social problems

THEORETICAL BASIS OF PIPELINE PROGRAMS

Critical Race Theory

Colorblindness

Neutrality

LEGAL EDUCATION
PIPELINE PROGRAM DESIGN
MOST COMMON FEATURES OF LEGAL EDUCATION PIPELINE PROGRAMS

MOST PARTICIPANTS ARE:

- Economically disadvantaged
- Rising college juniors
- Concentrated in large cities

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

- Mentoring and coursework most common
- Limited LSAT prep and admission support

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Target Population
- Some vs. All
- Selecting the “some”

Program Components
- Reflect goals of the program

Duration and Intensity
OUR EXAMPLE: LEXSCHOLARS
LexScholars is open to **aspiring lawyers who demonstrate potential for law school success but are unlikely to gain admission** due to unfavorable standardized test scores.

Participants in the program must belong to an underrepresented racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group, and must not exceed maximum percentiles in standardized test score outcomes.
LEXSCHOLARS: DESIGN

Admission Counseling Group (n=52)
LSAT Prep Only Group (n=162)
Observation Group (n=45)

First-come, first-served selection and group assignment
Random selection for incentive eligibility

Application opened March 15; programming started July 1
LEXSCHOLARS: PARTICIPANTS

95% of all participants demonstrated ≥2 eligibility factors:

- Favorable test scores (<25th percentile on the LSAT or <50th percentile on the SAT, ACT, GRE, or GMAT)
- Member of an underrepresented racial/ethnic group (i.e., Native American, Black, or Hispanic)
- Economically disadvantaged (defined as having received a Pell Grant)
- Favorable UGPA (2.5/4.0)
- First-generation college graduate
LEXSCHOLARS: DATA COLLECTION

- Applicant background
- Continuous data collection (monthly survey)
- Admission counseling task completion
- Kaplan test prep attendance and engagement
LEXSCHOLARS: PARTICIPANTS

Race/Ethnicity of LexScholars (2020)

- Black
- Hispanic
- White
- Other
LEXSCHOLARS: PARTICIPANTS

Gender of LexScholars (2020)

- Male
- Female
- Other
LEXSCHOLARS: PARTICIPANTS

SES Status of LexScholars (2020)

- Economically Disadvantaged
- Not Economically Disadvantaged
LEXSCHOLARS: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

% of Participants Who Submitted ≥1 Law School Application

- LSAT Prep Group: 30.25%
- Admission Counseling Group: 42.31%
- Observation Group: 17.78%
LEXSCHOLARS: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Count of Applications Submitted Early by Participant Group

By 12/31/2020 | After 12/31/2020
---|---
LP Group | 189 | 92
AC Group | 51 | 91
Observation Group | 29 | 23
LEXSCHOLARS: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Count of Applications Submitted Early by Incentive Status

- **Incentive-Eligible**
  - By 12/31/2020: 94
  - After 12/31/2020: 110

- **Not Incentive-Eligible**
  - By 12/31/2020: 89
  - After 12/31/2020: 130
LEXSCHOLARS: **PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

**Avg. Change in LSAT Score**

![Graph showing changes in LSAT scores for different groups.]

- **LP Group**
- **AC Group**
- **Observation Group**
## LEXSCHOLARS: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of LexScholars participants attending most, some, or little of the LSAT prep course</th>
<th>LP Group</th>
<th>AC Group</th>
<th>Incentive-Eligible</th>
<th>Not Incentive-Eligible</th>
<th>All Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 8 hours of LSAT prep course</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 to 24 hours of LSAT prep course</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 to 32 hours of LSAT prep course</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEXSCHOLARS: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Median Number of Admission Counseling Tasks Completed

- Not Incentive-Eligible: 13
- Incentive-Eligible: 18

Group Median (15)
LEXSCHOLARS: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

% of Participants Admitted to ≥1 Law School

- LSAT Prep Group: 12.5%
- Admission Counseling Group: 16.7%
- Observation Group: 9.3%
**LEXSCHOLARS: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

Number of Participants with Admission and Scholarship Offers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Offered a Scholarship</th>
<th>Not Offered a Scholarship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LP Group</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC Group</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation Group</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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LEXSCHOLARS: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Number of Scholarships Awarded by Amount and Treatment Group

- $80,000 - $99,999: 3
- $50,000 - $69,999: 10
- $40,000 - $59,999: 3
- $20,000 - $39,999: 8
- <20,000: 3
- $100,000 - $119,999: 1
- Over $120,000: 1

LP: Light Purple
AC: Dark Purple
Observation: Grey
Percent Participants with ≥1 Law School Admission Offer by Engagement Measures

Kaplan Class Attendance Engagement Level (n=214):
- High: 16%
- Med.: 9%
- Low: 6%

Admissions Counseling Tasks Engagement Level (n=52):
- High: 22%
- Med.: 0%
- Low: 0%
LEXSCHOLARS: EMERGING TAKEAWAYS

- Participation in LexScholars meaningfully impacted admission behaviors and outcomes.
- When we give more, they give more.
- Admission counseling is key.
- Program engagement matters.
LEXSCHOLARS: CHANGES FOR YEAR TWO

✔ Pre/Post-Intervention Assessment
✔ Applicants evaluated on traits associated with lawyering effectiveness (Schultz & Zedeck, 2008)
✔ Admission Counseling Group expanded to 75 participants
✔ Increased social engagement with other LexScholars
✔ Curated content via social media
✔ Strategic engager
THANK YOU!

Please visit AccessLex.org
Email Kelsey at krisman@accesslex.org