

The background of the cover is a photograph of the U.S. Capitol dome in Washington, D.C., taken at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue. The dome is white with a dark statue on top. In the foreground, there is a green lawn and a body of water reflecting the sky. The image is overlaid with large, semi-transparent geometric shapes: a dark blue triangle on the left, a light blue triangle at the top, and a teal triangle on the right.

Annual Report 2024

The logo consists of a stylized white 'A' shape, which is a triangle with a smaller triangle inside it, pointing downwards.

AccessLex
INSTITUTE®



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A Letter from the CEO and Board Chair

It has been said that *time waits for no person*, so presumably, one should not delay pursuing their hopes and dreams, lest the last grain of sand fall through the hourglass.

However, applying this mindset to an organization, particularly one like AccessLex Institute® – a charitable organization which is financially positioned and operationally structured to, quite literally, pursue its mission in perpetuity – poses challenges. Included among these are the pitfalls of organizational complacency, lack of strategic discipline, and inattention to outcomes.

Luckily for AccessLex beneficiaries and stakeholders, our Board of Directors and Management team are keenly attuned to these risks and work actively to evolve to the needs of today and tomorrow, while resisting the temptation to devote inordinate attention to any shiny object that may appear on our radar. This time-tested approach has generated measurable success for our charitable beneficiaries over the past four decades – and we are confident it will continue to do so.

But you don't have to take our word for it! **The pages that follow describe many of our exciting programs, products, and services that we offer to our Member Law Schools to support their students, faculty, and administrators in advancing access, affordability, and value in the legal education arena.** Through our grant programs that have provided more than \$25.8 million dollars for research, our leadership in federal policy debates, our innovative diversity pathway programs and more, AccessLex provides something for everyone across legal education, from admission to law school to admission to the bar.

Speaking of the bar exam, we would be remiss without highlighting our programming to help law graduates prepare and pass the bar exam on the first try – Helix Bar Review. In 2019, we announced that we would be entering this space to disrupt the marketplace with respect to price and quality. We stated further that, not only would our product be better in terms of content, quality, and pricing to graduates, **our presence and commitment would cause the commercial providers to “materially up their game and lower their prices.”**

And we are proud to say that we were correct. The fact that Helix Bar Review has demonstrated leading first-time pass rates over multiple years of exams, coupled with positive user experience and our industry leading low price, has led the major for-profit players to materially reduce their pricing and improve their offerings (often by emulating innovations that we introduced), benefiting all law school graduates sitting for a bar exam. As a nonprofit organization which strives to empower the next generation of lawyers, that is a return on investment that really means something.

We are also very excited about the future of AccessLex Institute. Over the past decade, we have focused on building our capacity, while designing, developing, and introducing myriad programs, products, and services. Looking forward, we expect to build on that foundation by applying our substantial financial, operational, reputational, and intellectual capital to address some of the larger issues facing legal education. The way that this will manifest itself is in the development stage, but the direction is not in doubt. We are in this for the long run.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in support of AccessLex Institute and its mission.



CHRISTOPHER P.
CHAPMAN

President and Chief
Executive Officer
AccessLex Institute



ROBERT K.
RASMUSSEN

Chair, Board of Directors
AccessLex Institute

AccessLex Supports...

As policies, legislative priorities, and judicial decisions shift the financial and social landscape of legal education, sustained and informed advocacy is a growing responsibility to ensure that access and opportunity is within reach for all.

This trend has continued in 2024, making the need for the scholars, researchers, financial professionals, education specialists, and policy experts in AccessLex Institute's Center for Legal Education Excellence® and Center for Education and Financial Capability® all the more apparent.

By informing our stakeholders about impactful decisions, providing vocal and empirical support for improvements to legal education, and demonstrating methods of influencing decision makers, **the AccessLex team works tirelessly to steward legal and higher education for the future.**



Legislation and Advocacy

Following the Supreme Court's ruling on the ***Students for Fair Admissions* (SFFA)** cases to prohibit race-based admissions practices and AccessLex Institute's **public dissent statement** last year, we provided law schools with an online **resource guide** and conducted **promising new research** on how using undergraduate GPA growth as an admission factor can contribute to diversity in the classroom and ultimately in the legal profession.

Through frequent updates and communications, we kept student loan borrowers informed on the uncertain fate of the **Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE)** plan, an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan aimed at **lowering monthly payments and overall loan balances** for most student loan borrowers.

We expressed our strong support and reasoning in favor of the **Student Loan Interest Cap Act**, which would establish a three percent cap on federal student loan interest rates, meaningfully lower costs for students, and improve higher education affordability. We also fought against legislation that would limit access to IDR and **Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)** plans by appealing directly to Congressional committee members and sharing our expertise.

Highlighting the **importance of affordable child care for graduate and professional student-parents and caregivers**, we created a powerful infographic, relaying research that indicates expanding investment in child care is critical to maintaining affordability and retention for student-parents and caregivers.

Through videos, fact sheets, blog posts, and larger sustained **movements like the #MakeTheCase advocacy campaign**, alongside tools that promote financial understanding and readiness like our **Student Loan Calculator** and free financial coaching, we work to educate and empower others to pursue their goals and support the issues they care about.



Here's What's Next: *NextGen*

The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) NextGen bar exam is on the horizon, and AccessLex is at the forefront of preparing law schools and students for the 2026 transition. Over 20 jurisdictions have already committed to using the NextGen bar exam, and the 2026-28 transition window will bring with it change, reform, and opportunity for growth and learning.



When we embarked on the development of Helix Bar Review in 2019, we had a clear goal: to materially **reduce the cost of bar preparation** and offer students a best-in-class bar review resource at a no-profit price. This was an urgent mission, considering the tens of thousands of aspiring lawyers taking the bar every year, at an aggregate cost in the tens of millions. Today, we are realizing our vision with the price of bar preparation courses dramatically reduced since our entry into the market, providing savings equal to hundreds of dollars, and in many cases, more than a thousand dollars per student. But beyond cost, we are also seeing a shift in bar prep pedagogy, with commercial providers now adopting the leading-edge instructional design principles we pioneered with Helix.

The NextGen bar exam provides a rare opportunity to level the playing field even more. Helix has clearly and consistently demonstrated its pedagogical, operational, and experiential superiority of the five bar exam administrations and will continue to do so during the transition to the NextGen exam. The legacy providers' claims to some historical insight or other undefined inchoate advantage that is used to justify prices far beyond the actual cost to deliver a bar review course is becoming less and less relevant and should disappear as the NextGen exam takes hold. And we have no doubt that Helix NextGen will continue as the best course at the best price. Related to the NextGen exam, in January of this year, the National Conference of Bar Examiners and AccessLex Institute announced that **AccessLex had been selected to assist in the creation of new "integrated question sets" and multiple-choice questions in the NextGen bar exam style** for use by NCBE-licensees and individual purchasers as study aids.

Building Bar Skills Initiative

Further supporting law schools in developing new curricula and programming for the NextGen bar exam is AccessLex Institute's Building Bar Skills Initiative. Spearheaded by the AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence, the Initiative is **devoted to researching and investing in the future of bar preparation through engagement and partnership with AccessLex Member Law Schools**. As the NextGen exam introduces the use of foundational legal skills as a means of assessing competence for practice, academic success professionals and faculty must emphasize skills training in tandem with doctrinal coursework to prepare students for the bar exam and beyond. AccessLex hosted its inaugural Building Bar Skills Conference this April in Philadelphia, attended by 180 law school Deans and academic and bar success professionals. The Conference created a forum to introduce the AccessLex Building Bar Skills Modules and for law school professionals to discuss the NextGen bar exam.

The Bar Skills Modules are a series of easily adapted Modules, aligned with bar-tested doctrinal subjects. The Bar Skills Modules are developed by teams of academic success professionals and doctrinal faculty working to create curriculum that introduces law students to the skills tested on the NextGen bar exam through formative assessments and exercises. The Modules are then provided free of charge to faculty and administrators. To date, the Modules have been downloaded by over 400 law school faculty and instructional staff.

The second cohort of Module Building Teams has been selected and launched its work to expand the content areas covered:



Matthew Marin and Brad Charles, Cooley Law School – **Contracts/Sales**

Katie Jones and Laura Mott, Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law – **Contracts/Sales**

Jeffrey Minneti and Paul Holland, Seattle University School of Law – **Evidence**

Nicholas Seger and Katherine Armstrong, University of Dayton School of Law – **Business Associations**

Chris Engle-Newman and Karen Steinhauer, University of Denver Sturm College of Law – **Evidence**

Laura Webb and Chris Cotropia, University of Richmond School of Law – **Property**

Liz Johnson and Tanya Marsh, Wake Forest University School of Law – **Property**

AccessLex has also welcomed back three authors from the first cohort of Module Building Teams to advise the newest cohort of Module authors while collaborating on the first multi-subject Module designed for use in upper-level courses skills courses.

Kelly Curtis, Syracuse University College of Law

Melissa Kidder, Ohio Northern University College of Law

Antonia Miceli, Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law



AccessLex *Discovers...*

“Our mission is to improve access, increase affordability, and enhance the value of legal education. Our research serves our mission.”



AccessLex Legal Education Data Deck

AccessLex prepares the Legal Education Data Deck for the use of the legal education community, policymakers, and others interested in the latest law student **trends organized around our three driving principles: access, affordability, and value**. The Data Deck is a living document that is updated periodically. Highlights from the most recent edition include:

- The **proportion of recent J.D. graduates obtaining bar-passage required employment increased** by one percentage point for the class of 2023, reaching a new peak of 80%.
- The **real median salary for lawyers in private practice increased** by \$6,000, to a peak of \$165,000, from 2022 to 2023.
- Although the nominal salaries for overall, bar-passage required, and non-professional employment increased for the class of 2023 compared to the class of 2022, these **gains have not kept pace with the rate of inflation**.
- Over **one-third of law students surveyed in 2020 were not aware of income-driven student loan repayment plans** and nearly one-fifth were not aware of student loan forgiveness programs.
- **Students of color received 23% of full-tuition scholarships despite representing 32% of the law school population** in 2023.
- Black and Hispanic law students were also more likely than White law students to **receive aid packages that did not include grants in 2020** (53% and 46% compared to 20%, respectively).

An Approach to Monitoring and Assessing Online/Hybrid J.D. programs

AccessLex commissioned RTI International, a nonprofit research institute, to conduct a formative evaluation of a hybrid J.D. program at one of its Member institutions. From this work, RTI developed a guide providing a framework for conducting a similar **evaluative study of online or hybrid J.D. programs** at other institutions. This primer in evaluation provides step-by-step guidance on:

- Setting **evaluation goals** and determining the appropriate evaluation type;
- Developing **research questions**;
- Identifying **data elements** and related **data sources**;
- Aligning **research questions** to data elements and sources;
- Collecting and **analyzing data**; and
- Interpreting and disseminating the **findings** of the evaluation.



Measuring “Up”: The Promise of Undergraduate GPA Growth in Law School Admissions

AccessLex used data collected through the Bar Exam Success Analyses Initiative to examine **the extent to which a student’s undergraduate GPA growth (the change in their GPA from their first year to graduation) predicts their first-year law school GPA and attrition** and how such a measure could be integrated into a school’s admissions processes. Findings indicate that:

- Undergraduate GPA growth predicts crucial early law school outcomes similarly to highest LSAT score and cumulative (final) undergraduate GPA while **introducing fewer racial and ethnic inequities**.
- Integrating undergraduate GPA growth into an index that also includes LSAT score and final undergraduate GPA **may yield more racially diverse classes**.
- Undergraduate GPA growth might be a viable admissions metric, **when used in conjunction with the other factors law schools use** to make these decisions.

“If You’re On Time, You’re Late”: Law School Application Timing Among Historically Underrepresented Applicants

This mixed-methods study draws data from two cohorts of LexPreLaw – a legal education pathway program created by AccessLex as part of the LexScholars initiative – to **explore the relationship between application timing and law school admission outcomes**. Findings indicate that:

- **Applicants who apply early** (before February 1) to law schools **are more likely to receive an offer of admission** than those who apply closer to final deadlines.
- **LSAT timing is a key factor** influencing application timing.
- Applicants who were **incentivized or coached to apply early** were more likely to do so.
- Having prior experience in the application process and **having higher overall knowledge of the application process did not predict application timing**.

These findings underscore the importance of both knowing and executing an effective law school application strategy, such as submitting applications well before published deadlines, to increase one’s likelihood of law school admission. This is particularly important for historically marginalized applicants and those with relatively low standardized test scores. **Also emphasized is the importance of targeted interventions** that support applicants from underrepresented communities, those with relatively low standardized exam scores, and applicants who have not been admitted in prior application attempts.



Predicting Bar Success: The Mediating Effects of Law School GPA

In this study, AccessLex examined the **relationship between LSAT scores, undergraduate GPA (UGPA), and first-time bar passage rates**. It uses statistical mediation to determine whether LSAT scores and UGPA can predict bar passage or if other factors during law school play a more significant role. Findings indicate that:

- LSAT scores and UGPA predict **less variation in first-time bar passage than previously thought**.
- **1L LGPA explains 70-80% of all the statistical relationships** between first-time bar passage, final UGPA, and LSAT score.
- When 1L LGPA is accounted for, the **direct effect of preadmission factors on first-time bar passage is marginal**.

These results emphasize that **bar passage odds are not preordained at admission** but can change and improve throughout law school. They also highlight the importance of adopting pedagogy and interventions that support students’ sustained academic progress in law school to improve their odds of bar success.

Student Debt, COVID-19 Relief, and Loan Forgiveness: Perspectives from Today's Young Lawyers

AccessLex, in partnership with the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, released the third Student Loan Survey Report. The 2024 survey examines the **impact of student loan debt on early-career attorneys** and provides new **insights on the COVID-19 repayment pause, young lawyers' plans in the event of loan forgiveness, and work-life balance**. It also highlights differences in borrowing and debt effects based on respondent characteristics, such as first-generation college status. Findings indicate that:

- Roughly a quarter of respondents have a **higher student loan balance now than at graduation**, mainly due to income-driven repayment plans where payments don't cover the principal.
- Most borrowers report **debt altered their career plans**, and many report that they have delayed or forgone life plans like marriage and children. Over half reported that they couldn't reach savings, investment, and retirement goals. Few borrowers reported that they understood how loans would impact their careers or personal lives.
- **Financial stress is prevalent**, especially among those with higher debt balances.
- The COVID-19 student loan repayment pause provided broadscale financial relief to young lawyers. **Most cited using extra money for essential expenses or to pay down other debts** during the pause. Few used the relief to reduce their principal loan balance.
- If some or all student loans were forgiven, **many would grow their savings or contribute to retirement accounts**.
- **Young lawyers often sacrifice exercise, self-care, and leisure activities** to advance their careers, with financial constraints and limited time affecting work-life balance.



To help young lawyers overcome challenges to physical, emotional, and financial well-being, the report suggests:

- **Enhancing student loan counseling and financial education** in law schools.
- **Educating pre-law students and advisors about the legal job market**, salary expectations, and student loan repayment realities.
- **Ensuring the availability of income-driven repayment plans** for affordable loan repayment.
- **Supporting law students and alumni** in developing sustainable wellness routines as high-achieving legal professionals.



AccessLex Grants...

AccessLex currently administers five active grant programs: **Bar Success (Intervention and Research strands)**, **Directed**, **Diversity Pathway Intervention**, **Barriers and Interventions**, and **Admission Innovation Project**.

Total amount of grant funding for 2024: **\$3,335,433.00**

GRANT	PURPOSE	TYPE	DATE AWARDED	AMOUNT
American Bar Foundation	Emerging Scholars Fellowship Program in Legal and Higher Education / Mark Suchman and Jothie Rajah	Directed	January 2024	\$661,293.00
National Center for State Courts	Committee on Legal Education and Admissions Reform (CLEAR)	Directed	January 2024	\$300,000.00
Hampton University	2023 Bar Success Research Grant Program / Attorney Damien Bevelle	Bar Success Research	February 2024	\$260,621.00
Saint Louis University	Fall 2023 MBE Strategies Course	Barriers and Interventions	February 2024	\$29,295.00
Florida Atlantic University	Florida Atlantic University Pre-Law University Services (PLUS) Expansion [PLUS-Expansion]	Diversity Pathway Intervention	March 2024	\$281,211.00
Saint Louis University School of Law	SLU LAW First-Generation First-Year Law Student Program Evaluation	PLEDGE Fellowship	March 2024	\$25,000.00
Albany Law School	Albany Law "Bar Success" Program	Barriers and Interventions	March 2024	\$25,000.00
Wayne State University Law School	PLEDGE Fellowship	PLEDGE Fellowship	April 2024	\$25,000.00
City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law	CUNY Law Pipeline to Justice Program	Directed	June 2024	\$549,868.00
University of San Diego School of Law	University of San Diego Bar Exam Study Stipend Program	Directed	August 2024	\$100,000.00
New York Law School	Empirical Study of Use of Students' Prior Knowledge and Experience in Law School Teaching and Learning	Directed	October 2024	\$508,145.00
Association of Law School Diversity Professionals	Association of Law School Diversity Professionals	Directed	November 2024	\$270,000.00
The Law College Association of the University of Arizona (LCA) on behalf of the James E. Rogers College of Law	Expanding Bar Admission Pathways to Fill Access to Justice Gaps in Arizona	Bar Success Research	November 2024	\$300,000.00

Total: \$3,335,433.00

In total, AccessLex made grants in the amount of **\$3.3 million** in 2024 and has awarded over **\$26.4 million since 2014**, including 32 Diversity Pathway Intervention grants totaling \$8,582,956 million, 14 Bar Success Research/Intervention grants totaling \$6,233,511 million, 35 Fellowship Program grants totaling \$2,413,922, and 91 grants in other topic areas totaling \$4,183,357. AccessLex also awarded \$5 million in emergency grants to our nearly 200 Member Law Schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

New this year, we are pleased to introduce the **Admission Innovation Project (AIP)**. This program supports and funds efforts by law schools to implement and assess **novel approaches to selecting first-year students**. In light of the *Students for Fair Admissions* decision, there is redoubled urgency for empirical research into both the barriers and catalysts of legal education accessibility for historically underrepresented populations. Through the AIP, law schools will collaborate with AccessLex researchers to design rigorous studies on the impact of admission frameworks that **deemphasize the role of standardized tests**.

PLEDGE Fellowship

W S AASE Faculty Scholars Program

Now in its third year, the **Professionals in Legal Education Developing Greater Equity (PLEDGE) Initiative** was created through a partnership between AccessLex Institute and the Southern Education Foundation. The Initiative was established to **increase knowledge and skills related to using empirical research methods** to design, administer, and assess student success programs. Geared toward law school administrators, faculty members, and other similarly experienced professionals, PLEDGE consists of the following two components:

The **PLEDGE Bootcamp**, a **two-day in-person training session focused on building knowledge and skills** related to conducting rigorous program evaluations, takes place each spring. Bootcamp participants attend the training as part of two-person teams from the same institution. Nine institutions and organizations were represented among the 18 participants this year.

The **PLEDGE Fellowship** is a **professional development program** and program-based research project. During its 14-month cycle, two-person teams of Fellows complete a Capstone – an empirical evaluation of a student success initiative they run focused on admission and access, academic performance, or bar exam performance. AccessLex provides each team with funding and support for their Capstone research and a stipend for their participation.

AccessLex Institute and the Association of Academic Support Educators (AASE) partnered in 2021 to create the AccessLex | AASE Faculty Scholarship Grant to **support scholarship and professional development of academic support educators**. The Scholarship Grant has benefitted 20 Scholars to date, providing financial support and research mentorship to academic support educators as they pursue the **development and publication of an academic support-related research article**.

Scholars participate in an approximately one-year fellowship program, which includes two mentors for each Scholar to assist in completing a draft of an article. Research is presented at the AASE Annual Conference, representing the culmination of the program.

2024-25 PLEDGE Fellows

American University Washington College of Law/Georgetown University Law Center

- Camille Thompson
- Charisma X. Howell

Loyola University Maryland

- Matt Beverlin
- Douglas Harris

Cooley Law School

- Lesley Cremeans
- Tonya Krause-Phelan

2024 AccessLex | AASE Faculty Scholarship Grant Recipients

- **Allesan Armstrong**, University of Akron School of Law
- **Katie Armstrong**, University of Dayton School of Law
- **Jennifer Ciarimboli**, Suffolk School of Law
- **Asima Chaudhary**, CUNY School of Law
- **Elissa Crowder**, South Texas College of Law Houston

LexScholars

by AccessLex®

Five years ago, AccessLex Institute launched LexScholars by AccessLex® to provide **tools and support to aspiring lawyers from underrepresented racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds**. LexScholars is now a pillar in AccessLex Institute's mission to increase diversity in law schools. The two programs that make up LexScholars – LexPreLaw and LexPostBacc – exist to identify and support talented aspiring law students who might otherwise be unlikely to gain admission.

LexPreLaw helps aspiring law students increase their chances of law school admission by providing **instructor-led LSAT prep, admission counseling, financial assistance, and engagement opportunities**. LexPreLaw has produced consistent, successful outcomes. In spring 2024, the first cohort of LexPreLaw participants graduated from law school – a significant milestone for the program. At the same time, almost 200 new participants were beginning their own LexPreLaw journey.

LexPostBacc is our **deferred admission program that provides aspiring law students with valuable exposure** to the subject matter, critical skills, and academic rigors of law school. LexPostBacc Scholars are referred to the program by partnering law schools. Those who successfully complete the 10-month curriculum are granted admission and a scholarship to the law school that referred them. Across two cycles, more than 100 Scholars have enrolled in law school through the program.

In total, about **250 LexScholars alumni have gained law school admission**, including **Aaliyah Pichon**, a 2023-24 LexPreLaw participant who was recently selected for the prestigious Marshall-Motley Scholars Program, and **Cody Canegan**, a 2022-23 LexPostBacc Scholar whose law school performance earned him membership on the Northern Illinois University Law Review.

AccessLex Institute remains **committed to enhancing diversity in legal education by recognizing and supporting overlooked talent through programs like LexScholars**.



“The structure of the LexPreLaw program provided me with checkpoints to promote progress in my law school journey, while simultaneously allowing me to reflect on the progress I was making in the law school admissions process, which I found very reassuring and motivating. LexPreLaw also helped me overcome significant financial barriers in the law school admissions process, LSAT prep and admissions fees. I strongly believe that the resources provided to me as a LexPreLaw Scholar allowed me to be a stronger law school applicant.”

AALIYAH PICHON, '27
LexPreLaw Participant and Marshall-Motley Scholar
George Washington University School of Law

“Through LexPostBacc, I learned how to apply the law in an effective and efficient way. When I got to law school and was tested on different legal concepts via hypotheticals, cold calls, and exams, I felt prepared and could articulate myself in a well-thought-out manner.”

CODY CANEGAN, '26
LexPostBacc Scholar and Law Review Member
Northern Illinois University College of Law



“LexPreLaw by AccessLex® provided an abundance of resources for the optimal chance of getting into law school. From LSAT prep to reviewing resumes, personal statements, and the overall law school application process, LexPreLaw really succeeded in being an asset in my law school journey. With the help of LexPreLaw, I got accepted into my dream law school. Aspiring law students should not pass up an opportunity to work with LexPreLaw by AccessLex.”

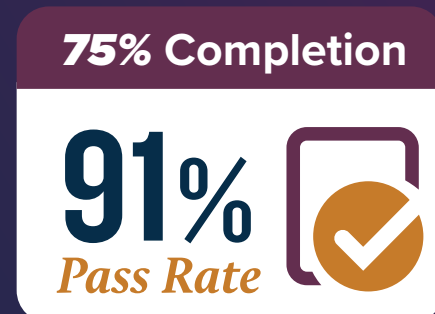
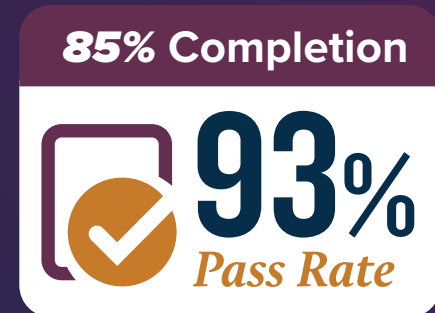
GRACE LEE, '27
LexPreLaw Participant
Texas Tech University School of Law



Standing Tall

Helix Bar Review has established itself as a **change maker in the bar prep landscape**, positively impacting the market as a whole and, most importantly, student outcomes. Helix comprehensive courses – Helix UBE, Helix California, Helix Florida, and soon to be Helix NextGen (coming in 2026) – stand apart in their approach to both content and instructional design.

Helix recognizes that legal topics vary in complexity and priority on the bar exam. We focus on **the most highly-tested content**, covering everything in the National Conference of Bar Examiner's content-scope outlines. The content, then, is organized and the assignments are structured in an order informed by the **latest in learning science**. Studiers are given multiple different touchpoints – in the form of videos, written lessons, multiple-choice quizzes, and writing exercises, among others – to enhance learning and self-assessment, with spaced repetition of topics planned throughout the course to secure recall and build confidence.



This kind of innovation encourages studiers to make steady progress, helping them complete a higher percentage of their bar review course and reap the rewards of their dedication on exam day. Our methods are working, and the proof is in the pass rates. For the July 2023 UBE exam, **93% of bar takers who completed 85% of their Helix course passed the bar**, and **91% of takers who completed 75% of their Helix course passed**.

Those who do go with Helix also enjoy the advantage of **personal support and guidance with Helix expert Attorney Directors**. With individual **coaching sessions** that can help studiers stay focused or get back on track, intensive **Pass Classes and webinars** that provide unique information and emotional preparation for exam day, and a **support network** of bar review professionals driven by a nonprofit mission, Helix equips studiers in a holistic way.

In line with our broader organizational goal of increasing the value of legal education, Helix is setting a new standard for bar prep course value, and we're improving affordability at the same time. One of our goals with Helix is to drive down the cost of commercial bar prep courses by providing an excellent, affordable option. **Large commercial bar prep companies and legacy providers are lowering their price and adding discounts to match the Helix price point** – improving affordability across the board for law students, whomever they choose for bar study.

The Helix advantage is becoming clearer every year. When it comes to the pillars of successful bar review – common sense, quality instructional design, course value, and personalized support – Helix stands alone.

HELIX FLORIDA

Welcome Helix Florida!

In 2023, we launched Helix Florida, our comprehensive bar review course for the Florida Bar Exam, bringing our same dedication to modern learning and personal support to a new state. **In February of 2024, the first Helix Florida studiers took the bar exam**, and the results speak for themselves.

“Prior to using Helix Bar Review, I used multiple other commercial bar prep programs, but they were never a good fit for me. **As someone with ADHD, I needed a program that would be better tailored to me, which is why I loved Helix.** The Helix Bar Review course breaks down the material into bite-sized pieces with frequent little quizzes to reaffirm what you’re studying. What I loved about Helix is the fact the course is straight to the point and even teaches you small rules that are tested, but not frequently taught. After using Helix Bar Review, **I not only passed my Florida Bar Exam, but I surpassed the score I needed.** Thank you, Helix!”



Ellen Torres, St. Thomas University College of Law
Passed the February 2024 Florida Bar Exam

In-School Programming



Uniquely driven by our mission of supporting aspiring lawyers from admission to law school through admission to the bar, **Helix Bar Review provides an array of course options and materials for every stage of a law student’s education.** All in-school programming is designed to help students gain the critical academic skills they will need to succeed in law school, on the bar exam, and in practice. By making the connections explicit between their work in law school and their studies on the bar exam, we help students more easily transfer those skills to the tasks they will encounter on the exam.

Our program offerings include a **1L/2L academic skills intensive**, designed to support students who struggle in their first semester or year. **For 2Ls, our courses focus on legal analysis**, using bar exam essays and performance tests to improve writing, organization, structure, legal analysis, and analogical reasoning. And our **3L pre-bar courses help students transition to bar study**, focusing on strategic approaches to the exam’s components: essays, performance tests, and the MBE. Recognizing the shift from law school to self-directed bar prep, Helix tailors the course to support this transition.

In addition to credit-bearing courses, we offer **grading services, simulated exams, workshops, webinars, and individualized coaching** for repeat-takers and at-risk students.



Championing Helix

Our **Helix Champions program** plays an ever-increasing role in getting the word about **Helix Bar Review** out to law students and prospective bar takers. Their personal experiences with our offerings allow them to trumpet the benefits of Helix and relay the Helix advantage to peers. Also instrumental in championing the brand and the positive bar exam results after using Helix are the many students who have found success with Helix.

"In six months, I went from not knowing about Helix, to passing the bar with flying colors. Maybe most satisfying though, I knew the moment I finished the test that I'd passed because of my prep with Helix. That is priceless."

Andrew Cliburn | Vermont Law School
Passed the July 2024 UBE

"The Helix staff are clearly dedicated to supporting their students, the motivational emails helped put things in perspective, the coaching calls helped with the isolation and overwhelm, and the graded feedback helped focus my studying. I'm so glad I chose Helix."

Madeline Williams | Colorado Law
Passed the July 2024 UBE

"The premier bar prep tool. I used another well-known program during a 3L bar prep class, and Helix stands head and shoulders above it for less than half the price! The one-on-one support was next level. My coach was supportive, responsive, and knew her stuff. The schedule provided was awesome, and hitting my daily/weekly goals was attainable and set me up for success. Thank you, Helix!"

David Duran | Chicago-Kent College of Law
Passed the July 2024 UBE

"Helix worked for me in ways I don't believe any other program could have. I would recommend Helix to anyone taking the bar exam. The program is simple, effective, and efficient. I could not imagine going through bar prep without the tools provided. Because of Helix, I was able to take the bar exam with confidence."

Olivia Bess-Rhodes | University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law
Passed the July 2024 UBE

"Helix Bar Review is the most underrated commercial bar prep program out there and for a fair price. I passed the UBE the first time thanks to how amazingly Helix Bar Review prepared me for the real thing."

Timothy Kolberg | University of North Dakota School of Law
Passed the July 2024 UBE



Law school requires a unique set of skills to succeed, and starting law school with comprehensive preparation and an introduction to critical-skills building can make all the difference in a student's education. Now in its second year, **JDEdge by AccessLex® provides rising 1Ls with a fully online, asynchronous program that equips students for early law school experiences and long-term success.**

With **88 participating ABA-approved law schools** for the 2024-25 academic year, **nearly 9,000 students** are benefiting from the exclusive programming in JDEdge, all free of charge for law schools and their students. Given the demand, JDEdge is accessible year-round to support spring, summer, and fall cohorts and to assist academic success faculty throughout the year. In every case, JDEdge is an accessible and reliable jump-start for students and administrators alike.

The JDEdge program includes approximately **20 hours of content** and takes a multi-format approach – incorporating interactive online lessons, videos, webinars, and live workshops – delivered in concise and easy to understand Modules:

Module One: Introduction to Law School

Module Two: Preparing for Class

Module Three: Preparing for Exams

Module Four: Preparing for Law Practice

Module Five: Moving Forward

Students and administrators have praised JDEdge as an excellent foundation for lasting law school success:

"I loved that we had to read a case and brief it. Just being exposed to the language and material was relaxing, knowing that I would be doing something similar to that [in law school]."

Ivana Bailey | JDEdge Student, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Class of 2026

"JDEdge provided a vast amount of useful and practical information, in a logical order and an easy-to-understand format, to our incoming 1Ls. I'm confident JDEdge provided our 1Ls with an excellent foundation as they started law school."

Libby Davis | Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Lewis & Clark Law School

"I liked being able to work through the modules and learn more about what law school would be like. As a first-gen 1L, it was nice to have a base of knowledge going in to school."

Sophie Burkel | JDEdge Student, Delaware Law School, Class of 2026

"Incoming 1Ls are always asking for resources to help them prepare for law school. JDEdge delivers. The program helps them approach day one with confidence!"

Kelly Gamble | Assistant Professor of Law and Director of Academic Excellence, Willamette University College of Law

MAX

by AccessLex®

MAX by AccessLex®, our free online financial education program, is offered at no cost to the nearly 200 ABA-approved nonprofit and state-affiliated law schools and their students. Currently, **189 law schools** take part in this exclusive program, with over **80,000 law students** served by its resources since its inception in 2017.

The goal of the MAX program is to **enhance financial education and literacy among law students**, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate their financial journey both during law school and in their professional careers. MAX provides an award-winning, best-in-class financial education curriculum with **webinars, lessons, worksheets, checklists, and one-on-one financial strategy coaching** from our team of Accredited Financial Counselors in the Center for Education and Financial Capability.

MAX continuously evolves to provide accessible, relevant, and timely programming to meet the needs of today's law students and aspiring lawyers. Responding to nationwide student feedback, we now offer **workshops tailored to financial planning considerations for specific legal career paths**, such as Big Law, small to mid-sized firms, public service, and solo practice. These new sessions have integrated our work across various law school departments to better serve students and schools.

A key component of MAX is the MAX Scholarship Program, which awards **nearly \$400,000 toward law school tuition** each academic year. By completing free online MAX Lessons and attending MAX Events, students are automatically entered into MAX Scholarship drawings in November, February, April, and May. Since launching MAX in 2017, **AccessLex has awarded more than \$2.2 million** in scholarships to participating law students.



"It is easy to get so wrapped up in your studies that you forget that you need to be financially stable to help others as well as yourself. MAX by AccessLex is a great program to start off your legal education, giving you the tools you need to both look far ahead and help abate more immediate day-to-day financial stress that might harm your progress in your law school journey! Mindfulness from day one about your financial health will help prevent other issues that are so often encountered by law students. Thank you to AccessLex for the help of this amazing scholarship and the tools from your program to look further down the road!"

KELLY BRADY, '26
November 2023 1L Winner of the MAX by AccessLex Scholarship
University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law



"As a law student, it's easy to get caught up in school and forget about other important aspects of your life, like finances. But we all know that financial responsibilities will look a bit different once we cross that graduation stage. That's where I have been appreciative of MAX by AccessLex! Their short courses and online webinars have helped me stay on top of my finances in a digestible and stress-free way. The advisors at AccessLex are particularly helpful in providing the necessary resources to cultivate a positive mindset toward financial planning. Investing your time in developing these skills is crucial, as it will provide you with the necessary tools to be able to handle your finances with confidence."

PAIGE SEGALL, '25
February 2024 2L Winner of the MAX by AccessLex Scholarship
Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law



"The MAX by AccessLex personal finance program has played a pivotal role in supporting me as a first-generation law student. This program has been an invaluable resource for a student like me who is navigating the complexities of financing a legal education without prior family experience. Through MAX by AccessLex, I have gained a deeper understanding of budgeting, loan management, and financial planning specific to the legal profession. The program's comprehensive resources have guided me through important decisions, such as navigating student loans, understanding repayment options, and making informed choices about my financial future. I am very grateful for the scholarship and the plethora of financial education resources that AccessLex provides."

AMANDA ROTIMI, '24
April 2024 3L Winner of the MAX by AccessLex Grand Prize Scholarship
Roger Williams University School of Law

The **second annual Hannah R. Arterian Memorial Scholarship** was awarded in May to **Shereen Mathews**, a 1L from Texas Tech University School of Law. The **\$50,000 Scholarship** is open to 1L MAX participants who have completed the entire eight-lesson MAX *Financial Foundations* course and attended at least two MAX Events.



"AccessLex Institute has been such a rewarding and beneficial resource to law students around the nation. Their MAX program offers numerous video courses and worksheets to guide future lawyers on how to manage personal finances and student debt. As a first-generation law student, it was comforting to know there were comprehensive, informative, and accessible resources readily available to help make responsible financial decisions in the future. I am truly grateful to have learned how to navigate my student finances and ensure a financially secure future through the MAX program with AccessLex."

Shereen Mathews, May 2024 Winner of the Second Annual Hannah R. Arterian Memorial Scholarship, Texas Tech University School of Law, Class of 2026



Courtney Latourrette, April 2024 3L Winner of the MAX by AccessLex Grand Prize Scholarship, Elon University School of Law, Class of 2024



In March, **48 law schools** entered our MAX Madness campaign. This friendly month-long competition among participating schools focused on encouraging students to gain entries into the April 1 MAX Grand Prize Scholarship drawings by accessing their Ask EDNA!® account, completing MAX Lessons, and attending MAX Events. Each completed MAX Lesson and MAX Event earned one scholarship entry while accumulating points toward schools' total scores in MAX Madness.

The top four performing schools – **Penn State Dickinson Law, Saint Louis University School of Law, University of Cincinnati College of Law, and University of Wyoming College of Law** – received a MAX Madness celebration sponsored by AccessLex.



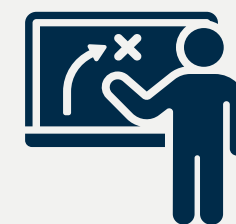
189

Law schools participate in MAX by AccessLex

OVER 80,000



Law students have participated in the MAX program since its inception in 2017



OVER 2,600

coaching sessions were held during the 2023-24 academic year

NEARLY

\$400,000

in annual scholarship incentives to keep students motivated



\$2.2 MILLION

in scholarships awarded since 2017



Education and Financial Capability Resources

Ask EDNA!® – The Education Network at AccessLex

Ask EDNA! is our powerhouse platform supporting law students from admission to law school to admission to the bar. By creating a free account, current and future law students have access to an **admissions and financial aid toolkit** for aspiring law students, **personal finance lessons for law students**, **tips and resources for law student success**, and a **guide to the bar exam**. Ask EDNA! is the home to MAX Pre-Law by AccessLex® and MAX by AccessLex®.

AccessLex Law School Scholarship Databank

For many students, the discovery of the right scholarship opportunity can make all the difference in their pursuit of a legal education. Utilizing the free **AccessLex Law School Scholarship Databank**, incoming and returning law students alike can search through **over 800 curated and vetted scholarships and writing competitions totaling more than \$3 million in aid**. By employing a variety of filter options such as award amount, application deadline, location, and more, scholarship seekers can cast a wide net or narrow their search for funding opportunities to defray the cost of their law school tuition.

AccessLex Student Loan Calculator

The **AccessLex Student Loan Calculator** breaks down the complexities of affording law school while giving students a helping hand in understanding their **repayment options**. Available to aspiring lawyers, current students, and recent graduates, this free, all-in-one tool also assists in identifying **loan consolidation and refinancing options** while adding up borrowing needs for the next school year.

AccessConnex by AccessLexSM

Through one-on-one financial coaching calls, **AccessConnex by AccessLex** offers free guidance from our team of Accredited Financial Counselors (AFCs) who are ready to help students **understand their finances and support their journey to repayment**. Whether it's reviewing the terms of a financial aid offer or an overview on how to begin student loan repayment, **AccessConnex** provides clear, unbiased information to prospective law students, current students, and graduates.

Free financial coaching with AFCs is available to students in Ask EDNA! through the MAX and MAX Pre-Law programs as well. The Center for Education and Financial Capability conducted **2,650** financial coaching sessions during the 2023-24 academic year.

Resources Dedicated to Aspiring Law Students

XploreJD by AccessLex®

Our free online search tool **XploreJD by AccessLex** offers a fresh alternative to traditional law school rankings. Using publicly available general and school-specific data, XploreJD matches aspiring lawyers to their dream law school based on their **personal goals, needs, and preferences**. By answering questions focused on five primary factors in the law school decision-making process – location, cost, academic and student experience, diversity, and outcomes – pre-law students get a personalized list of potential ABA-approved law school options that fit what they want and need in their legal education experience.

MAX Pre-Law by AccessLex®

Aspiring lawyers can explore a multitude of free online resources through **MAX Pre-Law by AccessLex**. MAX-Pre-Law offers free **interactive lessons, webinars, worksheets, checklists**, and **one-on-one financial coaching** from Accredited Financial Counselors for prospective law students. For pre-law students beginning to explore the idea of law school, or those already preparing to apply, MAX Pre-Law is available to help answer the most pressing questions.

Law School Launch Virtual Summit

The free, semi-annual **Law School Launch Virtual Summit** for aspiring lawyers debuted this year in February and was held again in September. These highly-popular virtual events provided pre-law students with **valuable insights from admissions and financial aid experts**, as well as advice from current law students who shared tips and strategies for the application process based on their personal experiences.

AccessLex Diversity Pathway Program Directory

Updated annually, the **AccessLex Diversity Pathway Program Directory** provides a listing of legal education pathway programs designed to broaden access to a law degree. Specifically created for aspiring law students and pre-law advisors, our user-friendly database removes the guesswork with customizable search filters for region, target demographic, enrollment type, and more.

AccessLex Tools, Resources, and Programs



	A free student loan helpline.
	Identify pathway programs for successful admission into law school.
	The leading research in legal education today.
	Analyze, research, and compare law schools.
	Experience the entire law school journey on one powerhouse platform.
	Revolutionary bar review.
	Sharpen your skills for law school.

	Over 800 scholarships and writing competitions – all in one place.
	A pathway initiative to increase law school diversity.
	Make your voice heard in Washington.
	Maximize your financial future.
	Prepare for law school.
	Crunch your numbers. Know your options.
	Find the right law school for you.

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EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS®

AccessLex Institute®, in partnership with its nearly 200 nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved Member Law Schools, has been committed to improving access to legal education and to maximizing the affordability and value of a law degree since 1983. The AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence® advocates for policies that make legal education work better for students and society alike and conducts research on the most critical issues facing legal education today. The AccessLex Center for Education and Financial Capability® offers on-campus and online financial education programming and resources to help students confidently manage their finances on their way to achieving personal and professional success. AccessLex Institute is headquartered in West Chester, PA.



AccessLex.org

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