UVA Law is committed to helping students make an impact in their communities and in the world. Through financial support, counseling, mentorship, and a network of peers and alumni practitioners, UVA Law prepares students to become leading public service lawyers.

How UVA Law Funds Public Service Fellowships

Guaranteed Summer Funding for all Students working in public service. In 2022, $801,000 was distributed to 167 students, including $40,000 in funds from the Public Interest Law Association.

Powell Fellowship in Legal Service

This two-year fellowship awards a $55,000 yearly salary, benefits, and loan forgiveness to a graduating student or judicial law clerk.

Specialty Summer Fellowships for students interested in international law, human rights, and policy.

Robert F. Kennedy ’51 Fellowships

Recent graduates can work for a year at any public service employer they choose. Fellows receive a $50,000 salary and are eligible for the Virginia Loan Forgiveness Program.

Virginia Loan Forgiveness Helps repay the loans of graduates who earn less than $85,000 annually in public service positions. Program details: Law.Virginia.EDU/LOANFORGIVE

Virginia Public Interest Interview Program

Students interviewing with public service employers across the country receive funding to defray the costs of travel.

National Fellowships

Counselors from the Public Service Center advise and prepare students seeking external summer funding and distinguished postgraduate fellowships such as Skadden and Equal Justice Works fellowships.
THE PROGRAM IN LAW AND PUBLIC SERVICE

The program provides a tailored curriculum and intensive training to prepare students for careers in public service. Students meet inspiring public interest lawyers from around the country in numerous events designed for fellows, and attend a series of dinners, workshops and social events throughout the year.

CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students gain real-world legal experience in one of Virginia’s many clinics. Under the supervision of licensed attorneys, students perform all the tasks of a lawyer, including client and witness interviews, investigation, preparation of pleadings, negotiation and courtroom advocacy.

EXTERNSHIPS PROGRAM

Students earn academic credit while working part-time or full-time anywhere in the world for a public service or judicial employer of their choice during the school year.

THE ALUMNI NETWORK

There are more than 20,000 UVA Law graduates in 50 states and in more than 60 foreign countries. Virginia’s formal and informal programs give students the opportunity to network with these alumni and be matched with a public service mentor. Through an online alumni directory, students can connect with alums in any practice area in the world. Counselors continue to provide career counseling after graduation and throughout graduates’ careers.

THE ANNUAL SHAPING JUSTICE CONFERENCE and dozens of public service panels and events bring distinguished public service attorneys to UVA Law each year.

VIRGINIA HAS MORE THAN 20 STUDENT-RUN public service–oriented organizations that help students gain experience and meet classmates with similar goals.

THE LAW SCHOOL HAS A COMMITTED TEAM of attorney-counselors helping students figure out what they want to achieve and giving them the assistance they need to get there.

STUDENTS RECEIVE SUPPORT from faculty and alumni mentors.