



THE ROBERT L. JOHNSON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

About the Robert L. Johnson Leadership Academy

Roosevelt University, through the St. Clair Drake Center, launched the Robert L. Johnson Leadership Academy program in the summer of 2014 through the generous support of the Efroymson Family Fund and Robert and Rose Johnson. Mr. Johnson is a Roosevelt graduate and first African-American executive at Sears Roebuck and Company.

The students selected for this experience will include 15 rising high school sophomores and 15 rising high school juniors. The RLJLA has two components: the Summer Institute and Second Saturdays. The Summer Institute provides a week-long experience from **June to August** (please refer to the application for the dates of the current program for 2026), for 30 students to live on Roosevelt's downtown Chicago Campus. Second Saturdays will provide graduates of the Summer Institute with a wide range of college-readiness experiences.

The Summer Institute will focus on developing intellectual, personal and leadership skills and enhancing students' exposure to university life. Students will spend time inside the classroom as well as in the community. Each day during the institute, students will attend classes, participate in leadership development activities, and create connections with community leaders.

During the school year, graduates of the Summer Institute will attend a once a month meeting called Second Saturdays, which takes place the second Saturday of each month from September through April. The purpose of Second Saturdays is to continue a connection with the RLJLA students and enhance their awareness of and preparation for college. These half-day sessions will be devoted to tutoring, mentoring, field trips and guest speakers. Topics and activities will include career development, mentoring, applying to college, financial aid, ACT preparation, and tutoring.

If you meet the following criteria, we encourage you to apply:

- You will be a high school sophomore or junior in the fall.
- You have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 out of 4.0 or higher.
- You have at least a 90% attendance rate at your high school.
- You can commit to attending an overnight program for one week over the summer and attending meetings once a month at the downtown Chicago Campus of Roosevelt University.
- You plan to attend college after you graduate from high school.
- You are interested in learning about a variety of topics while having fun, meeting new people, and enhancing your leadership skills.

There is no cost for participation in the program, thanks to the generosity of the Efroymson Family Fund and Robert and Rose Johnson. **For more information about the Robert L. Johnson Leadership Academy, please contact:**

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About Roosevelt University

Reflecting the ideals of its founders in 1945, Roosevelt University is a private, nonsectarian community of educators, scholars, and learners committed to academic, creative, and service excellence who value differences in personal experiences and perspectives; ask the difficult questions; and promote mutual understanding, inclusion, social consciousness, and action toward social justice. Recognizing that difference broadens perspectives, Roosevelt University seeks and serves a diverse, promising student body from metropolitan Chicago and around the world.

The hallmarks of the Roosevelt University experience are strong student-faculty interaction and engagement with metropolitan Chicago as both a laboratory for learning and as an expression of its commitment to social justice. The experience is created through the efforts of a strong faculty dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, and creative activity and a staff equally focused on helping students grow and achieve their educational and life goals.

Roosevelt is a metropolitan university that is an active partner in the social, economic and cultural development of the communities it serves. It offers a broad array of academic programs, from the baccalaureate through doctoral levels, in a highly interactive environment where students can explore, discover, and develop their unique abilities and interests.

RLJLA Summer Institute Schedule

Each day of the Summer Institute will feature different topics and activities. Below is a sample schedule for each day:

7:30-9 a.m. – Breakfast

Students will eat in the dining center inside the university's 32-story Wabash Building. The Wabash Building is the second tallest university building in the United States and features student housing on the top 17 floors. Summer Institute participants will stay in the Wabash Building during the week.

9 a.m.-12 p.m. – Class time

Class topics will cover a variety of topics including college readiness.

12-1 p.m. – Lunch

1-4 p.m. – City excursions

Trips off campus will range from visits to museums to Chicago White Sox home game.

4-5:30 p.m. – Dinner and free time

Students will use this time to prepare for class the next day.

6-9 p.m. – Evening activities

Events will include leadership training, movies, and open gym time in the university's Goodman Center, the only university athletic facility in downtown Chicago.

9-11 p.m. – Free time

Students will have time to work on projects, relax, and enjoy the residence hall experience.

11 p.m. – Curfew and lights out