

Law School Financial Aid Checklist

Action Step	Completed
1. Before you apply:	
Look up the tuition, fees and overall cost of attendance at each of the schools you are considering. Also review any of their available scholarship opportunities.	
2. With your application for admission:	
Indicate your intention to apply for financial aid and your interest in being considered for scholarships, if the application form asks for such information.	
3. After your admission application is in:	
Prepare to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).	
You can find it - and the eligibility requirements - at FAFSA.gov or through the myStudentAid app .	
Have your most recent tax return handy.	
Get the school codes for each law school where you've applied for submission.	
Complete and submit your FAFSA.	
Mark "yes" when asked if you will be a graduate or professional student. This means your family financial information will not be part of the federal financial aid eligibility process. Note: Some schools will require parental information on the FAFSA for consideration for institutional grants. Check each school's requirements.	
Need help with the FAFSA? Contact AccessConnex for free, one-on-one financial aid help.	
Save a copy for your records.	
Complete school-specific financial aid applications for each law school that requires them.	
Some schools require additional information and applications as they award institutional grants. They may ask for a separate scholarship application, completion of the parental section of the FAFSA, or completion of the CSS Profile. Check with each school for details.	
Contact the school if you need help or can't provide all the requested documents.	
If you are an undocumented or international student, you won't be eligible for federal loans, so institutional and outside aid are your best bet.	
Research outside scholarship opportunities—those provided by civic organizations or other groups not affiliated with your law school.	
Financial aid offices at many law schools keep directories of these scholarships.	
Eligibility may be based on academics, identity characteristics, geography, connection to an issue, work experience, or a strong essay.	
Identify the most promising, track deadlines and apply!	

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4. After you have been accepted:	
Review your financial aid offers.	
You will receive a financial aid offer detailing your financial aid package. This may come with your offer of admission or may come later.	
If you are a public interest student, read about Loan Repayment Assistance Programs (LRAPs) offered by schools you're considering and get informed about the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program through the Department of Education.	
If you will be borrowing federal student loans, read about loan repayment options.	
Compare carefully.	
Schools present their financial aid offers differently. Compare not just the numbers awarded, but how each award is allocated into loans, grants and scholarships.	
Identify what you'll need to repay and what you'll need to come up with on your own for each school. Use the School Cost Comparison worksheet to help compare your total out-of-pocket expenses and evaluate your bottom line.	
Seek help.	
Ask the financial aid office about any requirements involved in renewing scholarships each year.	
It is possible to request reconsideration of your financial aid package. Contact a pre-law advisor for help on how to prepare for this conversation.	
Contact AccessConnex if you need help reviewing your financial aid offers.	
Choose "The One" and accept your selected law school's offer of admission.	
A seat deposit may be required at your selected law school to hold your spot in the class.	
Prepare for the costs associated with the transition to law school, including any costs associated with moving, an apartment security deposit, and money for books, food and other expenses prior to your financial aid funds being released.	