

SYRACUSE LAW

Office of Admissions and Financial Aid

2021-2022 Financial Aid Policy Statement

Part I: General Provisions

1.1 This document, known as the Financial Aid Policy Statement, outlines the manner in which decisions about law student financial aid are made. All amendments to this document and other information about financial aid policies and procedures shall be posted on the College of Law website or otherwise made available to interested students. Students shall be held responsible for any information that is so made available or contained herein.

1.2 Financial aid awards may be comprised of College of Law Scholarships, College of Law Tuition Grants, University Graduate Awards, Federal Work Study Awards, Federal Direct Loans and/or awards from such other financial aid programs as the College may from time to time administer.

Part 2: The Application Process and Requirements

2.1 All applicants for federal student aid and need-based Law Tuition Grants must file annually the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students are advised to pay attention to the requirements listed on their *MySlice* accounts and to information sent by email and posted on the College of Law website outlining the procedures by which all forms and applications are to be filed.

2.2 Federal aid eligibility, including Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans, and Federal Work Study is based solely on student (and spouse, if applicable) information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Parent information is not used to determine Federal financial aid eligibility.

2.3 Verification

The Federal student aid verification process requires Syracuse University to collect documentation to confirm that the information provided on your FAFSA is correct. The federal government requires colleges and universities to verify or confirm the data reported by students on the FAFSA. Students who are selected for verification must submit the

requested documentation or else they may be ineligible for federal aid.

Part 3: Financial Aid Awarding Policies

3.1 To receive financial aid either administered or certified by the College of Law, students must either be enrolled at the College of Law, enrolled in an approved joint-degree program, or be a matriculated College of Law student enrolled elsewhere as a “visiting student” in an approved program. A change in enrollment status, for example, changing from full-time to part-time status or part-time students who change credit hours enrolled, may result in an adjustment or cancellation of financial aid. Part-time students seeking federal or institutional financial aid must register for a minimum of 6 credits in the fall and spring semesters, and 4 credits during the summer term.

3.2 For full-time J.D. residential and LL.M. students, College of Law Scholarships, grants and Federal Work Study will be awarded only during the fall and/or spring semesters. Students wishing to accelerate their legal education by enrolling in summer courses should be aware of this policy.

3.3 A student approved to enroll as a visiting student at another institution may be eligible to receive Federal loans and/or private educational loans up to the cost of attendance at the school they plan to attend. The Syracuse University College of Law Financial Aid Office will send a consortium agreement to the visiting school. Once the agreement is completed by an administrator at the visiting school, loans will be processed, certified, and disbursed by Syracuse University. College of Law institutional awards, including scholarships and grants, and Federal Work Study are not awarded to students during the semesters in which they are visiting away.

3.4 Students in 3 + 3 agreements are not eligible for undergraduate level federal, state, or institutional aid from their undergraduate institution.

3.5 Syracuse University undergraduate students admitted through the 3 + 3 Program with the College of Law will be assessed for financial aid awards,

Syracuse University College of Law Financial Aid Policy Statement

funded solely by the College of Law, in their final year of undergraduate work (which is also their first year of law school).

3.6 All financial aid award offers are extended based on the best possible estimates of funds to be made available from all aid sources, including the Federal Government, and are therefore contingent on the actual availability of such funds in the estimated amounts.

3.7 The College of Law Office of Financial Aid reserves the right to modify, change or alter a student's financial aid award based upon new information, changes to institutional policy, funding levels, processing errors, etc.

Part 4: Disbursement of Funds

4.1 Financial aid is disbursed to student accounts at the beginning of each semester of enrollment and no earlier than 10 calendar days prior to the start of the semester.

4.2 Awards will not be disbursed if there are outstanding requests for additional information or other requirements are not met.

4.3 Financial aid that has been disbursed will appear as a credit on the student's Bursar bill.

Part 5: Merit-Based Scholarship Awarding Policies

5.1 The College of Law may award merit-based scholarships to matriculated students demonstrating exceptional academic promise or performance. College of Law merit-based scholarships are awarded to entering students based on the student's admission application.

5.2 College of Law scholarship recipients must be matriculated as full-time or part-time students in the J.D., LL.M. or S.J.D. programs at Syracuse University. Scholarships cannot be transferred to another institution.

5.3 Full-time JDresidential merit scholarships are offered as a fixed value annually. JDinteractive and part-time JDresidential merit scholarships are offered as a percentage value and will be calculated for each semester based on the student's credit-hour enrollment. Scholarships for LL.M. and S.J.D. students are determined by the number of credits taken each semester.

5.4 Scholarships from the College of Law may be combined with other tuition awards, not to exceed the amount of tuition for each academic year.

5.5 Scholarship awards may be renewed during a returning student's remaining semesters of enrollment at the College of Law as long as the student meets the minimum renewal standards described in both their original scholarship notification letter and the award policies described herein.

(a) Eligibility for merit scholarship renewal requires that the student maintain good academic standing each year according to their official cumulative College of Law Grade Point Average (GPA). Renewal of awards annually will be determined upon receipt of all grades for an academic year. Grades earned outside the College of Law are not used to calculate the official cumulative Law Grade Point Average.

(b) Grading policies are described in the Syracuse University College of Law Academic Handbook. All law students must meet the academic standards described in the College of Law Academic Handbook and are held accountable for the policies that are used in the calculation of the official cumulative Law Grade Point Average.

(c) Students must complete all courses for which they register within the regular timeframe of the semester in which they are enrolled. Students with "incompletes" will not be eligible for scholarship renewal.

(d) Scholarship awards will be renewed at their original levels provided that resources are available and, when combined with other tuition awards, do not exceed the amount of tuition for each academic year.

(e) Scholarships are renewable under the terms outlined in the original scholarship offer letter. If a student enrolls in an approved joint-degree program the scholarship may be renewed as the student satisfies the requirements to complete required courses in the joint degree program, not to exceed a fourth year.

(f) Returning students who take an official approved Leave of Absence and have earned a full academic year official Law GPA must meet the minimum academic standards described in their original scholarship notification letter to be eligible for the scholarship upon returning from the approved leave.

Part 6: Satisfactory Academic Progress

6.1 This policy on satisfactory academic progress relates specifically to law students who are receiving

Syracuse University College of Law Financial Aid Policy Statement

Federal Student Aid (including Federal Direct Loans and Federal Work Study). All law students must also meet the academic standards described in the College of Law Academic Handbook.

6.2 Academic progress is defined as earning a minimum number of credits over a specific number of semesters and maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA).

(a) J.D. students must maintain a cumulative Law Grade Point Average of at least 2.50 to be considered in good standing. LL.M. students must maintain a 2.20 GPA to be considered in good standing.

(b) Academic progress for full-time students will be reviewed annually, at the conclusion of the spring semester, once final Fall/Spring grades have been recorded.

(c) Students must earn at least 67 percent of all credit hours attempted (cumulative, including transfer credits). Transfer courses are counted as both attempted and completed hours when measuring SAP (Pace) progress.

(d) Law students must complete the degree program in a maximum time frame of no more than 150 percent of the average length of the program. For example, the credit hours required to complete the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree at Syracuse is 87 credits. The maximum time frame for degree completion is 131 attempted credit hours.

6.3 Academic Probation: College of Law students who are dismissed and approved by the Academic Standards Committee to continue their enrollment on Academic Probation fall below the necessary requirements for satisfactory academic progress and are ineligible for further financial aid. Eligibility may be regained by submitting a waiver demonstrating that failure to meet the standards for academic progress was based on circumstances beyond the student's control (such as illness/injury or other extenuating circumstances), or, students may enroll without institutional, federal, and state financial aid during a subsequent academic period to earn the required grades/courses to regain eligibility.

6.4 Appeals: Any student who falls below the standard to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress may submit a written petition to the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards Committee (in care of the College of Law Office of Financial Aid, Cole Suite 100, Dineen Hall) to initiate an appeal for a waiver. The appeal must address the reasons for the

student's poor performance and/or the circumstances that necessitated withdrawal from classes rather than the student's need for the financial assistance.

6.5 Financial Aid Probation: Students who successfully appeal to have their financial aid reinstated by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Committee will be placed on financial aid probation for one semester. Students must adhere to the requirements of the academic plan set by the Academic Standards Committee and/or the Office of Student Affairs. Students who make progress under the established academic plan will be eligible to receive financial aid for the subsequent semester.

Part 7: Tuition

7.1 Tuition Rates: Tuition rates are published in the Syracuse University Bulletin of Tuition, Fees, and Related Policies and are subject to change without prior notice.

7.2 J.D. Student Tuition Rates:

(a) Full-time Rate: J.D. students enrolled in 12-19 credits per semester are charged a full-time rate for tuition for the semesters in which they are enrolled full-time.

(b) Overload Rate: J.D. students enrolled in more than 19 credits are charged an additional tuition fee at a per-credit rate for any credits in excess of 19.

(c) Part-Time J.D. Rate: JDinteractive students and reduced load, part-time J.D. students are charged at a per-credit rate of tuition. Tuition charges will be calculated based upon the number of credits for which a student registers multiplied by their program's per-credit rate of tuition.

7.3 Joint-Degree Students: Joint-degree J.D./Graduate students are charged at the College of Law tuition rate, not the graduate student tuition rate, regardless of whether the classes are taught through the College of Law or through another department at the university.

7.4 LL.M. Student Tuition Rates:

(a) Full-time Rate: LL.M. students enrolled in 12-19 credits per semester are charged a full-time LL.M. rate for tuition for the semesters in which they are enrolled full-time.

(b) Part-time LL.M. Rate: LL.M. students are considered at full-time status with 9 credits of enrollment, but pay the per-credit rate of tuition when enrolled in less-than 12 credits per semester.

Syracuse University College of Law Financial Aid Policy Statement

7.5 Summer Tuition Rate: College of Law students are charged a per-credit tuition rate during the summer enrollment period. Summer tuition charges will be calculated based upon the number of credits for which a student registers multiplied by the applicable per-credit rate of tuition. Law students who enroll for summer classes at Syracuse University are charged at the law school tuition rate, regardless of whether the classes are taught through the College of Law or through another department at the university.

7.6 Non-Matriculated Students enrolled in Law classes: Students who are not admitted and matriculated into a degree-granting program at the College of Law are subject to the published College of Law student tuition rates.

Part 8: Cost of Attendance

8.1 Cost of Attendance: The College of Law provides an estimate of the costs that are reasonable for a student to attend Syracuse University College of Law and pursue the J.D., LL.M. or S.J.D. degree program. The Cost of Attendance includes allowances for tuition, fees, room, board, books, personal expenses, and transportation/travel.

8.2 Award Limits: The total of all financial aid a student may receive, regardless of source (federal, state, institutional, or private) or type of award (scholarships, grants, need-based employment, federal, or private loans) cannot exceed the cost of attendance, as is set by the College of Law.

8.3 Budget Adjustments: On a case-by-case basis, the Financial Aid Office will consider requests for an adjustment to the standard cost of attendance.

(a) Students must submit the Budget Adjustment Request Form to the College of Law Financial Aid Office with receipts and other required supporting documentation. If approved, a budget adjustment will allow a student to borrow additional student loans.

(b) Examples of budget adjustment requests that may be approved include, but are not limited to: the one-time purchase of a computer, health insurance, and child care expenses.

(c) Budget adjustments will be approved at the discretion of the Financial Aid Office; decisions will be final.

8.4 Non-Allowable Expenses: Examples of expenses not allowed in the educational budget include costs

of moving, payment of consumer debt (such as credit card payments), the purchase of an automobile, costs associated with finding employment (interview expenses, clothing), and expenses incurred during periods of non-enrollment (i.e. summer).