



## Financial Aid Policy Statement

### Part I: General Provisions

**1.1** This document, known as the Financial Aid Policy Statement, outlines how 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 packages may be comprised of College of Law Scholarships, Tuition Grants, Syracuse University Graduate Awards, Federal Work Study, Employer Tuition Benefits, Veteran Education Benefits, Federal Direct Loans, Private Educational Loans and/or 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 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 considered in the determination of Federal financial aid eligibility for graduate/professional students.

#### 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 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 enrollment, may result in an adjustment or cancellation of financial aid. Law students seeking federal loans should be enrolled at least half-time, a minimum of 6 credits in the fall and spring semesters, and 4 credits during the summer term.

**3.2** For students enrolled in the J.D. residential program, 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

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visiting school, loans will be processed, certified, and disbursed by Syracuse University. College of Law scholarships and grants, and Federal Work Study are not awarded to students during the semesters in which they are visiting away.

**3.4** Students enrolled through approved 3 + 3 agreements are eligible for undergraduate level federal, state, or institutional aid from their undergraduate institution, but not graduate loan limits, for undergraduate courses that meet bachelor's degree requirements.

**3.5** Syracuse University undergraduate students and other students admitted through a 3 + 3 Program with the College of Law will be assessed for financial aid by the College of Law in their final year of undergraduate work (which is also their first year of law school). Only College of Law scholarships will apply to College of Law tuition.

**3.6** All financial aid 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 offer based upon new information, changes to institutional policy, funding levels, 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** Financial aid will not be disbursed if there are outstanding requests for additional information or eligibility 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: College of Law Scholarship 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, to be divided equally between the fall and spring semesters. JDinteractive and part-time JDresidential merit scholarships are offered as a percentage value and will be calculated each semester based on the student's credit-hour enrollment and resulting tuition. Scholarships for LL.M. and S.J.D. students are determined by the number of credits taken each semester and tuition charged.

**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** Scholarships may be renewed during a returning student's remaining semesters of enrollment at the College of Law if the student meets the minimum renewal standards described in their original scholarship notification letter and prevailing College academic and awarding policies.

**(a)** Eligibility for merit scholarship renewal requires that the student maintain good academic standing each semester according to their official cumulative College of Law Grade Point Average (GPA). Scholarship renewal will be determined upon receipt of all grades. 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

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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. Students with “incompletes” may not be eligible for scholarship renewal.

(d) Scholarship awards will be renewed 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 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 is reviewed at the conclusion of each semester, once final 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 an appeal for a Satisfactory Academic Progress waiver. In the appeal, students should demonstrate 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 circumstances that impacted academic performance or that necessitated withdrawal from classes, rather than the student's need for the financial assistance, and how those circumstances have or will be addressed moving forward.

**6.5 Financial Aid Probation:** Students who successfully appeal to have their financial aid reinstated by the Satisfactory Academic Progress

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Committee will be placed on financial aid probation. Students must adhere to the requirements of the academic plan set by the Academic Standards Committee and/or the Office of Academic Success. Students who regain 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 may be 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 fixed rate for tuition for fall and spring semesters.

**(b) Overload Rate:** J.D. students enrolled in more than 19 credits are charged the fixed rate and an additional pre-credit rate fee.

**(c) Part-Time J.D. Rate:** JDinteractive students and reduced load, part-time J.D. residential students are charged tuition at a per-credit hour rate. Tuition charges are calculated based on the number of credits for which a student registers multiplied by the program 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 School or College 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.

#### 7.5 S.J.D. Student Tuition Rates

**(a) First year:** S.J.D. students are charged a full-time rate for tuition.

**(b) Years 2-5:** Students pay a \$5,000 program fee and tuition at a per-credit hour rate.

**7.6 Summer Tuition Rate:** College of Law students are charged a per-credit tuition rate during the summer enrollment period. Law students are charged the law tuition rate, regardless of whether the classes are taught through the College of Law or through another School or College at the University.

**7.7 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, housing, food, books and supplies, course materials and equipment, miscellaneous personal expenses, and transportation. The cost of the Bar exam fee is included in the cost of attendance for students in their term of graduation.

**8.2 Financial Aid Limits:** The total of all financial aid a student may receive, regardless of source (federal, state, institutional, or private) or type of aid (scholarships, grants, need-based employment, federal, or private loans) cannot exceed the cost of attendance 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 supporting documentation. If approved, a budget adjustment

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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 laptop, health insurance, disability and childcare 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 payment of consumer debt (such as credit card payments), the purchase or leasing of an automobile and expenses incurred during periods of non-enrollment (i.e. summer, post-graduate expenses).

### Part 9: Leave of Absence/Withdrawal

#### 9.1 Leave Requests Before Financial Deadline:

Students who withdraw from all their classes before the semester or term “Financial Deadline” will have tuition charges credited at 100%. Tuition scholarships and grants will be cancelled at 100%. Federal aid, including loans, will be adjusted in accordance with Department of Education policy and length of time of enrollment. If you received a refund from the Bursar for financial aid that was credited in excess of the billable tuition and fees, you will be responsible for returning the refund.

#### 9.2 Leave Requests After the Financial Deadline:

Refer to the Bulletin of Policies Related to Tuition and Fees for information on whether you are entitled to a full or partial refund of tuition and fees. The amount is calculated based on the point in time in which you withdraw from the university. Adjustments to financial aid are regulated by federal and institutional guidelines. If you received a refund from the Bursar (resulting from excess funds on your student bursar account, after payment obligations were satisfied), and your financial aid is adjusted due to your withdrawal, a balance may become due on your student bursar account. Payment will be due on your bursar account immediately upon your departure from the university.

**9.3 Returning After an Approved Leave:** Students who wish to re-enroll after an official Leave of Absence should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year in which they return before federal financial aid eligibility will be calculated.

Students returning from an official leave of Absence must have a minimum official Law GPA that is considered in good standing at the College of Law to be eligible for merit-based scholarship. Students must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress standards for renewal of federal aid.

**Questions?** Please contact the College of Law Office of Financial Aid at [LawFinAid@syr.edu](mailto:LawFinAid@syr.edu) or 315.443.1962.