

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) Policy

Administrative policy approved August 6, 2023. Effective immediately.

Revision history: Policy necessitated by BPPE approval as of July 21, 2023; technical edits made in May 2026.

Related policies and materials: Right to Cancel and Tuition Refund Policy; Catalog (which lists STRF fees); [California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 \(amended as of January 1, 2026\)](#)

Scheduled Review Date: July 2026 (Office of the President & Dean)

A. Overview

Southwestern Law School is a private institution approved by California's Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE). The State of California established the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) to relieve or mitigate economic loss suffered by a student in an educational program at a qualifying institution, who is or was a California resident while enrolled, or was enrolled in a residency program, if the student enrolled in the institution, prepaid tuition, and suffered an economic loss.

B. STRF Assessment and Applicability

Unless relieved of the obligation by the BPPE or another governmental agency, a student must pay the state-imposed STRF assessment, or have it paid on their behalf, if they are enrolled in an educational program as a California resident or in a California residency program and have prepaid all or part of their tuition.

A student who is not a California resident and is not enrolled in a residency program is not eligible for STRF protection and is not required to pay the assessment. For purposes of this policy, all students who take courses on Southwestern's campus are considered to be enrolled in a residency program.

C. Eligibility for STRF Recovery

To be eligible to apply for and receive STRF reimbursement, a student must be a California resident or enrolled in a residency program, have prepaid tuition, have paid or been deemed to have paid the STRF assessment, and have suffered an economic loss as a result of specific qualifying circumstances. Qualifying circumstances include:

- 1.** The institution, a location of the institution, or an educational program offered by the institution was closed or discontinued, and the student did not choose to participate in a teach-out plan approved by the BPPE, or did not complete a chosen teach-out plan approved by the BPPE.
- 2.** The student was enrolled at an institution or a location of the institution within the 120-day period before the closure of the institution or location of the institution, or was enrolled in an educational program within the 120-day period before the program was discontinued.
- 3.** The student was enrolled at an institution or a location of the institution more than 120 days before the closure of the institution or location of the institution, in an educational program offered by the institution as to which the BPPE determined there was a significant decline in the quality or value of the program more than 120 days before closure.
- 4.** The institution has been ordered to pay a refund by the BPPE but has failed to do so.
- 5.** The institution has failed to pay or reimburse loan proceeds under a federal student loan program as required by law or has failed to pay or reimburse proceeds received by the institution in excess of tuition and other costs.
- 6.** The student has been awarded restitution, a refund, or other monetary award by an arbitrator or court, based on a violation of this chapter by an institution or representative of an institution, but has been unable to collect the award from the institution.
- 7.** The student sought legal counsel that resulted in the cancellation of one or more of their student loans and has an invoice for services rendered and evidence of the cancellation of the student loan or loans

D. Filing Deadlines and Special Circumstances

To qualify for STRF reimbursement, the application must be received by BPPE within 4 years of the date of the action or event that made the student eligible for STRF recovery.

A student whose loan is revived by a loan holder or debt collector after a period of non-collection may, at any time, file a written application for recovery from STRF for the debt that would have otherwise been eligible for recovery. If more than 4 years have passed since the action or event that made the student eligible, the student must have filed a written application for recovery within the original 4-year period, unless the period has been extended by another act of law.

No STRF claim can be paid without a Social Security number or taxpayer identification number.

E. Recordkeeping and Additional Information

Students are strongly encouraged to retain copies of their enrollment agreement, financial aid documents, receipts, and any other records reflecting payments made to the institution, as these materials may be necessary to support a claim.

Questions regarding STRF may be directed to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education at 1747 North Market Blvd., Suite 225, Sacramento, CA 95834, or by phone at (916) 574-8900 or (888) 370-7589. Additional information, including the STRF application form, is available through the Bureau.

For more information or to access the STRF application form, visit BPPE's [Student Tuition Recovery Fund webpage](#).