

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL Los Angeles, CA

Scholarships, Grants, and Fellowships

Administrative policy.

Revision History: Formerly a part of the annually revised Student Handbook; then part of the Grading and Scholastic Honors Policy; established as a standalone policy in June 2024.

Related policies: Grading and Scholastic Honors Policy

Scheduled Review Date: January 2025 (Associate Dean of Admissions and Office of the Vice Dean)

A. General Scholarships

Southwestern offers a number of scholarships from income provided by gifts from donors, foundations, and its own general funds. Qualifications for and amounts of scholarships vary, but award determination is generally based on financial need, scholastic achievement, and the amount of funds available. It is the general policy of Southwestern that no student receives scholarship or gift aid from Southwestern or any of its benefactors in excess of tuition charged. If a student receives other scholarship or gift aid that would cause those funds to exceed the student's full tuition charged, Southwestern reserves the right to reduce the scholarship so that the full annual tuition amount is not exceeded. Information about select scholarships is listed below. Please refer to the scholarship information page on the Southwestern portal for additional and the most current information.

1. Entering students

Southwestern awards a select number of merit scholarships providing up to full tuition to members of the J.D. entering class or concurrent degree programs who have demonstrated exceptional academic promise. Awards may be renewable or non-renewable scholarships. If renewable, students must meet the continuing academic performance requirements. Based upon the information submitted in their admission application files, all accepted Southwestern first-year J.D. applicants are considered for these scholarship types. There is no separate application for the scholarships.

Additional information regarding continuing eligibility for scholarships is found on the Southwestern portal. Students must consult the version of the eligibility rules from the academic year in which they entered Southwestern.

2. Continuing students

Southwestern awards a number of scholarships to continuing students. For a complete and current list of scholarships available to continuing students, please visit the scholarship information page on the Southwestern portal. Below is a select list of scholarship awards:

a. Dean's Academic Leadership Award

The Board of Trustees established the Dean's Academic Leadership Award to provide full-tuition scholarships to the highest-ranking upper-division students (typically the top 1% of the class). Eligibility is calculated based on class ranks as determined at the end of the academic year and based on the cumulative GPA.

b. Dean's Merit Award

The Board of Trustees established the Dean's Merit Award to provide partial tuition scholarships to upper-division students who have demonstrated academic excellence and are in the top 30% of their class. Award amounts are commensurate with class rank. Eligibility is calculated based on class ranks which are determined at the end of each academic year based on the cumulative GPA.

B. Institutional Scholarships

Continuing students may be eligible for scholarships from more than 80 funds with specific criteria established by the donors. For further information, visit the scholarship information page on the Southwestern portal.

C. Public Interest Law Grants and Fellowships

Students interested in working for public interest law/civil legal aid agencies may apply for stipends created through Southwestern Grant and Fellowship programs. These programs provide the matching amount for Federal Work Study funds applied to positions off campus, thereby providing students practical experiences and career opportunities in public service while offering legal services organizations the assistance necessary to service indigent communities and clients. Other programs are also available to support work in the public interest, living up to the dual goals of enhancing the educational experience of its students and furthering the work of public entities serving underrepresented communities and individuals. Please refer to the Southwestern portal for the most current information for grants and fellowships that are available. Below is a short listing of available summer fellowships and grant awards for graduating students:

- George and Katrina Woolverton Public Service Award
- Harvey L. and Lillian Silbert Public Interest Fellowship Program
- Judge Harry Pregerson Public Service Fellowship
- Leigh H. Taylor Public Interest Endowment Fund
- Public Interest Law Service Award
- Summer Public Interest Law Grant

D. Outside Scholarships

A number of other scholarships are available each year from a variety of outside organizations. Eligibility is usually based on need, academic achievement, and extracurricular activities. The necessary supplemental applications and specific requirements for these scholarships are on file in the Financial Aid Office, and the most current information is available on the outside scholarship information page on <https://www.swlaw.edu/admissions-financial-aid/financial-aid/scholarships-grants-fellowships/outside-scholarship>

E. Outside Fellowships

Postgraduate fellowships are an outstanding way to jumpstart graduates' legal careers while building a network of mentors and supporters. Below are two examples of fellowships that regularly select Southwestern applicants. In addition to these two, other postgraduate fellowships are available in a variety of practice areas. To learn more about available fellowships, please schedule an appointment with the Career Services Office.

1. American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)

Every year, the Los Angeles County Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) offers a unique fellowship program to local graduating law students who will be sitting for the July Bar Exam. Fellows spend one month with a civil defense firm, one month with a plaintiff firm, and another month with various judges at the Los Angeles Superior Court. This fellowship is open to students who have a strong interest in civil jury trial practice and intend to practice law in Los Angeles County.

2. Presidential Management Fellowship Program (PMF)

The Presidential Management Fellows Program (PMF) is known as the training ground for future government leaders. It is a two-year paid post-graduate program where Fellows have the opportunity to work in high-level federal government agencies. Through this Program, Southwestern graduates have worked at places like the Missile Defense Center and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

F. Jose Siderman Human Rights Fellowship

The Fellowship brings an Argentine law graduate to Los Angeles to complete an LL.M. degree in Civil Liberties and Human Rights or Advocacy at the law school, including an externship with a civil rights organization.

G. Writing Competitions

A list of writing competitions provided by various organizations is located on the scholarship information page on the Southwestern portal. This information can also be found on Symplicity, a web-based platform the Career Services Office uses to list employment opportunities.

H. Policy Revisions

Southwestern expressly reserves the right to change or modify any aspect of this policy at any time, with or without prior notice.