

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL Los Angeles, CA

Federal Financial Aid Eligibility Policy

Administrative policy. Effective immediately.

Revision history: Technical edits made December 15, 2021; revised September 18, 2022, to increase summer minimum hours effective as of Summer 2024; revised November 18, 2022, to change summer minimum hours effective as of Summer 2024; technical edits made August 18, 2023; technical edits made in May 2025.

Related policies: Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy; Student's Right to Cancel and Tuition Refund Policy; Return of Title IV Funds Policy; Academic Disqualification, Academic Probation, and Academic Improvement Program Policies.

Scheduled Review Date: June 2026 (Financial Aid Office)

A. J.D. Students

1. General eligibility

Southwestern Law School's Juris Doctor (J.D.) program is accredited by the Council for the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association. As such, a Southwestern J.D. student may be eligible to receive federal financial aid if the student:

- is enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a J.D. student on at least a half-time basis;
- is a U.S. citizen or national; is a permanent resident of the U.S.; provides evidence from the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) that they are in the U.S. for other than a temporary purpose to become a permanent resident or citizen (a copy of the green card may be required); or is a permanent resident of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands or the Northern Mariana Islands;
- has financial need (for need-based aid only);
- is maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress according to the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy;
- does not owe a refund on a Pell Grant, Perkins Loan, or FSEOG; and
- is not in default on any student loan.

The Financial Aid Office will determine aid eligibility once the office has received the student's FAFSA and all required supporting documents. Please visit Southwestern's Financial Aid [webpage](#) for additional information about financial aid, including:

- how to apply;
- deadlines;
- veteran benefits;
- FAFSA;
- Southwestern's financial aid application;
- Southwestern's Financial Aid Code of Conduct;
- Direct Unsubsidized Loan Master Promissory Note;
- Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note;
- packaging policies;
- award notifications;
- entrance and exit interviews;
- award disbursements;
- appeals;
- confidentiality;
- FAQs; and
- contact information.

2. **Minimum hours status**

Among other federal requirements, only students enrolled on at least a half-time basis are eligible to receive federal aid. Therefore, regardless of whether a student is classified as a full-time or part-time student by the Registrar's Office, loan eligibility for federal aid purposes requires at least half-time enrollment, as defined below:

Semester or Quarter*	Full-time status	Part-time status
Fall or Spring	5 credits	5 credits
Summer	3 credits	3 credits
SCALE (Quarters 1-8, excluding Summer)	5 credits	N/A

*May include J.D. study-abroad programs and J.D.-dual-degree programs.

3. **Recalculation of aid awards:**

A financial aid award will be recalculated only for status changes that occur during an add/drop period or for program changes (i.e., a change from the full-time to part-time J.D. program, or the reverse). If a student drops classes during this period but remains enrolled in at least one course, the student's eligibility to receive federal loans may be impacted. More specifically, if a student receives a federal loan disbursement based on preliminary registration information but then drops enough credits to trigger a change in status (e.g., a change from full-time to half-

time), an “over-award” situation may exist. When an “over-award” occurs, federal financial aid funds must be returned. In addition, as required by federal regulation, the student’s status is periodically reported to the National Student Loan Data System. A loss of aid eligibility may cause the grace period or loan repayment obligations to begin. Accordingly, federal loan recipients must contact the Financial Aid Office when making schedule changes impacting their enrollment status. In addition, if a student adds or drops classes after receiving a financial aid disbursement, the student may then owe additional sums to the Law School.

4. Relationship to other policies

Aid eligibility operates independently from other requirements, including but not limited to student visa enrollment requirements for international students and approvals necessary to drop classes while in the required curriculum. The Associate Dean for Student Services must approve reduced course loads for students in the required J.D. curriculum. Title IV return calculations for students on leave or who withdraw are handled in accordance with other applicable policies, including the Student’s Right to Cancel and Tuition Refund Policy.

B. LL.M. Students

Southwestern’s Master of Laws (LL.M.) programs are not accredited. As such, students admitted into those programs are not eligible to receive federal financial aid. Students admitted into an LL.M. program may pursue private educational funding.

C. Policy Revisions

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