

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL Los Angeles, CA

Financial Aid Policy

Administrative policy approved July 22, 2022. Effective immediately.

Revision history: Formerly a part of the annually revised Student Handbook; established as a standalone policy August 2022; updated February 2023 to refer to and make consistent with related policies; technical edits made in July 2023; technical edits made in May 2025; reviewed in July 2025.

Related policies: Academic Disqualification, Academic Probation, and Academic Improvement Program Policies; Academic Policies and Procedures; SCALE Program Policies; Federal Financial Aid Eligibility Policy; and Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Scheduled Review Date: March 2026 (Financial Aid Office)

A. Overview

Southwestern Law School's Financial Aid Office seeks to provide or secure financial assistance for its students whenever possible. To this end, Southwestern has developed a financial aid program that includes scholarships, loans, and employment. Information about these programs can be found at <https://www.swlaw.edu/finaid>.

Southwestern participates in the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan Program, the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS (Grad PLUS) Loan Program, and the Federal Work-Study Program. In addition, Southwestern is fully approved for J.D. students who wish to use veteran educational benefits.

All financial aid administered through Southwestern is awarded on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to individual's race (including hairstyle and hair texture), ethnicity, color, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, reproductive health decision-making, pregnancy (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding), sex stereotyping (including assumptions about a person's appearance or behavior, gender roles, gender expression, or gender identity), sexual orientation, parental status, marital status, age, disability (mental or physical), medical condition, citizenship status, military status or service, veteran status, genetic information, or any other classification protected by federal or California law, or any combination of any status protected by law.

Detailed information on Southwestern's financial aid programs and the application process is included in the law school's catalog.

Eligibility for financial aid is contingent upon minimum enrollment, academic performance, and Title IV requirements.

Please note that significant changes to federal financial aid take effect as of July 1, 2026.

B. Consulting with a Financial Aid Counselor

Any student who has applied for or who has received financial aid should read the Academic Policies and Procedures, and Academic Disqualification, Academic Probation, and Academic Improvement Program Policies, and if applicable, SCALE Program Policies, and should consult with a financial aid counselor (not clerical staff) in Room W102 as soon as possible before any of the following:

1. The student switches from one Southwestern J.D. program to another (e.g., from SCALE to the Full-time Day Program, from SCALE to SCALE 2.25, or from the Online J.D. Part-time Program to the Online J.D. Full-time Program).
2. The student drops below half-time status (less than five units per semester or SCALE term, or less than three units for summer) or withdraws from school.
3. The student repeats a course(s) for no credit or plans to sit in on a course to resolve an Incomplete grade.
4. The student takes an official leave of absence or is placed on an involuntary leave of absence.
5. The student is academically disqualified. (Please note: Once a student is academically disqualified, eligibility for all financial aid, including but not limited to scholarships, loans, grants, and student employment, is lost immediately. Students are strongly urged to see a counselor in the Financial Aid Office to discuss the financial ramifications of academic disqualification.)
6. The student is readmitted after academic disqualification.
7. The student plans to attend another law school temporarily (i.e., visiting status, non-Southwestern study-abroad program, etc.).
8. The student transfers to another school.

C. Policy Revisions

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