

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL

Los Angeles, CA

Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) Policy

Administrative policy approved August 6, 2023. Effective immediately.

Revision history: New policy necessitated by BPPE approval as of July 21, 2023.

Related policies and materials: Right to Cancel and Tuition Refund Policy; Catalog (which lists STRF fees); [California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 \(amended as of April 1, 2023\)](#)

Scheduled Review Date: August 2025 (Vice Deans Office)

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.

Unless relieved of the obligation to do so, you must pay the state-imposed assessment for the STRF, or it must be paid on your behalf, if you are a student (1) in an educational program who is a California resident or are enrolled in a residency program in California and (2) prepay all or part of your tuition.

You are not eligible for protection from the STRF and are not required to pay the STRF assessment if you are not a California resident or are not enrolled in a residency program. All students who take any courses on Southwestern's campus are considered students enrolled in a residency program.

It is important that you keep copies of your enrollment agreement, financial aid documents, receipts, and any other information that reflects the amount paid to the school. Questions regarding the STRF may be directed to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, 1747 North Market Blvd., Suite 225 Sacramento, CA 95834, (916) 574-8900 or (888) 370-7589.

To be eligible to apply for and receive STRF, you must be a California resident or enrolled in a residency program, prepaid tuition, paid or deemed to have paid the STRF assessment, and suffered an economic loss as a result of any of the following:

1. The institution, a location of the institution, or an educational program offered by the institution was closed or discontinued, and you did not choose to participate in a teach-out plan approved by the Bureau or did not complete a chosen teach-out plan approved by the Bureau.
2. You were 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 were enrolled in an educational program within the 120-day period before the program was discontinued.
3. You were 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 Bureau 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 Bureau 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. You have 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 have been unable to collect the award from the institution.
7. You sought legal counsel that resulted in the cancellation of one or more of your student loans and have an invoice for services rendered and evidence of the cancellation of the student loan or loans.

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

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 it has been more than four (4) years since the action or event that made the student eligible, the student must have filed a written application for recovery within the original four (4) year period, unless the period has been extended by another act of law.

However, no claim can be paid to any student without a social security number or a taxpayer identification number.

For more information or to access the STRF application form, visit <https://www.bppe.ca.gov/students/strf.shtml>.