

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; edits made in June 2026 to clarify existing requirements and address changes in federal student financial aid law.

Related policies: Academic Disqualification, Academic Probation, and Academic Improvement Program Policies; SCALE Program Policies; Federal Financial Aid Eligibility Policy; Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy; Institutional Leave of Absence and Return Policy; Student Health-Related Institutional Leave of Absence and Return Policy; Policy to Prevent Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

Scheduled Review Date: May 2027 (Financial Aid Office)

A. Financial Aid Programs Overview

Southwestern Law School's Financial Aid Office assists eligible students with accessing available financial assistance from federal, state, institutional, and other sources. Available forms of financial assistance may include federal and private education loans, scholarships, grants, veteran educational benefits, military tuition assistance, employer assistance, and employment. Information about these opportunities is available on [Southwestern's Financial Aid page](#). Detailed information on Southwestern's financial aid programs and the application process is included in the law school's catalog.

Southwestern participates in federal financial aid programs for which its students are eligible under applicable law, including the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan Program and the Federal Work-Study Program. See Section B for information on Federal Direct Graduate PLUS (Grad PLUS) Loans.

Eligibility for financial aid is subject to applicable enrollment, academic progress, program participation, and federal Title IV requirements, as well as any requirements applicable to a particular aid program.

Eligibility for federal student loan programs is governed by federal law and may change due to legislation, federal regulations, or guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

Students are responsible for reviewing current financial aid information and are encouraged to consult the Financial Aid Office regarding questions about eligibility or available funding options.

B. Federal Student Loan Eligibility and Borrowing Limits

Federal student loan eligibility and borrowing limits for graduate and professional students, including eligibility for Grad PLUS Loans, were significantly revised effective July 1, 2026.

Students should consult the Financial Aid Office regarding current federal loan eligibility requirements and should review the Federal Financial Aid Eligibility Policy for additional information concerning federal loan eligibility, borrowing limits, and related requirements.

C. Nondiscrimination

All financial aid administered through Southwestern is awarded on a nondiscriminatory basis in accordance with the [Policy to Prevent Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#).

D. Consulting with a Financial Aid Office Counselor

Any student who has applied for or received financial aid should carefully review the Academic Disqualification, Academic Probation, and Academic Improvement Program policies and, if applicable, the SCALE Program policies. Students should consult with a Financial Aid Office counselor (rather than clerical staff) as soon as possible before any of the following occur:

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 full-time or half-time status (i.e., less than five units per semester or SCALE term, or less than three units for summer),

reduces course units, changes enrollment intensity, 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, or is placed on, an institutional leave of absence, as certain leaves or interruptions in enrollment may affect federal financial aid eligibility or continued eligibility for certain federal loan programs.
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.

E. Policy Revisions

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