



FINANCING LAW SCHOOL

COSTS OF APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL

Direct Application Costs

- LSAT Prep: *Can range from free to low cost to \$1000+
- LSAT (Law School Admissions Test): \$222
- CAS (Credential Assembly Service): \$200
 - Service that packages all your application materials for law schools: <https://www.lsac.org/applying-law-school/jd-application-process/credential-assembly-service-cas>
 - **LSAC offers students the option to apply for LSAT and CAS fee waivers:** <https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/register-lSAT/lSAT-cas-fees/fee-waivers-lSAT-programs-and-services>
- Application Fees:
 - *Application cost can vary across law schools. Some law schools will waive the cost of the application if presented with need-based information from the applicant.
- Law school reports: \$45 per law school
 - *The law school report summarizes your LSAT, academic information, and letters of recommendation: <https://www.lsac.org/applying-law-school/jd-application-process/credential-assembly-service-cas/credential-assembly>
- Transcript Request(s):
 - *Cost varies across institutions. You must submit an official transcript from all institutions attended: <https://www.lsac.org/applying-law-school/jd-application-process/cas/requesting>
- Seat deposit:
 - *Cost varies across law schools and can range from \$250 to \$1000+. After receiving an offer of admission, the law school will send you a letter typically around March or April requesting your seat deposit payment as a confirmation that you will matriculate to their school. It is not recommended to pay for multiple seat deposits since law schools will choose not to refund the money for the seat deposit and some law schools will rescind their offer of admission.

Indirect Costs *Can vary across law schools and cost of living in different states.

- Tuition and fees
- Books and supplies
- Housing and food
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous personal expenses
- Health Insurance
- Federal loan fees
- One-time computer allowance
- Bar exam cost

The direct and indirect application costs can add up quickly, but knowing the estimated costs ahead of time can help you prepare your law school application budget and ensure that you apply strategically. Make sure to review the [Estimate Your Application Costs Worksheet from AccessLex](#) (located on page 7) to review the potential costs of your law school application process.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Applicants can gauge their likelihood of receiving a scholarship based on their LSAT score and GPA in consideration of each law school's medians and based on the timing of their application. (For the best admission and scholarship odds, we generally recommend that students apply early, between September and early November, to get ahead of the winter and spring application curve when most students submit their law school applications.) If you have a GPA and LSAT score at or above the law school's median, then you are more likely to receive some funding to attend that school. The combination of these factors can also help applicants determine whether to apply to that school as well if financial aid is a substantial concern. Applicants can utilize the following resources to obtain more information about each law school's scholarship and grant amounts:

- ABA 509 Reports: <http://www.abarequireddisclosures.org/Disclosure509.aspx>
- Max Pre-Law (Specifically the Analytix tool): <https://www.accesslex.org/max-pre-law>

Merit v. Need-Based: A few law schools do offer need-based financial aid to students who may experience financial barriers to attending law school. However, many law schools will offer merit-based scholarships. The amount of the scholarship can vary depending on your highest LSAT score and GPA at the time of your application. Should you retake the LSAT and score higher or earn a higher GPA after the semester concludes, some law schools will reconsider their scholarship offer based upon your new metrics. LSAC will automatically send new LSAT scores to any law schools in which you have already applied. You would

need to submit a new official transcript to your LSAC account for those law schools to receive an update regarding your GPA. This can make a huge difference in the scholarship offer depending how close you meet the GPA median of that school.

Financial Aid and Scholarships for Law School - <https://7sage.com/admissions/lesson/law-school-financial-aid/>

SCHOLARSHIP RECONSIDERATION

Do not assume all law schools will consider a scholarship reconsideration. Generally, law school admissions will state in the scholarship letter whether the school will reconsider their scholarship offer. If unclear, applicants should write a professional email to the law school with any updated GPA, LSAT, letters of recommendation, or resume changes and ask if the school would be willing to reconsider their scholarship offer under those circumstances. You will need to know the differences in cost of attendance, tuition, and rank information if leveraging your scholarship offer with an offer letter from another law school. Do not attempt to use this strategy with all law schools that you may have received an offer— just with your top choice(s) of school to avoid appearing insincere about your commitment to attending that school.

Tips for Writing a Scholarship Negotiation Letter:

<https://www.purdue.edu/preprofessional/Documents/Law%20School%20Scholarship%20Negotiations.pdf>

LOANS

Some law schools have their own internal loan program for students, but we recommend speaking with an AccessLex Financial Aid Counselor for more information for general loan counseling: [https://www.accesslex.org/education-and-financial-capability?f\[0\]=areas_of_focus_tools:18](https://www.accesslex.org/education-and-financial-capability?f[0]=areas_of_focus_tools:18)