



Santa Clara School of Law

Financial Aid and Scholarship FAQs

Fall 2026 Entering Students

Q: When will I receive my federal financial aid package?

A: The Board of Trustees assigns the official cost of tuition in early-March. Once our office receives this information, we can finalize the cost of attendance and provide you with your official financial aid offer letter. If you are admitted in fall, you can review last year's tuition rate and cost of attendance on the [Law Financial Aid website](#). As we receive more information about the costs of the upcoming academic year, we will notify you and update our website.

Q: How can I tell if I was offered a scholarship?

A: Students are automatically evaluated for the PLEDGE scholarship and merit-based scholarship awards at the time of admission to the School of Law. If you have been awarded a scholarship, it is included in the first page of your admission letter.

Q: How can I accept my scholarship offer?

A: In order to secure your seat in our incoming class as well as any scholarship offers, students must pay their deposit by the deposit deadlines listed in their acceptance letter. Failure to comply with the outlined enrollment deposit dates will result in the forfeiture of any scholarship awards and may result in the forfeiture of your seat in our incoming class.

Q: What is the PLEDGE Scholarship?

A: The PLEDGE Scholarship is a new scholarship initiative built as a response to the changing landscape of federal student loans. The PLEDGE Scholarship has been strategically designed to ensure incoming 1L students are empowered to afford their direct cost of attendance (tuition and fees) in light of the new cap on federal student loans.

Q: Who is eligible for the PLEDGE Scholarship?

A: All students admitted to the School of Law prior to April 15th will be offered the PLEDGE Scholarship. In order to secure your seat in our incoming class as well as any scholarship offers, students must pay their deposit by the standard April 15 deadline. Failure to comply with the outlined enrollment deposit dates will result in the forfeiture of the offered PLEDGE scholarship.

Q: What is the amount of the PLEDGE Scholarship I can expect to receive?

A: All full-time students admitted and deposited by April 15 can expect to receive a \$16,000 scholarship, bringing the direct-cost of law school tuition within new yearly federal loan limits. FlexJD students will receive a proportional \$12,500 to bring their costs within their yearly federal loan limits.

Q: I was awarded a PLEDGE Scholarship. What are the renewal terms for that scholarship?

A: Your PLEDGE scholarship will be renewed for your subsequent years of law school so long as you meet the standard first deposit deadline of April 15th, the second deposit deadline of June 1st, and remain in academic good standing as determined at the conclusion of the spring semester in your first full year and each semester thereafter. You must be enrolled in the minimum number of units required for your program of study. For more information about academic policies at the school of law, [please consult the Law School Bulletin](#).

Q: Will my PLEDGE Scholarship increase in future years?

A: The PLEDGE Scholarship amount has been assessed to keep your first year law school tuition within the federal student loan borrowing limits. It will not be indexed to tuition increases or changes to federal loan limits. While we don't know what the future holds, our Financial Aid team is staying abreast of current legislation and is here to help provide resources and options for financing your legal education.

Q: If I am offered the PLEDGE Scholarship, am I eligible to receive other admission scholarships?

A: Yes. All students will still be evaluated for our merit-based admission scholarships. Students may combine other admission scholarships with the PLEDGE Scholarship. Please note, the renewal terms of the PLEDGE Scholarship, Emery Merit Scholarship, and Law Faculty will vary.

Q: How are merit scholarships determined?

A: Other than our PLEDGE scholarship, admissions scholarships are merit-based and the amount awarded is determined by your highest LSAT/GRE score and your undergraduate GPA. While every application is considered holistically for admission, our merit scholarship calculation is standard for every applicant based on their scores. Because of this standard and in an effort to ensure the process is as fair as possible, we do not negotiate scholarship awards. We encourage you to research other opportunities for financial assistance, such as employer incentives, outside scholarships, grants, and fellowships. Please also visit [our External Scholarships page](#) for more information.

Q: I was awarded an Emery Merit Scholarship. What are the renewal terms for that scholarship?

A: As your scholarship has been awarded to you based on your academic promise, it will be renewed so long as you maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better, as determined at the conclusion of the spring semester of your first year in law school, and subject to review thereafter at the conclusion of each subsequent academic term. Renewal terms are non-negotiable. All students awarded the Emery Merit Scholarship are issued an additional scholarship letter outlining terms of renewal. Please see your scholarship letter at the end of your decision communication.

Q: I was awarded an Emery Merit Scholarship. When is my class standing reviewed to determine if my scholarship will be renewed?

A: Standing is determined at the end of the spring semester of your first year and is subject to review thereafter at the conclusion of each subsequent semester.

Q: I was awarded an Emery Merit Scholarship. What happens if my cumulative GPA is just under the 3.0 GPA required for renewal (e.g., 2.98). Will you round up? What happens to my scholarship? If I lose it can I get it back?

A: We do not round up the cumulative GPA. If, at the end of the spring semester of your first year or any semester of study thereafter, your cumulative GPA falls below 3.0, your scholarship will be terminated and cannot be reinstated. This is true even if your cumulative GPA exceeds 3.0 in a subsequent semester. Grades earned during a summer session are not considered in calculating your GPA from the prior academic year.

Q: I was awarded a Law Faculty, Public Interest, or Dean's Fellowship. What are the renewal terms for those scholarships?

A: You must remain in academic good standing as determined at the conclusion of the spring semester of each academic year. You must be enrolled in the minimum number of units required for your program of study. For more information about academic policies at the school of law, [please consult the Law School Bulletin](#).

Q: When can my scholarship money be used?

A: Scholarships are renewable on a yearly basis and in relation to your program standing. Emery Merit and Law Faculty scholarship awards are split evenly between the fall and spring semesters and can never exceed the cost of tuition. In your first-year, PLEDGE scholarships are weighted between fall and spring semesters based on the mandatory unit enrollment for your JD program. In subsequent years, the PLEDGE scholarship is split evenly between the fall and spring semesters and can never exceed the cost of tuition. Scholarships cannot be used for summer classes or study abroad. For full time-students, your award is renewable for up to three years or until degree requirements are met (whichever is sooner). For Flex students, your award is renewable for up to four years or until degree requirements are met (whichever is sooner). Terms of renewal are dependent on the scholarship you were awarded (see below).

Scholarships will be reassessed if students do not stay within the unit requirements for each program:

Full- time status for fall and spring semesters: 12+ units

Part-time status for fall and spring semesters: 5-11 units

Q: Can I use my scholarship to cover fees?

A: No, all fees are mandatory. Scholarships can only be used toward tuition.

Q: Can scholarships exceed tuition costs?

A: No. Scholarship awards can only be applied to tuition. Fees are assessed separately from tuition. If you take a lighter course load for a semester, your scholarship will be

adjusted to pay no more than your required School of Law tuition. If you are awarded supplemental or outside agency scholarships, please note that any scholarship funds that exceed required costs are considered taxable. See IRS Publication 970 for more information.

Q: What happens if I change from full-time enrollment to Flex JD (part-time) enrollment (or vice versa)?

A: Your scholarship is reflective of the program you were admitted to. If you would like to inquire about changing into a different program before the start of classes, please contact lawadmissions@scu.edu. The deadline to petition for program transfer is 1 week before your final enrollment deposit is due. Your scholarship will be reassessed if your program transfer is approved.

After enrollment, if you are changing your program of study, you must follow the steps outlined in the [student bulletin under status changes](#). If you change your program of study, your scholarship may be reassessed.

Q: I am interested in enrolling in the JD/MBA, JD/MSIS, or JD/LLM combined degree program. How does that affect my scholarship?

A: Scholarships and fellowships offered by the School of Law can be applied only towards tuition for School of Law courses. School of Law scholarship funds cannot be applied towards tuition for the Leavey School of Business or any other coursework outside of the School of Law. In semesters in which the majority of your courses are taken outside of the School of Law, your scholarship may be adjusted to not exceed the cost of your School of Law tuition. Your aggregate scholarship amount cannot exceed the total amount you would have been awarded based on your originally anticipated graduation date. In other words, the total dollar amount of your scholarship aid will not increase if you choose to take additional courses beyond the typical three- or four-year program.

Q: What if I participate in another law school's study abroad program or enroll as a visiting student at another law school?

A: School of Law scholarships can be applied only towards tuition at Santa Clara University School of Law and not used for study abroad tuition. Our scholarship funds cannot be used to pay for tuition at another law school. If you enroll at another law school as a visiting student during a fall or spring semester, you will not receive (i.e., forfeit) the amount of scholarship aid that would have been paid towards your tuition had you remained at Santa Clara University School of Law that semester. Any funds that you forfeit cannot be recouped in future semesters.

Q: What if I graduate earlier or later than I had originally anticipated?

A: You should contact the Law Admissions & Financial Aid Office if your graduation date changes from what was originally anticipated. Scholarship assistance terminates once you have completed the number of units required to graduate from the School of Law. In the event that your graduation date is adjusted to an earlier date, your scholarship will not be adjusted. For full time-students, your award is renewable for up to six

consecutive semesters or until degree requirements are met (whichever is sooner). For Flex students, your award is renewable for up to eight consecutive semesters or until degree requirements are met (whichever is sooner). Terms of renewal are dependent on the scholarship you were awarded (see your scholarship terms and conditions page).

Q: I was awarded a larger scholarship from another law school. Will you match or exceed that scholarship offer?

A: In order to make the scholarship process as fair as possible for all incoming students, we do not match scholarship offers from other schools or negotiate scholarship terms. Our Financial Aid office is always happy to work with incoming students to devise solutions including federal aid.

Q: What happens if I perform well while at Santa Clara University School of Law? Will my scholarship be increased?

A: Your scholarship will not be increased. Upper-division students are eligible to apply for a limited number of supplemental endowed scholarships which provide aid to students in their second, third, and fourth years of law school.

Q: What happens if I am academically disqualified but subsequently readmitted?

A: If you are academically disqualified at any time, your scholarship will be terminated and will not be reinstated.

Q: What happens if I take a leave of absence?

A: Your scholarship offer will terminate and we cannot guarantee that your scholarship offer will be reinstated if you defer or take a leave of absence.

If you have additional questions please call the Law Admissions & Financial Aid Office at (408) 554-5048 or email lawfinancialaid@scu.edu.