



# Financing Your Education

An overview of financial aid and scholarships





## Important Dates

### Things You Need To Do

- February 15** ..... Priority deadline for submitting FAFSA (see page 3)
- March 15** ..... Priority deadline for submitting admission application
- April** ..... Deadline to submit first seat deposit and accept your scholarship award\*
- June** ..... Second seat deposit deadline\*
- June–July** ..... Process student loans and begin monthly payment plan (if applicable)
- August** ..... Settle fall semester student account and attend Orientation
- December** ..... Settle spring semester student account

\*If you are admitted at the end of March or later, your first seat deposit deadline may be in May or later.



### When You Can Expect to Hear From Lewis & Clark

- Late December** ..... First admission offers and scholarship awards sent to applicants
- January–March** ..... Majority of admission offers and scholarship awards sent to applicants
- Early March** ..... First financial aid award notifications sent to admitted students

The decision to invest in a high-quality legal education may be one of the most important choices you make. Much of the responsibility for funding your education will rest with you, but Lewis & Clark's financial aid program can help.

We focus primarily on providing gift aid to students who demonstrate academic merit. However, we also offer grants that consider financial need, diversity, a desire to work in the public-interest sector, and other factors.

No matter your situation, we are committed to working in partnership with you to identify your best financial options and strategies for attending Lewis & Clark Law School.

# Applying for Financial Aid

# 1

## **Apply for admission.**

- All admitted students are automatically considered for scholarships and grants.
- You do not need to fill out any separate applications for scholarships or grants as an entering student.

# 2

## **Submit your FAFSA.**

- You can find the FAFSA online at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) beginning October 1.
- For priority consideration, submit your FAFSA by February 15.
- Complete your FAFSA with 2020 income figures. We recommend using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer your tax information into your application.
- Make sure to include Lewis & Clark as a school that can access your FAFSA data. Our federal school code is 003197.

# 3

## **Watch your email—we'll be in touch if we need any additional information.**



## FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid. The bulk of federal financial aid for law students comes in the form of student loans. Remember these important details about the FAFSA:

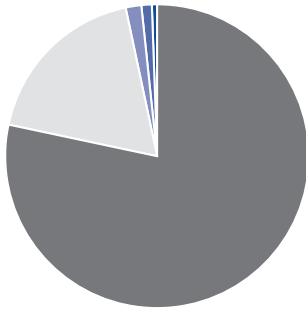
**Don't wait.** To be considered for student loans, you must submit the FAFSA. Please apply by the priority deadline.

**Don't worry.** You do not need to finish your 2021 tax return before you submit the FAFSA. Income for the 2020 tax year will be reported, and we recommend using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer this information into your application. It's quick, easy, and accurate!

**Read your Student Aid Report (SAR).** You will receive your SAR after your FAFSA is processed. If there are any issues with your FAFSA, you will be given further instructions.

**Follow through as soon as possible.** If we need any additional information, we will be in touch. Please reply as quickly as you can. A delay on your part may delay your offer of financial assistance.

In the 2019–20 school year, Lewis & Clark law students received \$11,217,861 in scholarships.



## Sources of Scholarships at Lewis & Clark

- \$8,822,563 (78.6%) Merit-based scholarships awarded at admission
- \$2,025,985 (18.1%) Non-merit awards granted at admission
- \$215,010 (1.9%) Upper-division scholarships
- \$114,303 (1.0%) External scholarships
- \$40,000 (0.4%) Institutional gift aid to veterans

## Dean's Scholarships

- Amounts vary
- Merit based
- Granted to 87% of entering students in 2020
- Renewable

## Discovery and Trillium Grants

- Amounts and criteria vary
- Granted to 13% of entering students in 2020
- Renewable

## Quinault Allottees: Nelson D. Terry Scholarship

- Amount typically ranges from \$2,000 to \$6,000
- Priority consideration to Native American students who are enrolled and involved in their tribal community
- Granted to a maximum of two students in the entering class, though not awarded every year
- Not renewable

## Fellowships

- Amounts and criteria vary
- Fellows receive faculty mentoring, access to special programming, and a possible research assistant position in the second or third year of law school
- A small number granted per year to entering students with academic merit and significant experience in environmental advocacy or research
- Not renewable

## Scholarships for Continuing Upper-Division Students

- Amounts and criteria vary
- Some scholarships require an application; others are granted by nomination of a worthy candidate
- For a list of available scholarships refer to [go.lclark.edu/law/scholarships/awards](http://go.lclark.edu/law/scholarships/awards)

## External Scholarships

- Scholarships offered by sources outside of Lewis & Clark that are used to fund tuition and other costs associated with attending law school
- Amounts and criteria vary
- To start your search for external scholarships, visit [go.lclark.edu/law/scholarships/awards](http://go.lclark.edu/law/scholarships/awards)

## Student Employment

Students have a variety of employment options available. Some work on campus, such as in the Boley Law Library, or at selected off-campus agencies, while others pursue more general part-time work in the community. The law school's Office of Career Services posts job listings for students and can assist you with locating clerkships, work-study opportunities, externships, pro bono experiences, and public interest stipends for summer work.

### Federal Work-Study

*FAFSA required for consideration.*

*Recipients must have completed their first year of law school.*

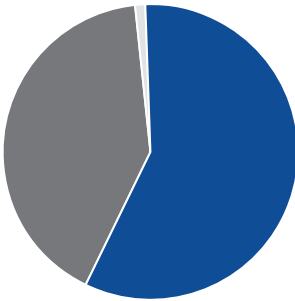
- Eligibility depends on financial need
- Wages range from minimum wage up to \$22 per hour
- Recipients must seek out and secure their own jobs from a pool of legal positions with contracted employers
- An offer of work-study will replace an equivalent amount of loan eligibility in the student's financial aid package

# Financing Your Education

## Student Loans

Most law students find loan programs to be useful resources for financing their legal education. These funds allow students to borrow against their future earning potential, which research indicates improves with advanced educational attainment. The FAFSA must be filed each year to access the federal student loan programs. The average student loan amount for Lewis & Clark Law School JD students who graduated in the 2019–20 year and borrowed loans was approximately \$141,725.

In the 2019–20 school year, Lewis & Clark law students received \$19,939,488 in loans from the following sources:



**Sources of Loans at Lewis & Clark**

- \$11,568,378 (58%) ■ Federal Direct PLUS Loans for Graduate Students
- \$8,194,889 (41%) ■ Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans
- \$176,221 (1%) ■ Private Loans

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans	Federal Direct PLUS Loans for Graduate Students
Not based on financial need	Not based on financial need
5.28% fixed interest rate for 2021–22 loans; 2022–23 rate will be set in June 2022	6.28% fixed interest rate for 2021–22 loans; 2022–23 rate will be set in June 2022
Unsubsidized; interest begins accruing immediately	Unsubsidized; interest begins accruing immediately
Subject to a 1.057% origination fee if disbursed before 10/1/2022; the fee will change for loans first disbursed on or after that date	Subject to a 4.228% origination fee if disbursed before 10/1/2022; the fee will change for loans first disbursed on or after that date
\$20,500 annual borrowing limit	May borrow up to the cost of attendance <i>minus</i> all other financial aid
Not credit qualified	A credit check is required for loan approval
Borrowers who cease to be enrolled at least half time have a six-month grace period before repayment begins	Borrowers who cease to be enrolled at least half time have a six-month post-enrollment deferment period before repayment begins



## Private Student Loans

Private loans tend to be some of the most expensive sources of funding, so students should carefully consider all federal borrowing options before turning to a private loan. Private loans, which are offered by a variety of lending institutions, are typically unsubsidized. No FAFSA is required. Approval is based on a review of the borrower's credit history and credit score. The eligibility criteria, interest rates, fee structures, and repayment terms of private loans vary greatly from lender to lender.

## Bar Study Loans

Bar study loans are credit-qualified private loans intended to help cover expenses incurred after graduation while a student prepares for the bar exam. Review information on lender websites for details on the loan programs. Please note that some lenders require a previous borrowing relationship to qualify for the bar study loan.

## Loan Repayment

### **Lewis & Clark Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)**

Our LRAP helps JD graduates take the public interest jobs they desire without worrying about how to make their monthly payments on law school loans. There is no set cap on the amount of assistance an individual graduate can receive, and we regularly help with up to 100 percent of law school loan repayment obligations over a three- to five-year period depending on funds available.

### **State Bar Association Repayment Programs**

The bar associations in many states also offer loan repayment assistance to new attorneys working in public interest organizations or qualified government agencies. Contact the bar association in the state where you wish to practice law to inquire about assistance, qualifications, and their application process.

### **Federal Student Loan Repayment Options**

A variety of repayment plans are available to borrowers. Under debt-driven plans, the monthly payment amount is calculated based on total debt, interest rate, and length of repayment period. Under income-driven plans, the monthly payment amount is calculated as a percentage of your discretionary income. Learn more about repayment options at [studentaid.gov/repay](https://studentaid.gov/repay). Those who plan to work in the public interest should also explore the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

## Cost

Lewis & Clark Law School is a private school, so tuition is the same for all students regardless of state of residency.

### 2021-22

#### Tuition and fees

Full-time . . . . .	\$51,852
Part-time . . . . .	\$38,886
Health insurance for 1Ls. . . . .	\$3,544
Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) fee . . . . .	\$50
Summer school (optional)* . . . . .	\$1,915/credit

#### Additional costs

Living, transportation, and personal expenses (maximum allowable). . . . .	\$25,200
Books and supplies (estimated). . . . .	\$1,600

Living expenses vary depending on each student's own personal needs and circumstances. There are many ways to reduce these costs while in law school, such as sharing housing and using alternative transportation. Keep in mind that Oregon has no sales tax, so make some of your planned law school purchases after you relocate to Portland. Visit [go.lclark.edu/living-expenses](http://go.lclark.edu/living-expenses) to see three sample 9-month budgets for living expenses. We also recommend that you review the Money Management section of the Financial Aid website at [go.lclark.edu/money\\_management](http://go.lclark.edu/money_management).

Student borrowers should be aware that federal student loans are subject to origination fees. The fees are calculated as a percentage of the total loan amount and deducted from each loan disbursement. See page 7 for the percentages.

## Billing and Payment

The Office of Student and Departmental Account Services divides annual charges in half and bills your student account before each semester. An online account statement will be provided when your account is billed. Our students have a variety of choices when settling their accounts:

- Pay the balance due in full
- Apply financial aid, including federal student loans
- Enroll in a monthly payment plan with Nelnet: Tuition Management Systems (TMS) at [lclark.afford.com](http://lclark.afford.com)

\*Summer school courses are 2 to 3 credits. In addition, students can undertake summer externships that range from 3 to 12 credits. Many students take one or two courses over one summer. Students taking two summer school classes may become eligible to graduate early or to take part-time semesters and still graduate in three years in the full-time program.



## Contact Information

### Office of Financial Aid

[go.lclark.edu/fao](http://go.lclark.edu/fao)  
[fao@lclark.edu](mailto:fao@lclark.edu)  
503-768-7090  
503-768-7074 fax

### Office of Law School Admissions

[law.lclark.edu/offices/admissions](http://law.lclark.edu/offices/admissions)  
[lawadms@lclark.edu](mailto:lawadms@lclark.edu)  
503-768-6613  
800-303-4860  
503-768-6793 fax

### Office of Student and Departmental Account Services

[go.lclark.edu/student/accounts](http://go.lclark.edu/student/accounts)  
[accounts@lclark.edu](mailto:accounts@lclark.edu)  
503-768-7829  
503-768-7908 fax

### Federal Student Aid Information Center

[studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)  
[FAFSA.gov](http://FAFSA.gov)  
800-433-3243

### Nelnet: Tuition Management Systems (TMS)

[afford.com](http://afford.com)  
[service@afford.com](mailto:service@afford.com)  
800-722-4867  
401-921-3999

### Tips for Comparing Financial Aid Packages

When making financial aid package comparisons, remember to consider the following criteria to accurately compare the net costs for your attendance at each school:

- Estimated living expenses. Does the school use an average cost-of-living rate, or the lowest rate recommended? Make sure to use the same comparative factor. (Lewis & Clark uses the average.)
- Scholarship terms. Is the scholarship renewable? Do you need to have a minimum GPA to keep your award? How many students lose their scholarships?
- Tuition calculation. Is tuition charged per year, per semester, or per credit? If tuition is charged per credit, how many credits are required to graduate?
- Fees. Does the school charge fees beyond tuition, and is it clear what those fees are?

### Additional Resources

AccessLex Institute, a nonprofit dedicated to legal education, has partnered with Lewis & Clark Law School to offer MAX by AccessLex®, a free personal finance program designed exclusively for law students. Content is delivered through in-person workshops, online programming, and one-on-one counseling. Scholarship incentives are built in to keep students motivated!

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Lewis & Clark follows the letter  
and spirit of all equal opportunity  
and civil rights laws.

Lewis & Clark is committed to  
using resources wisely.  
[go.lclark.edu/printing\\_practices](http://go.lclark.edu/printing_practices)

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