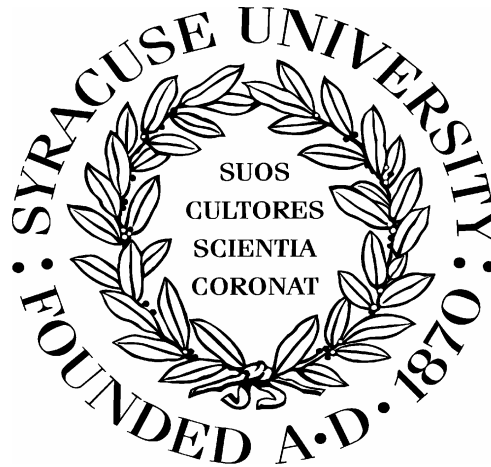


# **Syracuse University College of Law**



## **Financial Aid Policy Statement 2009-2010**

## Syracuse University College of Law Financial Aid Policy Statement

### Part 1: General Provisions

**1.1** This document, known as the Financial Aid Policy Statement, outlines the manner in which decisions about law student financial aid are made. This Statement, as well as any amendments from time to time made hereto by the College of Law, shall be available for inspection by students. All amendments to this document and other information about financial aid procedures shall be posted on the College of Law website or otherwise made available to interested students. Students shall be held responsible for any information that is so made available or contained herein.

**1.2** Financial aid awards may be comprised of College of Law Tuition Grants, College of Law Scholarships, University Graduate Fellowships, Federal Work Study Awards, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Stafford Loans, Federal Graduate PLUS Loans and/or awards from such other financial aid programs as the College may from time to time administer. The University Graduate Fellowship programs are administered by the Graduate School and are not necessarily subject to the provisions of this Policy Statement.

### Part 2: The Application Process and Requirements

**2.1** All applicants for need-based financial aid annually must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). New financial aid applicants and a selected group of returning students are required to submit a College of Law Financial Aid Application and a copy of the student's (and spouse's, if applicable) federal income tax return. Students are advised to pay strict attention to memoranda posted on the College of Law website, bulletin boards, and the College of Law catalog, which outline the procedures by which all forms are to be filed.

**2.2** Each year, the College of Law sets deadlines for the receipt of all forms. Students must adhere to the deadline. Applications received after the posted deadline will be considered only after all timely applications have been reviewed. Late applicants shall receive awards only to the extent permitted by remaining available funds.

#### **2.3 Dependency Status:**

**(a)** The ability of parents to help finance educational costs will be considered in the determination of eligibility for institutional need-based grants administered by the College of Law. Therefore, all students under age 30, unless they have a dependent other than a spouse, must complete the "Family Section" of the College of Law Financial Aid Application and submit copies of their parents' federal tax return to be considered for grants from the College of Law.

**(b)** Federal aid eligibility, including Federal Stafford Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Graduate PLUS Loans, and Federal Work Study is based on student (and spouse, if applicable) information provided on the required financial aid application materials. Parent information is not used to determine Federal financial aid eligibility.

### Part 3: Financial Aid Awarding Policies

**3.1** To receive financial aid either administered or certified by the College of Law, students must either be enrolled at the College of Law, enrolled in an approved joint-degree program, or be a matriculated Syracuse Law student enrolled elsewhere as a "visiting student" in an approved program. Most types of financial aid from the College of Law are awarded on the basis of financial need and require full-time, in residence enrollment. Change to part-time status (enrolling for fewer than twelve credit hours per academic semester) may result in an adjustment to or cancellation of any financial aid award. Part-time students seeking federal and/or institutional aid must register for a minimum of 8 credits in the fall and spring semesters and 4 credits during the summer term to qualify.

**3.2** College of Law Tuition Grants, Scholarships, Federal Work Study, and Federal Perkins Loans will be awarded only for in residence study during the fall and/or spring semesters. Students wishing to accelerate their legal education by enrolling in summer courses should be advised of this policy. These policies do not preclude the awarding of tuition grants to students participating in approved summer programs through SU Abroad.

**3.3** Students who are approved to enroll as a visiting student at another institution may be eligible to receive Federal loans and/or private educational loans up to the cost of attendance at the school they plan to attend. The Financial Aid Office will send a consortium agreement to the visiting school, and once completed by an administrator at the visiting school, all of the loans will be processed and certified at Syracuse University College of Law. College of Law scholarships and grants, Federal Work Study and Federal Perkins Loans will not be awarded to students who visit away.

**3.4** All financial aid award offers are extended based on the best possible estimates of funds to be made available from all aid sources, including the Federal Government, and are therefore contingent on the actual availability of such funds in the estimated amounts.

### Part 4: Merit-Based Scholarship Awarding Policies

**4.1** The College of Law may award merit-based scholarships to matriculated students demonstrating exceptional academic promise or performance. College of Law merit-based scholarships are awarded to entering students based on the student's admission application. To the extent scholarship funds are available after all renewal commitments have been met, initial scholarships may be awarded to second and third year law students in recognition of outstanding academic achievements at the College of Law. Such awards will be made to students demonstrating exceptional academic promise or performance, and/or financial need, and/or participation in activities that have brought distinction to the law student.

## Syracuse University College of Law Financial Aid Policy Statement

### Part 4: Merit-Based Scholarship Awarding Policies (continued)

**4.2** College of Law scholarship recipients must be matriculated as full-time students in the J.D. program at Syracuse University. Scholarships cannot be transferred to another institution. Full-time students are defined as those who register for and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours during each fall and spring semester.

**4.3** Scholarships from the College of Law may be combined with other tuition awards, not to exceed the amount of tuition for each academic year.

**4.4** Scholarship awards may be renewed during each of a returning student's remaining years at the College of Law as long as the student meets the minimum renewal standards described in both their original scholarship notification letter and the award policies described herein.

**(a)** Eligibility for merit scholarship renewal is based upon the official cumulative Law Grade Point Average. Renewal of awards will be determined upon receipt of all grades for an academic year (occurring after the completion of each spring semester). Grades earned outside the College of Law will not be used to calculate the official cumulative Law Grade Point Average.

**(b)** For students admitted to the College of Law beginning in fall 2004 and thereafter, the minimum cumulative College of Law Grade Point Average (GPA) necessary for Chancellor's Scholarship renewal is a 3.00; the minimum cumulative GPA necessary for Dean's Scholarship renewal is 2.80; the minimum cumulative GPA necessary for Alumni Scholarship renewal is 2.80. Grades will not be rounded to the nearest 10<sup>th</sup> of a point.

**(c)** Chancellor's scholars with official cumulative Law GPA's that are less than a 3.00 but at least a 2.80 at the end of the spring semester will lose their Chancellor's scholarship but will be offered a Dean's Scholarship. These new Dean's scholars must meet the minimum Dean's scholarship requirements to retain the Dean's scholarship. The Chancellor's scholarship will not be reinstated, regardless if minimum requirements for a Chancellor's scholarship are met at a later date.

**(d)** Students must complete all courses for which they register within the regular timeframe of the semester in which they are enrolled. Students with "incompletes" will not be eligible for scholarship renewal.

**(e)** Scholarship awards will be renewed at their original levels provided that resources are available and, when combined with other tuition awards, do not exceed the amount of tuition for each academic year.

**(f)** Scholarships are renewable for two years. If a student enrolls in a joint-degree program the scholarship may be renewed as the student satisfies the requirements to complete required courses in the joint degree program, not to exceed a fourth year.

**(g)** Students enrolled in the Accelerated Liberal Arts/Law Program (ALA/LP) who are offered College of Law merit-based scholarships AND are recipients of undergraduate merit-based scholarships will have their undergraduate scholarships renewed for their final year of undergraduate work (which is also their first year of law school). The total value of these merit awards will not exceed the regular level of the law merit scholarship. The following years will be funded solely by the College of Law.

**(h)** Recipients of scholarships who return from an approved leave of absence and who are in good academic standing, meeting the minimum academic standards described in their original scholarship notification letter, will be eligible for the scholarship.

**(i)** Recipients of scholarships who fail to meet the renewal standard at the end of any academic year will not receive renewal of their scholarship awards for subsequent years, regardless if minimum requirements are met at a later date.

### Part 5: Satisfactory Academic Progress

**5.1** Federal regulations require schools to develop and apply a consistent and reasonable standard of academic progress, and note the basic elements of a policy that measures satisfactory progress.

**5.2** The following policy on satisfactory academic progress relates specifically to students who are receiving federal financial aid from Syracuse University College of Law. Types of federal financial aid include: Federal Perkins, Federal Stafford, and Federal Graduate PLUS Loans and Federal Work Study.

**5.3** Academic progress is defined as earning a minimum number of credits over a specific number of semesters and maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA). Academic progress will be reviewed annually, at the conclusion of the spring semester, once final Fall/Spring grades have been recorded.

**5.4 FULL-TIME STUDENTS\*:** Students must complete all requirements for the J.D. degree during a period in residence of not less than 90 calendar weeks and not more than 105 calendar weeks. Full-time students must complete with a grade of D or better a minimum of 12 credit hours of course work each semester and must achieve a cumulative average of 2.2.

**5.5 PART-TIME STUDENTS\*:** Part-time students must complete all requirements for the J.D. degree during a period in residence of not less than 120 calendar weeks and not more than 135 calendar weeks. Part-time students must complete with a grade of D or better a minimum of 8 credit hours of course work each semester and must achieve a cumulative average of 2.2.

\*All students are admitted into the full-time program. Students may take a reduced course load only upon a case-by-case approval.

## Syracuse University College of Law Financial Aid Policy Statement

### **Part 5: Satisfactory Academic Progress (continued)**

**5.6 Academic Probation:** The Academic Standards Committee has absolute discretion to grant academic probation to students who fall below 2.20. Students on Academic Probation fall below the necessary requirements for satisfactory academic progress and are ineligible for further financial aid. However, eligibility may be regained by submitting a waiver demonstrating that failure to meet the standards for academic progress was based on circumstances beyond the student's control (such as illness/injury or other special circumstances), or, students may enroll without institutional, federal, and state financial aid during a subsequent academic period (usually a summer session) to earn the required grades/courses to regain eligibility.

**5.7 Appeals:** Any student who falls below the standard to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress may submit a written petition to the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards Committee (in care of the College of Law Office of Financial Aid, Suite 340 White Hall) to initiate an appeal for a waiver. The petition must address the reasons for the student's poor performance and/or the circumstances that necessitated withdrawal from classes rather than the student's need for the financial assistance.

**5.8 NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)** - The satisfactory academic progress standards for TAP and other New York state scholarship or award programs differ from those for federal aid. Graduate students are required to be registered for and complete at least 12 credit hours per semester to receive TAP. The minimum cumulative GPA required to receive TAP at Syracuse College of Law is a 2.20 on a 4.00 scale.

### **Part 6: Flat Tuition Rate Policy**

**6.1 Full-Time Students:** Effective beginning fall 2007, newly admitted first-year students will be charged a flat rate of tuition for each semester in the academic year (Fall/Spring) for the three year duration of their full-time enrollment at the College of Law.

**6.2 Part-Time Students:** Effective beginning fall 2007, newly admitted first-year students will be charged a fixed per-credit rate of tuition for each semester in the academic year (Fall/Spring) for the four year duration of their part-time enrollment at the College of Law. Tuition charges will be calculated based upon the number of credits for which a student registers multiplied by the fixed per-credit rate of tuition.

**6.3 Joint-Degree Students:** Students who are admitted to the College of Law under the flat tuition rate policy, who go on to matriculate into approved joint-degree programs, will be entitled to the fixed rate of tuition as they are satisfying the requirements to complete required courses in the joint degree program, not to exceed a fourth year. Joint-degree students are always charged at the law rate, regardless of the courses in which the student enrolls, not the graduate student rate.

**6.4 Leave of Absence:** Students who are on an approved leave of absence for a specific time period (not to exceed two years) will be charged the flat rate of tuition that was established upon their first semester as a matriculated student upon their return to the College of Law.

**6.5 Readmission:** Students who take unauthorized leaves of absence and those who do not return to the College of Law when their approved leave of absence expires shall be considered for re-admission only through the normal admissions process. Consequently, readmitted students will not be charged their original flat rate of tuition. Instead, the tuition rate shall be consistent with the current rate established for newly admitted students at the time of readmission.

**6.6 Transfer Students:** Students who are admitted to the College of Law as transfer students will not be charged at the first-year student flat rate of tuition. Instead, the rate of tuition charged will be consistent with the transfer student's cohort.

**6.7 Visiting Students:** Students who are admitted to the College of Law as visiting students will not be charged at the first-year student flat rate of tuition. Instead, the rate of tuition charged will be consistent with the visiting student's cohort.

**6.8 Summer Tuition Rate:** Students are charged a per-credit tuition rate during the summer enrollment period. The summer tuition per-credit rate will vary depending upon the cohort to which the student belongs. Summer tuition charges will be calculated based upon the number of credits for which a student registers multiplied by the applicable cohort per-credit rate of tuition. Law students who enroll for summer classes at Syracuse University are charged at the law school tuition rate, regardless of whether the classes are taught through the College of Law or through another department at the university.