

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL

Los Angeles, CA

Financial Aid Packaging Policy

Administrative policy approved October 1, 2026. Effective immediately.

Revision history: Formerly a part of the Financial Aid Policies & Procedures Manual; clarifying language added when established as a standalone policy in October 2026.

Related policies: Work-Study Programs Policy; Financial Aid Policy; Federal Financial Aid Eligibility Policy; Student's Right to Cancel or Withdraw and Tuition Refund Policy

Related information: Apply for Financial Aid webpage; Loans webpage; Federal Work-Study webpage

Scheduled Review Date: February 2028 (Financial Aid Office)

A. Purpose and Scope

This Policy describes Southwestern Law School's general approach to packaging financial aid administered, awarded, or certified by Southwestern. Available forms of financial aid vary based on the student's academic program, individual eligibility, and applicable program requirements. Financial aid is awarded in accordance with applicable federal and state law, institutional policies, program requirements, and the availability of funds.

B. General Packaging Principles

Upon admission, a student who has submitted a FAFSA and a Financial Aid Questionnaire (the Financial Aid Office will email the Questionnaire to the student upon admission) will be evaluated for eligibility for all forms of financial assistance available at the Law School. The Financial Aid Office determines a student's financial aid package based on the student's eligibility for specific types of aid, cost of attendance, other financial assistance, applicable annual and aggregate limits, and availability of funds.

Cost of attendance is the estimated amount of educational expenses the Law School determines a student may incur for an academic year. A student's Student Aid Index (SAI), calculated using information reported on the FAFSA, is used in determining eligibility for need-based financial aid. Financial need generally is determined by subtracting the SAI and other financial assistance that must be considered under applicable requirements from the student's cost of attendance.

Some forms of financial aid are need-based, while others are not. Need-based aid is limited by the student's financial need. Non-need-based aid is not limited by financial need but remains subject to the student's cost of attendance, other financial assistance, applicable program limits, and other eligibility requirements.

For multi-year scholarships (e.g., Wildman/Schumacher Scholarship), Southwestern reassesses eligibility annually.

C. Order of Initial Consideration

Subject to eligibility requirements, applicable limits, and the availability of funds, Southwestern generally packages financial aid according to the following order of initial consideration:

- 1. Scholarships, grants, and other assistance.** Southwestern scholarships and grants, tuition benefits, and other assistance that the Financial Aid Office determines must be taken into account under applicable financial-aid requirements, are considered first.
- 2. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans.** Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans are considered for eligible students, up to the amount for which the student is eligible and elects to borrow.
- 3. Federal Work-Study.** Federal Work-Study (FWS) is a need-based employment program that may be included in the financial-aid package of an eligible student who requests to participate, subject to the availability of funds and applicable program requirements. An FWS award represents the maximum amount a student may earn through approved FWS employment and does not guarantee employment, hours, or earnings. A student must separately apply for and be hired into an approved FWS position and complete the required employment and Financial Aid Office documentation before beginning work. Once hired, FWS funds are earned as wages and disbursed via paycheck twice monthly. See the Work-Study Programs Policy.

4. **Other federal student loans.** Other federal student loans may be included for students who are eligible for such loans under applicable federal law and program requirements.
5. **Private education loans.** Students may use eligible private education loans to assist with remaining educational costs, up to the amount permitted under applicable requirements and subject to lender approval and Southwestern's certification. Private education loans are not federal student loans, and eligibility and terms are determined by the lender. Southwestern does not recommend or endorse any particular private lender or loan product.

These priorities describe Southwestern's administrative order of initial consideration and are not a recommendation, entitlement, or guarantee that a student will receive the maximum amount available under one category before another form of aid is considered. Aid amounts are determined and adjusted in accordance with the requirements and limits applicable to each program, including financial-need and cost-of-attendance requirements where applicable, and may be affected by other financial assistance, the availability of limited funds, and the student's requested participation in Federal Work-Study.

Southwestern may also, on a case-by-case basis, decline to originate a Direct Loan for a student or originate a loan for less than the amount the student would otherwise be eligible to borrow, where warranted by the student's individual circumstances. Any such determination is documented in the student's file and applied without regard to race, gender, color, religion, national origin, age, disability status, or income.

Students are encouraged to borrow only the amount necessary to meet their educational expenses. Students are not required to accept all financial aid offered and may decline or reduce loan or Federal Work-Study amounts.

D. Cost of Attendance and Package Adjustments

Financial aid is packaged in accordance with financial need, cost of attendance, and other limitations applicable to each program. A student may request an adjustment to the student's cost of attendance based on qualifying educational expenses in accordance with Southwestern's procedures and applicable law.

Southwestern may revise a student's financial-aid package when necessary because of changes in the student's enrollment, cost of attendance, eligibility, receipt of scholarships or other financial assistance, availability of funds, or other circumstances affecting the student's aid eligibility. Students must notify the

Financial Aid Office of any enrollment change that may affect their financial aid eligibility.

Southwestern offices must promptly report to the Financial Aid Office scholarships, grants, tuition assistance, or other education-related financial assistance provided to or on behalf of a student when the office has information about such assistance. This requirement applies regardless of whether the assistance is credited to the student's account, paid directly to the student, or otherwise processed outside the Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office is responsible for determining whether and how the assistance must be taken into account for financial aid purposes.

Students must notify the Financial Aid Office of outside scholarships, grants, tuition assistance, veterans education benefits, or other financial assistance when required by applicable financial aid rules so that such assistance can be taken into account when determining the student's eligibility for financial aid.

When additional scholarships, grants, tuition benefits, or other financial assistance require a student's financial-aid package to be reduced, Southwestern generally reduces loan assistance before reducing Southwestern scholarships or grants, except that Federal Work-Study already earned will not be reduced. Southwestern will consult the student before making the adjustment where practicable.

If a student receives financial aid in excess of applicable limits, Southwestern will take any action required under applicable financial-aid requirements to resolve the overaward or overpayment, depending on the timing of the notice of funding to the Financial Aid Office. Such action may include adjusting, reducing, or canceling aid, as applicable. Earned Federal Work-Study wages will not be rescinded. Southwestern will provide any notice required by applicable law or program requirements.

E. Program Eligibility and Requirements

Eligibility for each form of financial aid is governed by the requirements applicable to that particular program. Nothing in this Policy guarantees that a student will receive a particular type or amount of financial aid.

Financial aid programs, limits, and eligibility requirements may change. Southwestern administers financial aid in accordance with the requirements applicable to the student and the relevant award year.

Students with questions about their financial aid package, cost of attendance, or eligibility should contact the Financial Aid Office.

F. Financial Aid Offer Notification

The Financial Aid Office notifies each student of the student's financial aid offer via email to the student's institutional email address and through [Self-Service](#), generally within 3 business days after determining the student's eligibility. The notice identifies the types and amounts of financial aid offered, the student's cost of attendance, and contact information for questions or changes to financial aid. Southwestern sends a supplemental notice whenever a student's financial aid offer is revised, informing the student of the change and its effect on the student's award.

G. Policy Revisions

Southwestern expressly reserves the right to change or modify any aspect of this Policy at any time, to the extent permitted by applicable law and program requirements. Southwestern will provide notice of changes as required by applicable law or program requirements.