



School of Law
Office of Financial Aid

FINANCIAL AID GUIDE

2026-27 Academic Year

The USF School of Law is committed to helping you manage the cost of your education. This document will help guide you through the process of applying for aid, and provide you with the information you will need to make informed Financial Aid decisions. Additional information can be found at our website at: <https://www.usfca.edu/law/admissions/tuition-aid>. If you have further questions, please contact the School of Law Financial Aid Office via email at lawfinaid@usfca.edu, via phone at (415) 422-6210 or in person at Kendrick Hall Room 225, 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117.

Enclosed are instructions for viewing and accepting your Financial Aid via your *myUSF* online student portal.

COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)

The cost of attendance for the **9-month academic year** (August-May) includes both Direct Expenses billed by the University (tuition, fees, housing & meals for students living on campus) and estimated Indirect Expenses not billed by the University (books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses, and housing & meals for students living off-campus). The figures below are **NOT** meant to represent your tuition bill for the Academic Year but it is the total estimated cost of attending USF School of Law for one academic year. **Your Financial Aid cannot exceed your total Cost of Attendance.**

For the 2026-27 Academic Year, the following figures are being used to determine the annual Cost of Attendance:

2026-27 JD Student Direct Expenses

Expense	Full time	*Part Time (per Unit)	*Part Time (23 Annual Units)
Tuition	\$61,530	\$2,175	\$50,025
Student Bar Association Fee	\$100	\$100 (per year)	\$100
Loan Repayment Assistance Program Fee	\$10	\$10 (per year)	\$10
AGSUSF Fee	\$80	\$80 (per year)	\$80
Total Direct Expenses	\$61,720	\$2,175 per unit + \$100 + 10 + \$80	\$50,215

2026-27 JD Indirect Expenses

	Living Off-Campus	Living On-Campus
Housing & Utilities	\$19,890	\$18,670
Meals	\$3,698	\$3,698
Books & Supplies	\$1,834	\$1,834
Transportation	\$2,860	\$2,860
Personal Expenses	\$2,530	\$2,530
Health Insurance Allowance	\$4,585	\$4,585
Other Related Expenses	<i>Reasonable expenses with documentation</i>	
Total indirect expenses	\$35,397	\$34,177

2026-27 JD Cost of Attendance**

	Living Off-Campus	Living On-Campus
Full Time	\$97,117	\$95,897
*Part Time 1L – 23 units	\$85,612	\$82,217

2026-27 LLM & MLS Tax Direct Expenses

Expense	Per Unit	
Tuition – LLM Tax	\$2,365	\$18,920 (8 Annual Units)
Tuition – MLS Tax	\$1,905	\$11,430 (6 Annual Units)

2026-27 LLM & MLS Tax Indirect Expenses

-Same as JD student expenses listed above-

2026-27 LLM & MLS Tax Cost of Attendance

	Living Off-Campus
8 Annual Units – LLM Tax	\$54,397
6 Annual Units – MLS Tax	\$46,907

* Eligible LLM ICL and LLM IPTL students follow a similar COA budget as JD students.

Changes to Cost of Attendance:

Students must submit a **Cost of Attendance (COA) appeal request** if they would like their COA to be increased for a computer purchase or any other allowable budget component. Similarly, your COA may be **adjusted downward** to reflect changes in your enrollment status, or other student status updates. It is recommended that you consult with the School of Law Financial Aid Office to determine the financial aid impact of any changes in your student status. If you decide to attend in the Summer 2027, your COA will be updated to reflect the cost of enrollment in your Summer program. Financial aid information for Summer 2027 enrollment will be available in March 2027.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid includes Scholarships and Grants, Work Study, and Loans. Unless otherwise indicated, aid will be applied to your USF student account in two equal amounts between Fall and Spring semesters, once at the beginning of each semester. You must apply for financial aid each Academic Year by completing a FAFSA application at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Be sure to read all of this information before you accept the benefits and obligations of each aid program.

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

USF Scholarships and Grants are non-transferable. USF law students planning to visit or transfer to another law school are not eligible to receive this aid. In addition, scholarships and grants are not available for any Summer session enrollment.

Law Scholarships:

The School of Law provides merit-based scholarships to entering students with exceptional academic records and to those completing their first year at the top of their class. Some supplemental scholarships are also offered to incoming first year applicants based on a combination of merit and other factors. The majority of first year scholarships are offered at the time of admission for incoming students. The amount of the award and GPA conditions for renewal (if applicable) are specified in the recipients' admission notice. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled in no less than the minimum number of units required for their specific division each term. Please be aware that any change of division will result in a change in the scholarship award. Recipients of renewable scholarships are expected to complete their law degree within the period prescribed for their respective division (Full Time-3 years; Part Time-up to 4 years). Grade requirements for renewable scholarships are determined by the recipient's cumulative grade point average at the end of each academic year, which is calculated after Spring semester grades are posted. To retain scholarship eligibility, renewable scholarship recipients must meet grade criteria at the conclusion of *each* spring semester. First year scholarship recipients who do not meet renewal GPA after the first year are not eligible to receive any portion of their scholarship for their remaining 2L and 3L years (and 4L year for Part Time students), even if the renewal GPA was achieved after the second year of law school. Additional scholarships for rising 2L, 3L and part time 4L continuing students are also offered through various USF School of Law departments. Additional information can be found online at: <https://www.usfca.edu/law/admissions/tuition-aid/jd/scholarships-other-aid>.

For a listing of private scholarships funded by different corporate and community organizations, please visit our web site at <https://www.usfca.edu/law/admissions/tuition-aid/jd/scholarships-other-aid> and <https://www.accesslex.org/databank>. This is not an exhaustive list.

Funding limitations applicable to grants/scholarships:

USF School of Law scholarships/grants are awarded to cover law school tuition only. Entrance into a dual program (JD-MBA, JD-MUPA, JD-LLM) alters the distribution of renewable law scholarships. The first year of study in a dual degree program is not funded with Law School aid (typically, all units are non-law). The remaining year(s) of study which include law classes, may qualify for funding within the limits and conditions of the scholarship award. Academic eligibility is measured by Law School grades only. Crossover classes from non-law programs are recorded but not calculated into the Law School grade point averages. JD-LLM Tax students will not have any JD scholarship aid applied in the summer, when LLM Tax classes are taken.

Note: The total combined amount of any USF scholarship and/or grant offered to any law student cannot exceed 100% of annual tuition. If a law student is awarded scholarship/grant aid from a private agency, the total amount of combined USF and non-USF aid cannot exceed their annual tuition charges unless the private agency specifically states that its scholarship funds can be used for living expenses.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY

Federal Work Study (FWS) provides students with the opportunity to earn part of what they need to meet Indirect educational expenses. Student interested in a work-study offer must reach out to the Student Employment Office @ StuEmp@usfca.edu. The University offers work study to law students with zero Student Aid Index (SAI) and has unmet need, as determined by the FAFSA Application. The Law School does not recommend that new first year law students pursue employment during their first year in order to focus on their courses and class preparation. Work-Study award does not guarantee a job. You must interview, be offered (and accept) an FWS position, and be placed on the USF payroll before you can be paid with FWS funds.

Earnings from the FWS program will not be credited to your USF student account but will be paid to you as earned income.

PLEASE NOTE: You may request a FWS award if you meet the two mentioned qualification above.

LOANS

Loans are a form of Financial Aid that unlike scholarships, grants and work-study, must be **repaid**. Educational Loans are provided by both the Federal Government and by Private Lenders.

FEDERAL LOANS

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan:

A deferred payment loan. Students who completed their FAFSA application and are enrolled at least half-time may be offered up to \$50,000 in Unsubsidized Loan each Academic Year (until you have reached the Federal Loan limit) Aggregate limit \$200,000. The Direct Unsubsidized Loan may be eligible for an automatic in-school deferment. The borrower is not *required* to make payments until six months after the borrower graduates, leaves school, or drops below half-time enrollment, however, interest begins to accrue when the loan disburses. Upon repayment, any unpaid interest that has accrued is added to the principle balance of the loan. This loan is disbursed in equal amounts between the Fall and Spring semesters.

Federal Direct Loan Benefits:

Both the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan carry the following Federal benefits. Borrowers who are unable to make payments after they leave school, or their in-school deferment ends, may request a forbearance that allows a temporary postponement of payments. Federal Unsubsidized loans may be consolidated with other federal student loans and offer flexible repayment options such as Income Driven Repayment Plans and forgiveness programs such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

Interest and Origination Fees (information as of March 2026)

Federal Loan Overview						
Loan Type	Direct Loan Interest Rates (see Note) 7/1/26-6/30/27	Loan Amount	Origination Fees (Valid 10/1/24-10/01/25)	Fall Disbursement	Spring Disbursement	Total Disbursed
Federal Direct Unsubsidized	8.07%	\$50,000 (maximum)	\$529 (1.057%)	\$24,735	\$24,736	\$49,471

Note: The interest rate on the Direct Unsubsidized Loan are tied to financial markets and subject to change each year, however once your loan is disbursed the interest rate for that amount is fixed. Changes to each academic year's interest rates should be announced by July 1, and can be found on www.studentaid.gov.

Interest is calculated by a simple daily interest formula:

Outstanding principle balance X days since last payment X (interest rate / number of days in year).

Acceptance/Cancellation of Loans:

If you accept the **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan** online via your myUSF online student portal and you have not previously signed a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note, you will need to complete an online Master Promissory Note (MPN) at www.studentaid.gov. Your online MPN will be available to complete AFTER you have accepted the Federal Direct Loan at USF. **New** loan borrowers must also complete an online Loan Entrance Counseling session at: www.studentaid.gov.

To cancel your accepted loan offer, you may email the University Financial Aid Office, or complete the financial aid adjustment request online form, or reply back to the disbursement notification.

PRIVATE LOANS

Private educational loans may be used to cover remaining costs not met by scholarships, federal loans, or other aid. These loans are offered by private lenders and are NOT part of the federal student loan program.

You may choose to cover your costs with a loan from a private lender. You may use FASTChoice to review lenders that have made loans to USF students in the past 3 years. A list of lenders can be found here: <https://myusf.usfca.edu/financial-aid/loans/private-loans> Click on **FASTChoice**. **Important considerations** when borrowing private education loans as a prospective student include that interest rates may be fixed or variable and can change over time, repayment terms and hardship options vary by lender, and private loans do not qualify for federal repayment plans or forgiveness programs.

****Applicants and prospective students are encouraged to plan early and borrow conservatively by borrowing only what they need for educational expenses, creating a realistic budget for living costs, applying for all available scholarships and grants, reviewing their credit reports for accuracy before applying for private loans, and avoiding taking on new consumer debt while in school, while also understanding their long-term repayment obligations.****

Note: Private Loans will not qualify for any federal loan repayment, consolidation, or forgiveness programs.

DISBURSEMENT

ALL disbursement requirements must be completed **before** July 15th to ensure loan funds credit to your student account by the August 1st Fall tuition payment deadline.

PAYMENT AND REFUNDS

Your Financial Aid will disburse to your USF student account and will be applied to any charges billed directly from your student account. If your Financial Aid is not enough to cover your charges, you must make a payment with personal funds or enroll in the payment plan by the payment deadline. If your Financial Aid exceeds your billed charges, you will receive a refund.

Payment Deadline

The Fall payment deadline is August 1st for the Fall semester, and January 4th for the Spring semester. Students with unpaid tuition after the payment deadline are **subject to cancellation** of their classes, and a hold placed on their USF student record.

Payment Plan

Students may enroll in the Payment Plan for a \$50 non-refundable fee. The payment plan provides a convenient means for paying tuition, fees, and other charges through regularly scheduled payments. Students with valid payment plans will not be dropped from their classes. The payment plan is for one semester only; if using the payment plan for Fall and Spring charges, you must enroll in the payment plan **twice**, once before each semester's payment deadline. Additional information is available online at: <https://myusf.usfca.edu/billing-tuition/payment-plan>

Refunds

If your applied Financial Aid (work-study is not credited to your account) exceeds your charges, you may be eligible for a refund. A refund typically is used to pay for personal expenses, living expenses and items which are not billed to your student account (i.e. off-campus housing and books). There are two ways to receive a refund:

Direct Deposit

The fastest and most efficient way to receive student account refunds. Direct deposit refunds are usually received 2-7 business days after funds are disbursed. You may sign-up for Direct Deposit online via your [myUSF](#) online student portal. Additional information is available online at: <https://myusf.usfca.edu/billing-tuition/refunds>. Please allow up to two weeks for the enrollment request to become active.

Refund Checks

If you did not authorize a Direct Deposit, you will receive a refund check mailed to your local address. Checks are usually received 10-15 business days after funds are disbursed and cannot be picked up in person. If you choose to receive your refund via mail, ensure that your mailing address information is up-to-date.

IN-SCHOOL LOAN DEFERMENT

If you previously federal borrowed educational loans and would like to defer payment while attending USF School of Law (and you are enrolled at least half-time), the University Registrar will send enrollment confirmation to the National Student Loan Clearinghouse after census date (the last day to officially withdraw from classes). The information sent to the Clearinghouse is utilized by lenders to verify your enrollment and thus defer payment on student loans until after you withdraw, graduate or drop below half-time enrollment. If you need specific information on your enrollment verification or need a specialty verification form completed, the USF School of Law Registrar's Office can verify your enrollment beginning the first day of Fall classes but no earlier.

FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID (TITLE IV) POLICY

Title IV (TIV) (federal) financial aid funds are awarded under the assumption that a student will remain in classroom attendance for the entire period (semester) for which the funds were awarded.

When a student withdraws from all courses, regardless of the reason, s/he may no longer be eligible for the full amount of TIV funds originally awarded. The return of funds to the federal government is based on the premise that a student earns financial aid in proportion to the length of time during which s/he remains enrolled. A pro-rated schedule determines the amount of federal student aid funds s/he will have earned at the time of full withdrawal. For example, a student who withdraws in the second week of the semester has earned less of his/her financial aid than a student who withdraws in the fifth week. Once the 60.01% point in the semester is reached, a student is considered to have earned all of the financial aid originally awarded and will not be required to return any funds.

Leaves of Absence at USF do not meet the federal definition for financial aid purposes. Because of this, all Leaves of Absence will be processed as withdrawals from the university and will be subject to a recalculation of financial aid eligibility.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

The federal government requires each institution to monitor each student's academic progress. To remain eligible for federal and state aid programs, students must meet **all** SAP requirements:

GPA: A minimum cumulative GPA of **2.30** is required. Students are ineligible to receive aid after two consecutive semesters under **2.30**.

Pace: Students must complete 67% of their attempted units. An attempted unit is defined as any registered class that was not dropped by the census date.

MINIMUM/MAXIMUM UNIT REQUIREMENTS FOR LAW STUDENTS

Minimum Units for Law students: Federal guidelines require at least "half time" enrollment (**3 units minimum for full-time and part-time students**) for federal aid eligibility. Please be aware that the **USF School of Law School requires full time** students to be **enrolled** in at least **12 units** each semester and part time students to be enrolled in at least **8 units** each semester (6 units with permission from the Associate Dean).

Maximum Units for Law students: A law student must successfully complete 87 course units to graduate and may be eligible for financial aid for up to 131 attempted units (150% of required units).