



## 2011-12 FINANCIAL AID INSTRUCTIONS

### Continuing Law Students

#### 1. Enrollment Status Form (ESF)

The ESF is necessary for all continuing students applying for financial aid (except scholarships). Complete the 2011-12 ESF by the **February 15, 2011 priority deadline**. This form indicates your enrollment per term during the academic year. Your financial aid is awarded accordingly.

#### 2. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA is required for all students applying for financial aid (except scholarships). Complete the 2011-12 FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) prior to the **February 15, 2011 deadline**. If you miss the deadline, your award letter will be delayed and you will not be eligible for limited funding need-based programs.

##### • Under Student Eligibility

- When you begin the 2011-12 school year, what will be your grade level? Answer **Continuing graduate/professional**.
- When you begin the 2011-12 school year, what degree or certificate will you be working on? Answer **graduate/professional degree**.
- Will you have your first bachelor's degree before July 1, 2011? Answer **Yes**.
- Have you ever received federal student aid? If **Yes**, you must respond to the next question(s).

##### • Under School Selection

- Select Seattle University as a recipient using **Federal School Code 003790**.

##### • Under Student Financial Information

- Grant and scholarship aid reported to the IRS does not refer to scholarships used for tuition, books or supplies as a degree seeking student. See IRS publication 970.
- If you apply on-line, print and keep the confirmation page. You may check your application status by clicking on "Check my submitted FAFSA."
- Although electronic processing is preferred by the federal processor, you may call 1-800-4FEDAID to order a paper FAFSA or download a PDF copy at [www.fafsa.ed.gov/fotw1112/pdf/PdfFafsa11-12.pdf](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/fotw1112/pdf/PdfFafsa11-12.pdf).

#### 3. Taxes

Complete your 2010 taxes early but estimate to meet the FAFSA deadline, if necessary. Keep a copy of your 1040 (& spouse's if filing separately), all attachments & W-2s. The federal government selects approximately 30% of all financial aid applicants for verification of data submitted. If your file is selected, you will be notified on your Student Aid Report (SAR), the document generated from the FAFSA information. Please read your SAR carefully and make any corrections or adjustments as requested by the processor. If you are selected for

verification, contact our office for a Verification Worksheet and instructions. **You will not receive an award letter and funds cannot be disbursed, in accordance with federal regulations, until verification is complete.**

#### **4. Outside Aid**

If you have applied for or anticipate receiving financial assistance for the 2011-12 academic year from sources other than the law school, you must notify Student Financial Services (SFS). For example, employer assistance, Bureau of Indian Affairs, AmeriCorps, outside scholarships other than from Seattle University, etc.

If your parents or others provided tuition assistance or other support during 2010 you must indicate the amount as untaxed income under **Student Financial Information** on the FAFSA.

#### **5. Joint Degree Program**

It is important that you notify SFS immediately if you are enrolled in any of the Joint Degree programs. Your financial aid will be adjusted accordingly. If we are not informed early enough (by March) prior to the non-law year, due to software limitations, the aid may remain on a semester disbursement schedule rather than updated to the quarter system.

Once you are enrolled in the graduate courses, **you may not receive financial aid for summer law semester classes.** This is because spring quarter (graduate) ends after summer semester (law) starts and creates an overlapping loan period. However, you may take graduate courses in the summer but they must end prior to the start of fall semester.

#### **6. Laptop Computer**

With proper documentation, you may add the cost of a laptop computer (based on minimum required specifications) to your student budget one time only during your law school career. This request must be made during the academic year that the computer is purchased. Proper documentation includes a copy of the retail receipt and a copy of recent proof of purchase by you, the student. We can increase your budget up to \$1,600 or the cost of the computer, whichever is less. This addition to your student budget increases your alternative, credit based, loan eligibility. Please contact SFS for further information.

#### **7. Financial Aid Resources.**

See the Financial Aid Resources form attached for information regarding available types of aid and how to apply.

#### **8. Deadlines**

February 15: Complete the FAFSA on-line at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

February 15: Submit your Enrollment Status Form to Student Financial Services.

April 18: IRS 2010 taxes due. Keep copies of your 1040(s), all attachments and W-2s.

Early May: Financial aid award letters ready. The next steps for processing will be included therein. **If you miss the February 15 financial aid application deadline, your award letter will be significantly delayed and you will not be eligible for some types of limited funded need-based aid.**



## 2011-12 FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

### Continuing Law Students

In order to assist law students to the fullest extent possible, Seattle University School of Law offers a number of financial aid programs that are summarized below. Please note that there are programs available regardless of income level.

More detailed information on each type of assistance for which you qualify will be mailed to you when you receive your official Student Financial Services (SFS) Award Letter package in early May.

For consideration of these programs (except scholarships), students must complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Enrollment Status Form (ESF)**. See *Financial Aid Instructions enclosed*. Submit the ESF to SFS by **February 15** and complete the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) by **February 15** to meet the priority deadline. Please see SFS or [www.law.seattleu.edu/financialservices](http://www.law.seattleu.edu/financialservices) for more information.

#### LOAN PROGRAMS

##### **Federal Direct Stafford Loan – Must accept every year (see last bullet)**

- The total Stafford loan amount is \$20,500 gross per academic year at a 6.8% fixed interest rate. Up to \$8,500 is subsidized for those who qualify based on need, for which no interest accrues during at least half-time enrollment or during the six month grace period. The remaining \$12,000 (or more if the borrower does not qualify for the full \$8,500 in subsidized Stafford) is a non-need based unsubsidized loan for which interest accrues at disbursement.
- No repayment is necessary until six months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment.
- There is a 1.0% loan origination fee. The origination fee is deducted by Direct Loans at disbursement but at the same time they provide a .5% automatic rebate repayment incentive (you must make 12 on-time payments to keep this benefit). Thus, the net amount will be .5% less than the gross loan amount reflected on your award letter. SU Online should reflect the net amount.
- You must return your award letter every year and accept the loan; you must complete the master promissory note once (<https://dlenote.ed.gov/>); you must complete entrance counseling once (<https://studentloans.gov/>); you must validate each term; you must be making satisfactory academic progress; and you must be enrolled.

##### **Federal Perkins Loan – Must accept if awarded (see last bullet)**

- Submit the FAFSA by the February 15 deadline due to limited funding.
- Our minimal allocation is awarded to students determined to have exceptional need.
- No interest accrual until nine months after graduation or dropping below half time enrollment, at which time a 5% fixed interest rate is charged during repayment.
- You must return your award letter every year and accept the loan; you must complete the Perkins master promissory note once and complete other documentation annually as requested at <https://ipromise.campuspartners.com/>; you must complete entrance counseling

once; you must validate each term; you must be making satisfactory academic progress; and you must be enrolled.

### **Federal Direct Graduate and Professional PLUS Loan (Grad PLUS) – Must apply every year (see last bullet)**

**\*\*New Grad PLUS process** – instead of a paper request form, Direct Loans now provides it at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) – click on Complete PLUS Request Process. However, they do not ask whether or not you want to include the 2.5% fee in the loan amount borrowed. **If you want the loan fee added to the loan balance, you must contact our office at the time of application for this to transpire!** If you do not contact our office, Direct Loans will deduct 2.5% from each disbursement (there is a 4% origination fee with a 1.5% repayment incentive offered upfront).

- The Grad PLUS loan is a federal alternative loan for graduate and professional students at a 7.9% fixed interest rate.
- Like a private loan, **a credit check is required** and there is an endorser (co-signer) option. If an endorser is required you will need to complete another promissory note.
- Apply for Grad PLUS **or** a private loan – you do not apply for both concurrently.
- The Grad PLUS may be consolidated with other federal loans (unlike private loans) at repayment and the credit check may be less stringent than through private lenders.
- **The Grad PLUS is eligible for the new federal loan repayment assistance program and Income Based Repayment plan. If you are considering working in the public interest or non profit arena for at least ten years, you should choose this loan as your alternative loan rather than a private loan.** After ten years of qualified public interest employment, the balance of your federal loan debt will be forgiven under the income contingent or income based repayment plan. Your federal loans must be with Direct Lending and no other lender.
- Repayment begins six months after the borrower ceases to be enrolled at least half time or graduates.
- There is a 4% origination fee with a 1.5% automatic rebate repayment incentive. The fee may be added to the loan amount in order to net the requested loan amount at disbursement – you must **contact our office to add the fee to the amount borrowed.**
- Amount allowed is up to the student budget, minus other financial aid. See award letter or SFS for eligibility amount.
- **You must complete a Grad PLUS request form every year**  
Complete at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) – click on Complete PLUS Request Process; you must return your award letter every year; you must complete the Grad PLUS master promissory note every 10 years (<https://dlenote.ed.gov/>); you must complete entrance counseling once ([www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)); you must validate each term; you must be making satisfactory academic progress; and you must be enrolled.

### **Private Loan Programs – Must apply every year (see last bullet)**

- **Approval is based upon credit and a credit check is required.**
- Apply for Grad PLUS **or** a private loan – you do not apply for both concurrently.
- Private loans are **not forgivable under the public interest federal loan forgiveness program nor eligible for Income Based Repayment (the Grad PLUS loans are eligible).**
- There are a variety of private lenders offering terms and conditions particular to their loan. See <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/x1270.xml> for lenders our students have used previously.

- You may borrow from any lender you wish, but please review the terms and conditions carefully.
- Amount allowed is up to student budget, minus other financial aid. See award letter or SFS for eligibility amount.
- Variable interest rate, adjusted monthly or quarterly with no cap. Interest begins at disbursement. Various fees and repayment options depending on lender.
- Co-signer may be required
- **Private loans cannot be consolidated with federal loans.**
- 6-9 month grace period prior to repayment after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment (interest accrues).
- **You must apply for the private loan every year;** you must return your award letter every year; complete the private loan promissory note according to lender's instructions; you must validate each term; you must be making satisfactory academic progress; and you must be enrolled.

## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

### On-campus Employment (Federal Work Study or Non-Work Study)

- Employment at the law school or university at large in various administrative offices in support positions or for law faculty as research assistants.
- Hourly wages currently range from \$8.95-\$11.30, depending upon position.
- Priority is given to first year students (except for research positions).
- You must complete an I-9, W4 and Action Form within 3 days of working.
- You must return your award letter and accept Federal Work Study, if offered and desired.

**State Work Study** (off campus) – The program is for WA residents only. A student is considered an out-of-state resident if they moved to Washington to attend school (RCW 28B.15.012).

- Must submit FAFSA by February 15 deadline.
- This is a higher need program than the Federal Work Study program and is a limited funding program.
- ***Do not presume you will receive State Work Study because you were awarded Federal Work Study in your first year.***
- Employment is off-campus in law related jobs with approved law firms, public agencies, etc.
- Hourly wages range from \$9.00-\$20.00, depending on the position.
- Need-based program.
- Available only to eligible continuing students.
- Once hired, you must complete an **Employer Referral Agreement**. *Even if you are continuing to work for the same employer during 2011-12, you must complete a new one by June 1, 2010.*
- You must return your award letter and accept State Work Study, if offered and desired.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** (You do not have to complete the FAFSA or the ESF for consideration of scholarships only.)

### At-Entry Scholarships

- Awarded to entering students during the admissions process.
- Renewable annually per the terms and conditions of the scholarship. Tentatively reflected on the upcoming academic year's award letter pending final class rank.

### **Year-End Scholarships**

- \$1,000-\$14,000 to students in the top 25% of first and second year classes at the end of the academic year, awarded for the following single academic year. Notification is not until late summer after class rank is determined.
- If a recipient becomes eligible for a Year-End scholarship in an amount larger than his or her initial (or current) At-Entry award, the larger award amount shall *replace* the initial (or current) award amount.