

# **Financing Your Legal Education**

**Financial Aid Sourcebook  
&  
Guide to Debt Management**

**Delaware Law**

Widener University Delaware Law School is committed to providing our students with the information that will allow them to be a well-educated consumer when making decisions about how to finance their legal education. You will be electronically billed for your tuition and fees prior to each semester. The amount of the semester bill will vary and is based on your program, number of credits, start date at Delaware Law and the type of course. How you will pay this bill when it arrives is going to depend on your individual situation. You may plan to pay out of your current resources, use scholarship and/or grant funding; borrow educational loans or a combination of these options.

## *Why this publication is important to you!*

This publication highlights pertinent information about the financial aid process in general, types of aid available, our application procedures, and a calendar of financial aid deadlines. It is designed to provide you with answers to the most frequently asked questions concerning financial aid at Widener University Delaware Law School. This booklet is updated annually to provide you with the most current information.

In this book, you will also find information on debt management, average costs, loan limits and scholarships. After reviewing this book if you have additional questions that are not answered, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 302-477-2272 or [DelawareLawFinAid@widener.edu](mailto:DelawareLawFinAid@widener.edu).

## FINANCIAL AID

- October, 2019** Earliest month to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- February, 2020** Widener University Delaware Law School financial aid application materials available online.
- March 24, 2020** **Recommended date for returning students to file the FAFSA application at <https://studentaid.ed.gov> for the 2020-2021 academic year** to ensure that the Law School will receive the analysis by the priority filing deadline and give the application timely consideration when awarding institutional aid. **Returning students** who file their FAFSA forms after this date risk being considered a **LATE FILER** for institutional aid.
- April 2, 2020** Priority service deadline for the 2020-2021 academic year for *returning students*. Returning students wanting priority consideration for campus-based aid must have a **complete application file\*** in the Financial Aid Office by this date.
- April 2, 2020** Earliest date to complete a Federal Graduate PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note (MPN) at <https://studentaid.gov> A credit check is required and may expire prior to processing if done before this date.
- April 21, 2020** Endowed scholarship deadline for returning students. All applications and supporting material must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office or postmarked by this date. (See pages 23 through 27 of this publication for more details)
- May – October, 2020** Primary period for analysis and origination /certification of student loans.
- June 8, 2020** **Recommended date for students to have a complete file (including signed MPN's) in order to have funds available by the start of the fall semester.**
- September 28, 2020** Deadline for submission of all appeals for institutional aid.

*\* A student's file is considered complete for institutional aid purposes when the student has completed a Delaware Law Financial Aid Data Form and submitted it to the Financial Aid Office. The student must also complete and submit an **error free FAFSA form** to the Department of Education. **The Dept. of Education must analyze the FAFSA, and the results must be returned to the school before your file is considered complete.***

➤➤For step by step instructions on how to apply for Financial Aid, please turn to page 8◀◀

# Major Sources of Financial Aid

## **The School**

Widener University Delaware Law School is committed to recognizing the significant achievements of its strongest applicants by providing merit based scholarships. Our awards are intended to reward the many and distinctive academic, personal, and professional accomplishments of our entering students. Delaware Law merit based scholarships are awarded at the time of acceptance and renewable for up to three years for full-time students and four years for part-time students provided the student maintains satisfactory academic performance. These funds are only applicable to the fall and spring semester of the academic year.

## **First State Merit Scholarship**

The State of Delaware holds the distinction of being the first state to ratify the United States Constitution. These merit based scholarship awards are named in recognition of our state's history. First State Merit Awards are offered to entering students with strong academic records established during their undergraduate years and, where applicable, through graduate study. Deserving candidates will have demonstrated leadership and service backgrounds.

## **Delaware Select Merit Scholarship**

Delaware Law School is the only law school in the state of Delaware and part of a legal community nationally renowned for integrity, civility, thoughtful decision-making, and a commitment to the greater good. Strong candidates for these awards are ranked in the top of their undergraduate class, achieved an LSAT score that meets or exceeds the median LSAT score of the most recent Delaware Law School entering class, have demonstrated leadership and service backgrounds, and are likely to contribute to the Delaware Law School community in meaningful ways.

## **Dean's Select Merit Scholarship**

Delaware Law School is led by Dean Rodney A. Smolla, a nationally recognized legal scholar and champion for student-centered and experiential legal education. Candidates selected for these merit-based awards are among the strongest applicants to Delaware Law School in both academic achievement and personal and professional accomplishments. Candidates will have demonstrated leadership and service backgrounds, extracurricular involvement at the undergraduate level, and be of strong character. A review of their accomplishments indicates that they are very likely to contribute to the law school and the communities we serve in significant and meaningful ways.

## **Widener Scholars Program**

To recognize outstanding law school achievement for the first year of study, the Widener Scholars Program awards several major scholarships. The scholarships are applied to the students' second year tuition and fees and may be continued for subsequent years if the recipient maintains suitable academic performance. The Financial Aid Office reviews all students after their first year to determine their eligibility for the Widener Scholars Program.

## **Widener Scholars Loan Program**

Beginning with the second year of study, students whose academic performance meets the requirements will be offered Widener Scholar Loans. These loans carry a fixed interest rate of 5%, no interest accrues during enrollment and grace period, and payment is deferred until six months after graduation.

## **Widener Endowed Scholarships Program**

Alumni and friends of the Law School have donated many endowed scholarships. The scholarship committee, based on the criteria determined by the individual donors, awards these scholarships annually. A list of the endowed scholarships currently available can be found in the Appendix. Most awards require an application that will be available each spring on the Endowed Scholarship page of the Widener University Delaware Law School website.

## **The Government**

The Federal Government provides funds for loans and employment opportunities. Many state governments provide grants and loans to their own state residents; some states restrict the use of such assistance to institutions within their borders unless the program of study is not offered within their state.

### **The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Programs**

The Federal Direct Loan programs were created with the purpose of making long term loans available to students to help them meet educational expenses. Students borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education at a fixed interest rate depending on the program.

#### **Direct Unsubsidized Loan**

The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan program is a **non-need-based** program and does not require a credit check. Graduate students may borrow up to \$20,500 per year from this program. The aggregate for this program (including undergraduate debt) is \$138,500 of which no more than \$65,000 can be from the subsidized\* loan program. The U.S. Department of Education calculates a fixed interest rate on an annual basis and that interest rate will apply for the life of the loan. The interest rate calculation is based on the 10 year Treasury Note sold at the last auction prior to June 1 plus 3.60 percent. Interest for the 2019-2020 academic year is fixed at 6.08% and accrues from the day the loan is disbursed. Repayment begins six months after the student graduates or ceases at least half-time enrollment. Students may elect to make interest payments while in school, or have the unpaid interest capitalized once they enter repayment.

In addition to interest, the student pays a 1.059% loan origination fee that is a percentage of the principal amount for each Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan received. The U.S. Department of Education deducts the fee before the student receives any loan money, so the loan amount the student actually receives (net) is less than the amount that must be repaid (gross).

Gross Amount of Disbursement – 1.059% Origination Fee = Net Amount that will disburse to school.

*Example: \$10,250 x 98.941% = \$10,142(rounded)*

Students must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) for a Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan on <https://studentaid.gov> to borrow funds through this program.

*\* The Budget Control Act of 2011 eliminated the Federal Direct Subsidized Loans for Graduate and Professional students for periods of enrollment beginning on or after July 1, 2012.*

## **Federal Direct GradPLUS Loan Program**

Widener University Delaware Law School recommends that students needing additional funding after borrowing the maximum Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan apply for a **Direct Graduate PLUS Loan**.

The Graduate PLUS Loan does require a credit check. *The credit check is based on credit history, not credit score. Lack of a credit history does not negatively affect your ability to be approved.* Students not able to borrow on the strength of their own credit history will be offered an endorser (co-signer) option. Please refer to the credit section of this guide for information on reviewing and understanding your credit.

A student may generally borrow up to their cost of attendance minus all other aid received. The U.S. Department of Education calculates a fixed interest rate on an annual basis and that interest rate will apply for the life of the loan. The interest rate calculation is based on the 10 year Treasury Note sold at the last auction prior to June 1 plus 4.60 percent. The interest rate for the 2019-2020 academic year is fixed at 7.08%. Students may elect to make interest payments while in school, or have the unpaid interest capitalized once they enter repayment. Repayment begins six months after graduation or when a student ceases half time enrollment for all GradPLUS loans disbursed after July 1, 2008.

There is a 4.236% origination/default fee charged at each disbursement. The U.S. Department of Education deducts the fee before the student receives any loan money, so the loan amount the student actually receives (net) is less than the amount that must be repaid (gross).

Gross Amount of Disbursement – 4.236% Origination Fee = Net Amount that will disburse to school

*Example: \$16,000 x 95.764% = \$15,322 (rounded)*

Students who wish to borrow from Graduate PLUS Loan Program will need to “Apply for a Grad PLUS Loan” on <https://studentaid.gov> and then select “Apply for Aid”, then “Apply Grad PLUS loan. In addition, new borrowers will need to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) on the same site. Students **should not** complete a Direct GradPLUS Loan MPN and/or the “Request for a Graduate PLUS Loan” (which includes a credit check authorization) **prior to April 2, 2020**. If it is completed before April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the required credit check may expire and funds may not disburse.

## **Federal Work – Study Program**

Under the Federal Work–Study Program eligible students can work on campus or off campus at a public or private nonprofit organization or government agency and the work must be in the public interest. Eligibility is limited to students who complete their application by the *priority filing deadline* and demonstrate **sufficient financial need**. The number of awards made each year is dependent upon the availability of funds. Priority is given to returning students. Returning students interested in this program should indicate their interest in question 31 on the FAFSA.

## **Private Sources**

### **Private/Alternative Loan Programs**

Private/alternative loan programs are available to assist students for expenses not covered through other financial aid programs. Widener University Delaware Law School recommends that students first attempt to access a Federal Direct Unsubsidized or GradPLUS loan prior to applying for a private/alternative loan. These loans require a credit check and students not able to borrow on the strength of their own credit **may be** offered a co-signer option. A student may generally borrow up to their cost of attendance minus all other aid received. *Interest rates on these loans vary (may be variable or fixed)*. Students may elect to make interest payments while in school or have the interest capitalized. Some lenders will charge a front-end and/or back-end fee to borrow the loan. *It is important that a student borrower investigate both the interest rate and fee structure before choosing a lender.*

### **Monthly Payment Plan**

Under the Widener University payment plan students have the option to spread their overall charges for the summer, fall and spring semesters over a 3 or 4 month period. Please contact the Office of the Bursar at 302-477-2181, for specifics concerning the program.

### **Outside Scholarships**

Many organizations, outside of Widener University Delaware Law School, offer scholarships, fellowships or low-interest loans to assist students in funding their legal education. Please check our website for a file containing detailed information on over 200 scholarships offered by organizations other than Widener University Delaware Law School. The Financial Aid Office also recommends that you take advantage of the free internet scholarship search engines available. A list with popular free websites can be found in the Appendix as well. A student should never pay an organization or individual to perform a scholarship search or a deposit for a scholarship.

### **Veteran Benefits**

You may be eligible to receive educational benefits through the Veterans Administration depending on the length of your military service and the start and end date of that service. Veterans interested in any chapter of Veterans Affairs Education Benefit should contact the VA to determine eligibility and/or the process to transfer from the Montgomery GI Bill to the new program. For more information contact the Veterans Administration at 1-888-442-4551 or [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill). Delaware Law participates in the Yellow Ribbon program at 100% for veterans who are 100% eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits and the Yellow Ribbon Program requirements.

### **International Students**

There is limited availability of financial aid for foreign nationals to study in the United States, with the possible exception of citizens of Canada and Mexico. International students admitted into the JD program will be considered for Delaware Law's Incoming Merit Based scholarships. However, most grants, scholarships, and loans from public and private sources are restricted to U.S. citizens. If you are an eligible non-citizen, you may be eligible for federal financial aid programs, such as Federal Direct Loans, and should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility. Some organizations offer private loans to international students, although most require a credit-worthy U.S. citizen as a co-signer.



## How Financial Aid Works

### Cost of Attendance

All colleges and universities participating in the Federal Student Aid Programs are required to determine standard costs of attendance (COA) for students attending their institution. The estimated expenses include a student's direct educational costs, tuition and fees, as well as necessary living expenses.

**The figures below were the standard costs used for the 2019-2020 academic year for students attending the Delaware Law School in the Juris Doctor program.** *Students in other education programs at the Delaware Law School will have similar living expenses, but their tuition is based on the program and can be found in the current Tuition Rate and Payment Guide available on our website.*

2019-2020 COST OF ATTENDANCE				
	<u>OFF CAMPUS/APT.</u>		<u>COMMUTER</u>	
	Regular Division	Extended Division	<small>(Living with Parents or Relatives)</small>	
	Regular Division	Extended Division	Regular Division	Extended Division
Tuition & Fees	\$48,750	\$35,750	\$48,750	\$35,750
Books	1,550	1,240	1,550	1,240
Room & Board	12,510	12,510	4,500	4,500
Personal Expense	3,582	3,582	3,582	3,582
Transportation	3,132	3,132	3,132	3,132
Loan Fees	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$70,819</b>	<b>\$57,509</b>	<b>\$62,809</b>	<b>\$49,499</b>

Tuition in the above example was calculated based on 30 credits for Regular Division Students and 22 credits for Extended Division Students. Tuition is billed per credit depending on the number of enrolled credits per term. Graduating JD students will have an additional component added to their cost of attendance to cover the cost of a first bar exam. Individual budgets may be altered to account for unusual or emergency situations that a student may encounter. **These adjustments can only be made to expenses necessary for the student's education.** The student must fully document any request for an increase in expenses.

### Need and How it is Determined

Several Federal financial aid programs are restricted to students who demonstrate *financial need*. A student's eligibility for Federal Work-Study is limited to their computed *financial need* and funds available.

To determine a student's *financial need*, the Financial Aid Office analyzes the student's financial resources and expenses. The primary instrument used to obtain this information is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students must complete this form to be considered for Federal Student Aid. The Department of Education uses the data provided on the FAFSA to determine a student's *expected family contribution (EFC)*.

Need is determined by subtracting the expected family contribution (EFC) from Widener University Delaware Law School's *cost of attendance (COA)*.

**Example:**

Law School Cost of Attendance:	\$70,819*
- <u>Expected Family Contribution (EFC):</u>	<u>\$ 2,000**</u>
= Financial Need (Federal):	\$68,819

Now that the student's *financial need* has been determined, the student's eligibility for Federal Direct Loans and Federal Work-Study can be determined.

**The Financial Aid Package**

When students apply for and receive financial aid, the aid is awarded in the form of a *package*. The package is generally a combination of scholarships, loans, and work-study that fit together to cover all or part of a student's financial need. The actual mix of the package will vary according to each student's need and academic ability.

In the previous section, the student in the example had their financial need calculated as:

Financial Need: \$68,819

**Aid Package:**

Delaware Law Scholarship:	20,000
Direct Unsubsidized Loan:	20,500
Federal Work Study:	2,000
<u>GradPLUS Loan Eligibility:</u>	<u>26,319</u>
Total Aid Package:	\$68,819

Students may elect to cover the expected family contribution (EFC) from non-need based loan programs. This student could borrow an additional \$2,000 in GradPLUS loan funds.

\*Based on 2019/2020 academic year off-campus cost of attendance for a full time JD student taking 30 credits.

\*\*A law student's EFC is calculated using only their income and asset information reported on the FAFSA. All law students are considered independent for Federal Financial Aid.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

- 1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** - This application **MUST** be submitted to the processing center by all students wishing to apply for Federal Aid (*Federal Direct Loans, GradPLUS Loans and/or Federal Work- Study*). The FAFSA may be completed online at <https://studentaid.gov> after November 1. **Students must complete a new FAFSA for each academic year they wish to receive federal aid.** Our school code is B04724 – Widener University Delaware Law School.

\*\*\*\*\* The IRS and Department of Education offers students the opportunity to download their 2018 Federal Tax Information directly into the appropriate FAFSA questions. Students are encouraged to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to complete their FAFSA as it will make the process easier and provide more accurate data. Instructions within the FAFSA will help you determine if this tool is available to you.

*Students interested in Federal Work Study should answer Yes to Question 31, on the FAFSA.*

- 2. Delaware Law Data Form** - To apply for financial aid administered by Widener University Delaware Law School, students are requested to submit this form to the Financial Aid Office. This form provides the Financial Aid Office with important demographic information and allows you to indicate your intention to borrow federal loan funds. It may be completed and submitted online at <https://delawarelaw.widener.edu/dataform> , obtained in the Financial Aid Office or it can be downloaded from the <http://delawarelaw.widener.edu/faforms>.

### 3. Loan Applications

#### **Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan MPN (Master Promissory Note)**

##### Incoming Students and New Borrowers

All *incoming students* and *new borrowers* must complete a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan MPN at <https://studentaid.gov> for the 2020-2021 academic year if they would like to borrow Federal loan funds.

- ❖ You will need to have your FSA ID available to electronically sign your MPN. This is the same FSA ID you would have used to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you can't locate your FSA ID or are a new federal student aid applicant, you may reset or obtain a new FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov>.
- ❖ To apply for a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan go to <https://studentaid.gov>. Select "Complete Aid Process" and then select "Subsidized/Unsubsidized MPN". You will need to "Log In" using your FSA ID from your FAFSA. The application process is complete once you have electronically signed the MPN with your FSA ID.

- ❖ When completing the Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized loan MPN you will notice that you do not need to enter a requested loan amount. The Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized MPN is a serial note that is valid for ten years and the borrower authorizes the school annually to increase the aggregate limit. Please complete the box on Delaware Law's Institutional Data Form to provide that information.

### Returning Students

Your 2020-2021 Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized MPN is valid for ten years and you authorize the school to increase the aggregate limit. Please complete the box on Delaware Law's Data Form to provide that information.

### **Federal GradPLUS Loan Application and MPN (Master Promissory Note)**

*All students* who wish to borrow a Federal GradPLUS Loan will need to “Apply for a Grad PLUS loan” at <https://studentaid.gov> regardless of prior borrowing. The GradPLUS application authorizes a credit check and allows the student borrower to request a loan amount for the 2020-2021 academic year. New Borrowers will need to complete a MPN for the loan. Students who previously borrowed may need to complete a new MPN.

**You should not complete the Request for a GradPLUS application until after April 2, 2020. Applying prior to April 2, 2020 may impact the timely disbursement of funds due to expiring credit authorization.**

- 4. Verification Paperwork** - *Some* students are selected for a process called verification. These students will be contacted in writing to request additional information. If selected, please provide the information in a timely manner.
- 5. Entrance Counseling** – First year JD students are required to attend an in-person entrance counseling session as part of Orientation Week. Students enrolled in the Master of Jurisprudence (MJ) or LLM programs may complete their entrance interview online at <https://studentaid.gov>. First year JD students who complete entrance counseling online are still required to attend the mandatory in-person entrance counseling session.

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Be organized. Keep copies of the documents used to apply for financial aid, including tax returns, FAFSA confirmation page and scholarship applications.
- Be sure to apply for all programs by the dates published in the calendar at the front of this publication and to furnish any supporting documentation to Delaware Law when requested.
- Be involved in the active pursuit of funds to finance your legal education. Please see the Appendix of this publication for outside scholarship opportunities and Internet resources.
- Returning students who complete their application files after the published deadlines (LATE FILERS) will have their files reviewed in the order they were received and will be considered for institutional aid only after all timely files are reviewed.
- If requested, a Tax Return Transcript must be obtained from the IRS to comply with federal regulations. In the event that tax returns for the 2018 tax year have not yet been filed or a 2018 tax return will not be filed, please contact the Financial Aid Office for alternate instructions.
- Failure to submit required documents will usually result in denial of eligibility to receive financial assistance.

**NOTE:** If you would like to obtain further information, or if you have any questions, please contact the Delaware Law Financial Aid Office.

## Debt Management - The Bottom Line

We want our students to be informed about the financial aid available to them. In keeping with that theme, the good news is that for the vast majority of students, regardless of their financial situation, there are sufficient funds to attend and complete their education at Widener University Delaware Law School. The reality, however, is that most of the available funds come in the form of loans, and these loans must be paid back. Because of this, it is important that students make informed decisions concerning the expenses they will incur during their legal education.

While it may seem advantageous to live in an apartment or in off-campus housing while in school, it may make better financial sense to live with family, if feasible, and not accrue the debt necessary to pay rent. If it is not feasible, then living with a roommate is suggested to reduce loan debt. These decisions are personal and individual, but keep in mind that in the end it is the student who will be responsible for repaying their education debt.

Some questions to ask yourself when deciding how much to borrow includes:

- What should I know about the loan programs (interest rates, repayment terms, fees)?
- What can I do to reduce the amount I borrow, yet still concentrate on my studies?
- What type of career am I looking to pursue after graduation (public interest, government or private practice)?
- What impact will my loans have on my future?

As an example, an RD student who started law school for 2019-2020, figured their expenses for the year and only borrowed \$43,000 of their eligibility. With an average yearly increase of 4% for tuition and 1% for living expenses, the cost of attendance for this student for this and the next 2 years (based on the expected credit load of Yr2 = 30 cr and Yr3= 28cr) would be **\$74,249 (1L)**, **\$73,171(2L)** and **\$71,920 (3L)**. If we assume that this student will maintain a constant level of borrowing during their three years of law school, we can obtain a reasonable estimate of their law school education debt at graduation.

Loan Type	First Year (1L)	Second Year (2L)	Third Year (3L)	Total Debt at Graduation	Total Debt if Maximum Borrowed
<b>Federal Direct</b>	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	\$ 61,500	\$ 61,500
<b>GradPLUS</b>	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 69,000	\$ 97,840
<b>Totals</b>	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	<b>\$ 130,500</b>	<b>\$ 159,340</b>

This student was able to save over **\$28,840** in student loan debt by borrowing wisely and not taking the maximum eligibility each year while in law school.

## Loan Repayment

Now that we have an estimate of the student's total law school debt, we can estimate their repayment schedule. The Federal Direct and GradPLUS loans carry a standard 10-year repayment term after the student graduates from law school. However, for most of our students, extending their repayment plan based on their cumulative debt level allows for a more realistic repayment schedule. The Federal Direct and GradPLUS repayment schedules listed below are based on a 20-year Fixed Extended repayment schedule.

**Note:** For purposes of this analysis we have used the current prevailing interest rates for the Federal Direct Loan (6.60%) and the GradPLUS loan (7.60%) with a 20-year repayment term.

Loan Type	Amount Borrowed	Monthly Payment	Total Payments
Federal Direct	\$ 61,500	\$ 462	\$ 110,916
GradPLUS	\$ 69,000	\$560	\$ 134,419
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 130,500</b>	<b>\$ 1022</b>	<b>\$ 245,335</b>

As we can see by this example, law students have the option to accrue a significant amount of debt while attending law school. **Assuming that the student in the example has a starting salary at graduation of \$55,000 the projected monthly payment would constitute 22% of their gross income.** It must be noted that not all students incur this level of debt, and **we are not recommending that students borrow at this level.** However, we want you to be aware of the level of debt that you may incur, and hope that you seriously consider what this debt may mean when you begin your career.

**\*The repayment example above is an estimate and does not include accrued interest. Actual repayment amounts will vary depending upon prevailing interest rates and will be determined by your servicer. It also assumes the student is receiving \$20,000 in Institutional funding.**

There are other repayment options that the student in the example could utilize such as Income Based Repayment – IBR, Income Contingent Repayment – ICR or Pay As You Earn - PAYE. These repayment options offer a repayment plan that uses Adjusted Gross Income to establish the monthly repayment amount as well as loan forgiveness options. Additional information on these programs begins on the next page. Student borrowers should be aware that any repayment option that extends your repayment period will result in additional accrued interest that must be paid.

The amount of debt that you will incur will depend on a number of factors. A significant number of those factors are in your control. Decisions about where you will live, what kind of transportation you will use, how much you will save from summer employment as well as how much time you will invest in researching alternative sources of funding will all help to determine your overall student loan debt. While there are a number of factors that you cannot control (tuition, fees, etc.), the amount you ultimately borrow will be up to you.

\*\*Salary information provided by the Access Group's Wise Borrower Education Series

## **Loan Repayment Options**

Student borrowers have many loan repayment options and the repayment term will vary from 10 to 25 years depending on the repayment plan that you select. Repayment Plan Options include Standard, Graduated, Extended (Fixed and Graduated), and several Income Driven Repayment Options. Some recent, significant changes to repayment options do offer additional avenues to manage loan debt.

### **Income Based Repayment (IBR)**

Under this repayment plan your monthly loan payment is based on your household's adjusted gross income (AGI), household size, and annual poverty guideline corresponding to your household size and state of residence. For most students, their payments will be less than 15% of their gross income. Eligibility for this plan is reviewed on an annual basis by your servicer and will be adjusted to reflect changes to your AGI, household size or the poverty guideline. Your monthly payment may be less than the interest that accrues during the billing period. This causes negative amortization and will increase your debt even though you are making payments. The maximum repayment period is 25 years and any remaining debt at the end of the 25 year period is cancelled. However, at this time the cancelled debt will be considered taxable income by the IRS. If the student borrower in our previous example elected to use IBR as their repayment plan and we assume that he/she is single, with a family size of 1, an annual salary of 50,000, their starting payment would be \$402/month for the first year of repayment and would be recalculated on an annual basis.

### **Pay As You Earn (PAYE)**

Similar to Income Based Repayment, PAYE is available to students who borrowed their first Federal Education Loan after July 1, 2008. Under this repayment plan, your monthly loan payment is based on your household's adjusted gross income (AGI), household size, and annual poverty guideline corresponding to your household size and state of residence. For most students, their payments will be less than 10% of their gross income. Eligibility for this plan is reviewed on an annual basis by your servicer and will be adjusted to reflect changes to your AGI, household size or the poverty guideline. Your monthly payment may be less than the interest that accrues during the billing period. This causes negative amortization and will increase your debt even though you are making payments. The maximum repayment period is 20 years and any remaining debt at the end of the 20 year period is cancelled. However, at this time the cancelled debt will be considered taxable income by the IRS. Using the same example as above, and the student borrower elected to use Pay As You Earn (PAYE) as their repayment plan and we assume that he/she is single, with a family size of 1, an annual salary of 50,000, their starting payment would be \$268/month for their first year of repayment and would be recalculated on an annual basis.

### **Revised Pay As You Earn (RePAYE)**

Similar to Pay As You Earn, this repayment plan is available to all borrowers regardless of when they borrowed their first education loan. However, the period of repayment if you have graduate loan debt is 25 years prior to being eligible for cancellation.



## Public Service Loan Forgiveness

This is a program that allows federal student loan borrowers who work in certain public service jobs (as defined by the Department of Education) to have a portion of their federal debt forgiven. It will provide loan forgiveness on the remaining debt of Federal Direct or Stafford, GradPLUS and Federal Consolidation loans made under the Direct Lending Program *after* ten years of eligible payments and employment. Students who borrowed through the FFELP loan program can switch to the Direct Loan program by completing a consolidation loan.

Public service organization would mean:

- A Federal, State, local or Tribal government organization agency or entity
- A public child or family service agency
- A non-profit organization that qualifies under section 501(c) (3) of the IRC that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (a) of the IRC.
- A Tribal college or university or
- A private organization that provides the following public services: emergency management, military service, public safety, law enforcement, public interest law services, public child care, public service for individuals with disabilities and the elderly, public health, public education, public library services, school library, or other school-based services.

For those attorneys that do not work for a 501(c) (3) nonprofit or the government, employment can still qualify if the employee provides “public interest law services” for a “public service organization.” Public interest law refers to legal services provided by a public service organization funded at least in part by a local, state, federal or tribal government and is not organized for profit, a labor union, a partisan political organization, or organization engaged in religious activities.

Borrowers need to make 120 monthly payments and complete the required paperwork in order to have the remaining federal loan debt forgiven. A form referred to as the PSLF Employment Certification form may be submitted to Fed Loan Servicing annually or whenever you change jobs so that it can be used to determine whether the job position counts towards the requirements for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). This form can be found at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/charts/public-service> . However, it is still highly suggested that employment documentation is kept by the borrowers as well. This may include W-2s, tax forms, employment contracts or any other material that will verify your employment ten years from now.

The monthly payment must be made under one of the income driven repayment plans, Income Based Repayment (IBR), Pay As You Earn (PAYE), RePay As You Earn (RePAYE), Income Contingent Repayment (ICR), standard ten year term, or some other payment plan whose payment is at least equal to the amount under the ten year plan.

Additional information regarding this program can be found at [www.ibrinfo.org](http://www.ibrinfo.org) or [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

## Understanding Credit

A credit report is a summary of the information contained in an individual's credit history. Creditors use this information to evaluate the likelihood that the individual will repay future loans. A credit report is created from payment information and credit account information that creditors/lenders report to the three authorized credit-reporting agencies. A person begins to build credit by having a credit card, consumer loan, student loan, some form of personal credit, utility bills or renting an apartment. It is good practice to review your credit report for inaccuracies and to protect against identity theft.

### How to Get a Free Credit Report

As part of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003, consumers are able to request one free credit report from each of the three authorized credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion in a 12 month period. These reports can be requested from one central location, [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or by calling 877-322-8228. Consumers can request, view and print one, two or all three credit reports via this secure web site. These reports are **free**. Any other websites will require you pay for the credit reports.

It is good practice to review your credit report for inaccuracies and to protect against identity theft. You should review your credit report annually to insure it is free of errors, to clear any delinquent or defaulted accounts and to update necessary information. Please visit the website for specific questions. You **will not** be able to receive your credit score with the free reports unless you pay for it separately.

Please visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) for specific questions regarding the program. The website provides good information that is helpful when reviewing your credit reports.

### TERMS TO UNDERSTAND

**Collections** – failure to make payment on a delinquent or defaulted account may result in the creditor or lender contacting an agency or moving your account into their department that specializes in collecting payment from delinquent accounts. *It will affect your credit score negatively.*

**Credit Inquiries** - requests for your credit report and credit score.

- *A hard inquiry* is a request by a creditor/lender to pull your credit report and credit score that has been authorized by you, the potential borrower. These inquiries take place when a borrower wants a new credit card or is interested in a car loan. **Hard inquiries do affect your credit score.**
- *A soft inquiry* is request from prospective employers, inquiries made by current creditors, and companies wanting to offer a new credit card to view your credit report. **Soft inquiries do not affect your credit score.**

**Credit Report** - a summary of the information contained in an individual's credit history.

Creditors use this information to evaluate the likelihood that the individual will repay future loans. A credit report is created from payment information and credit account information that creditors/lenders report to the three authorized credit reporting agencies. A person begins to build credit by having a credit card, consumer loan, student loan, or some form of personal credit.

**Credit Score** - a quick, accurate, consistent and objective method that uses statistical models to determine a borrower's future credit risk. The higher the credit score the more likely a borrower is to repay a future loan. Credit scores can range from 300 to 850, but each lender/creditor determines its cutoff points and underwriting criteria for potential borrowers.

**Default** - non-payment of a loan or credit card balance.

The lender, guarantee agency, or creditor may require full payment of the debt in addition to associated fee and fines. Federal Direct Loans are put in default status after 270 days of non-payment.

**This status will affect your credit score negatively.**

**Delinquency** - failure to make payment on a due/past due account typically characterized in thirty day increments of lateness. For example 30 days delinquency, 60 days delinquency, etc.

**This status will affect your credit score negatively.**

**Installment Accounts** - an account where an amount is borrowed at once and paid back to the lender/creditor in set amounts over a set period of time with either a fixed or variable interest rate.

*Examples include:* mortgages, education and car loans.

**Revolving Accounts** - accounts that allow you to add and carry forward debt until you reach a pre-determined maximum amount. Interest accrues on the balance at some point in time during the billing cycle. Examples include: credit cards, retail charge accounts, finance accounts and personal lines of credit. There may be fees associated with use of the card.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q)** *When is the financial aid application deadline?*

**A)** Entering students do not have a specific deadline, however, they are encouraged to apply as early as possible as some programs have limited funding. Financial aid is processed on a first come first served basis. Returning students have a priority filing deadline of April 2, 2020.

**Q)** *What info will I need to fill out the FAFSA application?*

**A)** In order to fill out the FAFSA, you need a copy of your 2018 Federal Tax Return or be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) within the FAFSA for the 2020-2021 academic year application. You will be asked for your driver's license number on most Federal Financial Aid paperwork. If you have not yet completed your tax return, you can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with estimated information and your W-2s.

**Q)** *What forms do I have to fill out?*

**A)** All students wishing to apply for aid must complete a FAFSA, Delaware Law Data form, Federal Direct Master Promissory Note if you plan to borrow Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans and, if desired, a Direct GradPLUS Loan Request and MPN (master promissory note). Some students will also need to submit additional paperwork upon request.

**Q)** *What is the maximum amount that I can borrow per academic year?*

**A)** Most graduate students will be eligible to access \$20,500.00 in a Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan and may be eligible to borrow additional funding in a GradPLUS loan. This amount will vary based on the program and academic year of the student. Please reference the section in this book titled "How Financial Aid Works" to see sample amounts a student would be eligible to borrow.

**Q)** *Will I have to make payments on prior federal loans while in school? If not, when does payment start and at what interest rate?*

**A)** No. You are not required to make payments on previous federal educational loans when you are in school and attending at least half-time. When you return to school as at least a half time student, you will be eligible to request an in-school deferment from your lender/servicer. This deferment will only be good as long as you are enrolled at least half-time. You can request the form from your lender/servicer (most servicers have the form available for download on their websites) and submit it to the Registrar's Office for completion once classes begin.

The deferment will stop once you graduate or drop below half-time status and you will begin your repayment on your prior loans. There is no penalty to make payments on accruing interest while you are in school, although you are not required. If you choose this option, you will only be responsible for the principle and any remaining interest when you are finished school. Contact your lenders regarding private loan (non-federal) repayment requirements.

**Q)** *I was working full time last year and quit to return to school. How will that affect my eligibility?*

**A)** The FAFSA analyze your prior prior year's income and current assets. If you are not eligible for any need based aid, you have the right to request that we use your anticipated income for the current year. To file an appeal, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

**Q)** *Do I have to complete a new application each year?*

**A)** Yes. Every student intending to apply for financial aid must complete a new FAFSA and a new institutional data form each year.

**Q)** *What is the difference between a subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan?*

**A)** Interest does not accrue on a subsidized loan while a student is in school. However, interest will begin accruing on unsubsidized loans from the date of disbursement. The amount of funding a student may be eligible for will vary according to the student. Students may only borrow through the Unsubsidized Loan program to fund graduate/professional degrees.

**Q)** *I borrowed subsidized loans in the past. Will I be eligible to borrow subsidized loans for the 2019-2020 academic year?*

**A)** The Budget Control Act of 2011 eliminated subsidized loans for graduate students for loan period beginning on or after July 1, 2013.

**Q)** *What types of financial aid are available?*

**A)** This will vary based on the student. Please refer to the section titled "Major Sources of Financial Aid" in this book.

**Q)** *How do I appeal my financial aid award?*

**A)** In order to appeal any financial aid award decision, you must write an appeal letter to the Director of Financial Aid. Appeals for budget increases should include a detailed budget plan and be accompanied by relevant documentation.

**Q)** *What scholarships are available for law students?*

**A)** In addition to the Delaware Law Scholarship Program, which awards merit based scholarships at the time of admission. We suggest that students complete individual scholarship searches for outside funding. An online listing of outside scholarships is provided to students and is available on our website, <https://delawarelaw.widener.edu>. Alumni and friends of the Law School have donated several endowed scholarships. These scholarships are awarded annually by the Scholarship Committee based on the criteria determined by the individual donors. Applications are available to current students in the spring. The Enrollment Management Committee manages all endowed and merit scholarships for entering JD students.

**Q)** *I was awarded a scholarship from a private outside organization. Do I need to inform the financial aid office?*

**A)** Yes. All outside financial aid must be included in your package. Outside scholarships are typically forwarded to the institution to be applied towards your tuition.

**Q)** *What if the amount of my Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans and any other financial aid does not cover the cost of my tuition, what should I do?*

**A)** You may want to consider borrowing a GradPLUS loan or plan to utilize the payment plan.

**Q)** *What impact does the result of my credit report have on my ability to borrow educational loans?*

**A)** If you have adverse credit history, you may have difficulty obtaining a GradPLUS loan to cover living expenses or tuition balances. Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans do not require a credit check.

**Q)** *What is adverse credit history?*

**A)** Adverse credit is defined as the applicant being 90 days or more delinquent on a debt or having been subject to a default determination, bankruptcy discharge, foreclosure, repossession, tax lien, wage garnishment or write-off of a Federal Student Aid debt. The absence of any credit history is not considered adverse credit.

**Q)** *What are my options when I am declined? (from <https://studentaid.gov> )*

**A)** If the student is turned down for credit, the student may choose to appeal the decision or re-apply with an *endorser (co-signer)*.

**Q)** *If I choose to appeal the credit decision due to extenuating circumstances? (from <https://studentaid.gov>)*

**A)** If you believe there are extenuating circumstances related to the adverse credit information listed that should be considered in evaluating your eligibility for a Direct PLUS Loan, you may send documentation to Applicant Services explaining your situation. You must explain in detail the extenuating circumstances that you believe mitigate the adverse credit information in your credit record. If appropriate, include documentation to support your explanation.

Studentaid.gov recommends that you contact the school's financial aid office as soon as possible to let them know whether you plan to pursue a Direct PLUS Loan by obtaining an endorser or submitting documentation of extenuating circumstances.

**Q)** *If I am declined and decide to document extenuating circumstances (appeal), how long will this process take?*

**A)** Applicant Services will contact you. Once all documentation has been received, a determination will be made and provided to you within 7-10 business days.

**Q)** *How do I begin an appeal?*

**A)** If you feel that the information your credit decision is based on is incorrect or you believe you qualify for a review based on extenuating circumstances, you may begin the process in one of the following ways:

1. Log in to <https://studentaid.gov> and select "Apply for Aid", then "Appeal a Credit Decision". Follow directions. The Student Loan Support Center will contact you with further instructions.
2. Contact the Student Loan Support Center between 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. The Student Loan Support Center may be reached toll-free at 1-800-557-7394.
3. Contact The Student Loan Support Center between 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Eastern Time, Monday through Friday via Live Chat on the Contact Us page.

**Q)** *Where can I get a copy of my credit report?*

**A)** You can visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call 1-877-322-8228 to request one free credit report from each of the three authorized credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion in a 12 month period. **It is recommended that you review your credit before you start the application process for the GradPLUS loan.**

**Q)** *Does the school require entrance and exit interviews?*

**A)** Yes. Even if you have attended another institution, you are required to complete a new entrance and exit interview. Mandatory In-Person Entrance interviews are held during JD orientation. Exit interviews are scheduled approximately a month prior to your graduation. If you have additional specific questions, you can always make an appointment to see a counselor.

**Q)** *How is my expected family contribution (EFC) calculated?*

**A)** When a student completes and submits the FAFSA a calculation is automatically done based on the information provided. Your expected family contribution is calculated as follows.

1. Student's Income (will include spouse if applicable) - Expenses & Allowances = Available  
Income
2. Student's Assets (will include spouse if applicable) - Asset Protection Allowance = Net Assets
3. (Available Income x Assessment Rate) + (Net Assets x Assessment Rate) = EFC

**Q)** *How, when, and where are financial aid funds disbursed?*

**A)** Financial aid cannot be disbursed until 7 days before the start of classes for any semester. All funds are disbursed to Widener University Delaware Law School. If a credit balance exists after disbursement, the Bursar's Office will create an electronic refund check, which is generally available 10 – 14 days after the disbursement, but cannot be released before the first official day of classes. If you do not set-up direct deposit, a paper check will be mailed to your home address. Please be aware that there will be a delay in processing and receipt of funds if your paperwork is not filed until August or later. Contact the Office of the Bursar for setting up direct deposit of refund checks.

It is recommended that students have access to emergency funds should their loan funds be delayed. While Widener University Delaware Law School will wait for tuition to be paid, books will need to be purchased and rent will need to be paid. It makes for a less stressful first month if access to emergency funds is available.

**Q)** *If I do not need the full loan amount offered to me, do I have to borrow that amount?*

**A) No.** The Financial Aid Office always encourages students to only borrow what they need. If you have applied for more than you need, funds can be sent back to your lender at any time. Once your loan is processed, you will receive an email directing you to your online Financial Aid Offer letter which shows you the amount that has been processed for you. The offer letter gives you the option to reduce or reject your aid. Please print the Financial Aid Offer letter, indicate your changes, sign and return it to the Financial Aid Office.

**Q)** *How can I view my online Financial Aid Offer letter?*

**A)** You can view and/or print your online Financial Aid Offer Letter from the MyWidener portal. MyWidener can be accessed by a tab on our website <https://delawarelaw.widener.edu> or directly at <http://My.Widener.edu>. Search for "financial aid offer 2020". Authorization is required so you will need to log into your Widener account to access. Additional Information is available on our Public Office Page titled **Delaware Law-Financial Aid** at <http://sites.widener.edu/dlsfinaid>

**Q)** *Do I need to print out my online Financial Aid Offer letter and return it to the Financial Aid Office?*

**A) No.** The only time that you need to return your offer letter to our office is if you wish to reduce or reject an award.

**Q)** *What should I do if I have questions that are not answered in this section?*

**A)** Please contact the Financial Aid Office at 302-477-2272 or at [DelawareLawFinAid@widener.edu](mailto:DelawareLawFinAid@widener.edu)



## Resource Links

The extent of scholarship and grant information available on the web is staggering. The addresses listed below are intended to serve as a starting point. These sites offer links to numerous financial aid and scholarship web pages. Any credible scholarship or grant will not require a down payment to guarantee the award. Be wary of organizations that charge a fee to conduct a scholarship search on your behalf.

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) Centralized service to request free annual credit reports

<https://studentaid.gov> Direct Loan Processing Site

<https://fafsa.ed.gov> Free Application for Federal Student Aid

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) Department of Education

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) Scholarship Search Engine

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid

# APPENDIX

## Delaware Law School Endowed Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available on-line in the Financial Aid section of <http://delawarelaw.widener.edu/fa> . **Applications must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office on or before April 23, 2020.** To be considered for need based awards, students must complete a FAFSA. Please note the Year/Division criteria for each scholarship references what your status will be in the 2019-2020 academic year.

***The Linda L. Ammons Diversity Scholarship:*** Awarded to a Second Year JD student who is a US Citizen and self identifies as a member of a one of the following groups that are underrepresented in the legal profession: American Indian/Alaskan, African-American, Asian or Pacific Islander, Latino or Hispanic. Applicant must display the qualities of scholarship, leadership, service to school or community and demonstrate financial need.

***The Dean Alfred Avins Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded to a rising third year RD or ED student with the highest combined GPA in Constitutional Law I & II. *No Application needed.*

***The Bank of America Scholarship:*** Awarded annually to an economically disadvantaged resident of Wilmington, Delaware. If a student cannot be found who is a resident of Wilmington, the scholarship may be awarded to an economically disadvantaged student from the state of Delaware.

***The Carl Battle & Leon Williams African-American Law Scholarship:*** Awarded to a Second Year JD student, who self identifies as an African-American, has financial need and displays qualities of scholarship, leadership and service to school or community.

***The Howard M. Berg Scholarship:*** Available to full-time law students at the DE campus who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, character and service to the law school.

***The Chadwick Scholarship:*** Awarded to 2RD, 3RD, 2ED, 3ED, and 4ED who are grew up in and are current residents of Delaware County, Pennsylvania. These scholarships are made available through the generosity of the Delaware County Bar Association from its E. Wallace Chadwick Memorial Fund. Selection is based on academic achievement, school and community service and financial need.

***The Harvey Alan Chernoff Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to a student who excels in Constitutional Law, demonstrates financial need, maintains an overall GPA of 3.0 or better, and demonstrates an interest in the pursuit of *pro-bono* representation service.

***The Esther F. Clark Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded annually to a student attending the DE campus with highest combined average in Evidence and Criminal Procedure. *(no application needed)*

***The William Conner Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded to a to a 3RD or 4ED student who has demonstrated an interest in and an aptitude for administrative law. *(no application needed)*

***The Honorable James C. Crumlish Scholarship:*** Awarded to an incoming JD student based on a combination of academic merit, financial need and potential for service to the community. This award is established and sponsored by the Mutual Fire Foundation, Inc. (*no application needed*)

***The Honorable Joseph W. De Furia Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to a 3RD or 4ED student. Selection is based on academic achievement, service to the Law School and demonstrated effectiveness in dealing with people.

***The Delaware Association of Lawyers' Spouses Scholarship:*** Available to 2RD, 2ED, 3RD, 3ED and 4ED students. Selection is based on an overall GPA equal to or greater than a 2.3 and a demonstrated contribution of law-related service to the Delaware community.

***The Edmund Domrowolski Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded to a JD student entering his or her 2nd year that has demonstrated a commitment to public service and has financial need.

***The Honorable William Duffy Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 3RD and 4ED students. Selection is based on financial need and academic merit, with eligible students holding a minimum 2.75 GPA. Preference is to be given to a student who works or volunteers in one of the Widener University Delaware Law School clinics, or is currently active as a volunteer in a community service or nonprofit organization. Current and previous recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship each year.

***The Nancy and Howard Finkelman Scholarship:*** Available to MARRIED 2ED, 3ED and 4ED students. Selection based on financial need and an overall GPA of above 2.0-3.0. You must have successfully completed Evidence and at least one elective in Trial Advocacy.

***The Friends of Widener University School of Law Scholarship:*** Created by community leaders in Delaware, this merit scholarship is given to a resident of Delaware selected for admission to the School of Law. The award recognizes scholarly achievement in the attainment of the undergraduate degree. (*no application needed*)

***The Honey F. Golby Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 3RD or 4ED students. Selection is based on financial need, school and community activities, and demonstrated scholastic achievement. The family and friends of the late Honey F. Golby, former Delaware Deputy Attorney General, established this scholarship in her honor.

***The Zelda Herrmann Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded annually to a female JD student attending Delaware Law in their 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year who has demonstrated excellence in scholarship, significant traits of leadership and is likely to make a substantial pro bono contribution as a practicing attorney. Students in the regular or extended division may apply.

***The Honorable Ned L. Hirsh Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 2ED, 3ED or 4ED students. Selection based on financial need, an overall cumulative GPA of above 2.0, and an interest in pursuing a career in Civil Litigation. The scholarship was established in 1988 in tribute to Judge Hirsh, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, by friends and members of his family.

***The Fairfax Leary, Jr. Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 3RD or 4ED students with a demonstrated interest in Commercial Law. Selection is based on demonstration of interest in the areas of commercial law, commercial transactions, or banking and an overall GPA of 2.5. Established in 1990 by alumni and friends in honor of Professor Leary.

***The Paul Isaac Leiter Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or 4<sup>th</sup> Year extended division students. Selection based on demonstrated financial need and ability to perform successfully in the law school program. The scholarship was established in memory of former student, Paul Leiter, by his parents.

***The Thomas Lodge Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 2RD or 2ED students who have demonstrated commitment to the delivery of public interest legal services as demonstrated through community activities and employment prior to and during law school.

***The James J. McEldrew Scholarship:*** Awarded annually to a JD student who is or has served in the U.S. Navy and / or U.S. Marines. Applicants may be a in the Regular or Extended Division entering their second, third or fourth year and must be a current or honorably discharged member of the Navy or Marines. Applicants must also have a cumulative grade point average of 2.6+. Prior applicants may apply again.

***The George K. Miller Scholarship:*** Awarded annually to a JD student who has overcome a personal or academic challenge and persevered in their studies while attending Delaware Law. Applicant must be a New Jersey resident entering their second year. See application for specific criteria and residency requirements.

***The Charles P. Mirarchi, Sr., Esq. Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to extended division students in good standing, perceived meritorious and exhibiting those special qualities which enable the student to work full-time while attending law school. This scholarship was established by the family and friends of the late Charles P. Mirarchi, Sr..

***The Bruce M. & Elizabeth M. Monroe Intellectual Property Scholarship:*** Awarded to a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> year student who has demonstrated academic achievement in the following courses: Copyrights, Patent Law, Patent Practice and Unfair Trade Practices or similar future course offerings in intellectual property. (*no application needed*)

***The Angela and Victor Piccone Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded to a deserving incoming student from the Philadelphia area with financial need. (*no application needed*)

***The Michael J. Petrelia Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded annually to an Extended Division Student entering his second year of JD study who can demonstrate service to the community and plans to continue to serve to the community, has achieved academic merit and has financial need.

***The William Prickett Corporate & Business Law Scholarship:*** Awarded to a JD student who has academically excelled in the study of corporate law and civil litigation. Applicants must be a Regular Division student with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 entering their third year. Applicants must be planning to take the DE Bar Exam upon graduation.

***The Dean Anthony J. Santoro Scholarship:*** Available to 3RD or 4ED students. Selection is based on high scholastic standing and demonstrated superior leadership abilities. Established by the faculty of the School of Law in 1989.

***The Alexander V. Sarcione, Jr. Endowed Scholarship:*** Available to a JD student enrolled in the extended division. Selection is based on financial need and academic merit, with eligible students holding a minimum 3.00 GPA. Current and previous recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship each year.

***The William I. Schaffer Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to students about to enter the 3RD or 4ED program. This award is made in recognition of scholastic achievement and is to be used to assist a student who is completing his/her entire legal education at Delaware Law School. The scholarship was established in 1982 in tribute to William I. Schaffer, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, by members of his family.

***The Taishoff Family Endowed Scholarship:*** Awarded to an incoming student with an outstanding academic record. The student shall demonstrate a commitment to public service through prior employment or volunteer activities, with a priority given to those honorably discharged from military service. *(no application needed)*

***The John C. Warrington Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to a second, third or fourth year student who demonstrates financial need. Established in 1992 by his family, classmates and friends.

***The Bernard S. Wildstein Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 2RD, 2ED, 3RD, 3ED and 4ED students. Selection based on academic achievement and service to the community.

## **Widener University Delaware Law School Guide to Outside Scholarship Opportunities**

In order to assist our students in the pursuit of outside sources of funding, the Financial Aid Office has researched and made available on our website information regarding more than 200 scholarship opportunities offered by organizations other than Delaware Law. These organizations offer scholarships, grants or low-interest loans to students who meet specific criteria determined by each organization. The criteria may vary from requiring residency of a certain state and attending law school, to having a disability, or having been born into a specific ethnic background. Students are encouraged to consider applying for these scholarships, if they meet the criteria, to supplement other financial aid available. Please use this information as a starting point for your search for additional funding.

Please feel free to contact the Financial Aid Office at [DelawareLawFinAid@widener.edu](mailto:DelawareLawFinAid@widener.edu) if you have any questions or difficulties accessing the file.

### **HOW TO ACCESS THE OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE FILE:**

1. Go to <https://delawarelaw.widener.edu>
2. Type “Outside Scholarships” in the search bar
3. Download PDF to browse scholarships

The scholarships are categorized as the following:

- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ❖ Pink highlighted scholarships   | Specific residency required          |
| ❖ Yellow highlighted scholarships | General scholarships                 |
| ❖ Blue highlighted scholarships   | Specialized scholarships & diversity |

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