

How to Apply for Financial Aid

Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2024-25 academic year.

- ▶ You can find this form online at FAFSA.gov by January 1, 2024.
- ▶ Start your application as soon as possible. You do not need to wait for your admission decision.
- ▶ Search for Lewis & Clark College by name or school code (003197) and select us to receive your information.
- ▶ For priority consideration, submit your FAFSA by **February 15, 2024**.

You will receive a FAFSA Submission Summary after your form is processed. Please read it carefully and take action if necessary. We will contact you by email if we need additional documentation.

Financial aid offers will be prepared in the spring for admitted students with complete aid applications. You will receive an email notification when yours is available to view online. If you decide to attend Lewis & Clark and wish to borrow loans, you will need to complete the required processing steps by July 1. Reapply for financial aid every year by filing a new FAFSA as early as possible.

Financial Aid Resources for Law Students

Scholarships and Grants

- [Lewis & Clark Law School scholarships and grants](#) are awarded by the Admissions Committee. All admitted students, including international and undocumented individuals, receive automatic consideration for these awards. No separate application is necessary. Amounts vary.
- Search the [AccessLex Law School Scholarship Databank](#) for outside scholarship opportunities.
- Enrolled students are encouraged to participate in [MAX by AccessLex®](#), a free personal finance program designed exclusively for law students with scholarship incentives built in for motivation.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

- FAFSA required, but eligibility is not based on need
- Unsubsidized, meaning that interest begins accruing at the time of disbursement
- Fixed interest rate (7.05% in 23-24 academic year; 24-25 rate will be set in June 2024)
- A loan origination fee will be deducted from each disbursement (currently 1.057%)
- \$20,500 annual borrowing limit; \$138,500 lifetime borrowing limit applies and includes all previously borrowed Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan

- FAFSA required, but eligibility is not based on need; separate PLUS Loan Application required
- Unsubsidized, credit-qualified loan; **borrower cannot have adverse credit history** (declined applicants may obtain a creditworthy endorser or appeal the credit decision)
- Fixed interest rate (8.05% in 23-24 academic year; 24-25 rate will be set in June 2024)
- A loan origination fee will be deducted from each disbursement (currently 4.228%)
- Annual borrowing limit is Cost of Attendance minus all other aid; no lifetime borrowing limit

Private Educational Loans

- Unsubsidized, credit-qualified educational loans; approval is based on creditworthiness
- Interest rates, fees, terms, and conditions vary and are determined by each lender
- Annual borrowing limit is Cost of Attendance minus all other aid

Estimated Cost of Attendance for the 2023-24 Academic Year *

Cost of Attendance Components	Full-Time (Day Division)	Part-Time (Evening Division)
Tuition	\$56,296	\$42,220
Food & Housing	\$15,750	\$15,750
Books & Supplies	\$1,600	\$1,600
Transportation	\$4,500	\$4,500
Personal Expenses	\$4,950	\$4,950
Loan Fees	\$1,300	\$1,300
Total Cost of Attendance for 9-month enrollment	\$84,396	\$70,320

* The estimated Cost of Attendance is set in March for the upcoming academic year.
Tuition rates typically increase annually; other cost components are also subject to change.

Sample Financial Aid Offer for a Full-Time (Day Division) Student in 2023-24

Type of Financial Aid	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Total
Lewis & Clark Law School Scholarship	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (subject to an origination fee)	\$10,250	\$10,250	\$20,500
Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan (subject to an origination fee)	\$21,948	\$21,948	\$43,896
Total Financial Aid Available	\$42,198	\$42,198	\$84,396

- Eligible financial aid applicants will receive an aid offer that fully covers their Cost of Attendance, but you may not need to borrow the maximum amount of loans available. Refer to the next page to see three sample budgets.
- We encourage you to consider ways to live less expensively, budget carefully, and borrow conservatively.

Educational Loans and Creditworthiness

Most law students will need to access loan funding beyond the amount available under the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan program at some point during their enrollment. Approval for the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan or a private educational loan is decided after a review of the applicant's credit history. Check your credit at AnnualCreditReport.com. **Do what you can to improve your credit now; identify and resolve any issues before enrolling in law school.**

Keep in mind that educational loans are not intended to cover prior obligations such as credit card debt, auto loans, or other consumer debt. **Pay off or pay down as much consumer debt as you can before enrolling in law school.**

Loan Repayment

Law school indebtedness varies from student to student and the amount you borrow is up to you. When it comes time to repay your loans, you will have the opportunity to choose from several repayment plans. Under debt-driven plans, the monthly payment amount is calculated based on total debt, interest rate, and length of the repayment period. Under income-driven plans, the monthly payment amount is calculated as a percentage of your discretionary income.

Learn more about repayment options at StudentAid.gov/Repay and compare plans using the [Loan Simulator](#). Those who intend to work in the public interest should also explore the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program \(PSLF\)](#) and the [L&C Loan Repayment Assistance Program \(LRAP\)](#).

Financial Aid for Indirect Costs

Financial aid is available not only for tuition and fees, but also for indirect costs such as food, rent, utilities, transportation, and personal expenses. Surveys of our student body show a wide spending range in these categories, and we set our Cost of Attendance with this in mind. As shown on the previous page, the 2023-24 maximum allowances for food/housing, transportation, and personal expenses total to \$25,200. It is important to recognize that your actual expenses may be significantly less than that.

When you accept your financial aid we want you to borrow the amount that is right for you. Loan requests can always be less than the maximum amount offered. If you find yourself needing additional funds later in the year, you can contact the Office of Financial Aid and request any portion of your remaining loan eligibility. Individual Cost of Attendance increases can also be considered for personal health insurance premiums, the one-time purchase of a computer, and dependent care costs for small children.

Sample 9-Month Budgets

Below are a few sample budgets based on information collected from our students. These samples are intended to give you a general idea of what to expect so you can plan your finances during law school. Keep in mind that living expenses vary depending on each student's own personal needs and circumstances. We encourage you to think of creative ways to reduce your expenses while enrolled to help minimize your loan repayment obligations after graduation.

Single Student Living on a Frugal Budget (9 Months)	
Rent (\$650/month)	\$5,850.00
Utilities, Renters Insurance, and Food	\$3,330.00
Transportation* (includes mileage, insurance, and parking permit)	\$2,043.00
Miscellaneous Personal Expenses	\$2,835.00
Total Living Expenses	\$14,058.00

Single Student Living on a Modest Budget (9 Months)	
Rent (\$1,200/month)	\$10,800.00
Utilities, Renters Insurance, and Food	\$5,040.00
Transportation* (includes mileage, insurance, and parking permit)	\$2,043.00
Miscellaneous Personal Expenses	\$4,950.00
Total Living Expenses	\$22,833.00

Married Student With a Family Living on a Mid-Range Budget (9 Months)	
Rent (\$1,600/month)	\$14,400.00
Utilities and Food	\$7,650.00
Transportation* (includes mileage, insurance, and parking permit)	\$2,043.00
Miscellaneous Personal Expenses	\$4,950.00
Total Living Expenses	\$29,043.00

* In these sample budgets the Transportation estimates assume students live within 3 miles of campus. Students may reduce their transportation costs by purchasing a discounted monthly pass for the [TriMet system](#) and using public transit to travel to school. Lewis & Clark provides a 75% subsidy for this unlimited ride pass. Please note that students who purchase a subsidized TriMet pass may not also purchase a semester parking permit.