



University of Minnesota

Law School

Scholarship Policy

The University of Minnesota Law School is pleased to make an outstanding legal education accessible to students through scholarship support. Students receiving scholarship funds should ensure they understand the conditions under which scholarships are renewed, and the impact of certain enrollment changes that may cause reduction or require repayment of scholarship funds. By accepting a scholarship from the University of Minnesota Law School, you agree to the terms of the Scholarship Policy. You are responsible for reviewing this Scholarship Policy and consulting with the Office of Admissions with any scholarship questions. All scholarship policies are subject to change.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING:

Students who receive a scholarship award must maintain full-time enrollment for exactly six semesters at the University of Minnesota Law School. Full-time enrollment is defined as taking at least 12 credits offered by and held at the University of Minnesota Law School. Changes to enrollment after applicable [Drop/Add deadlines](#) may cause reduction of scholarship funds or require the student to repay scholarship funds. The University of Minnesota Law School does not guarantee scholarship availability to students who are not enrolled full-time. Students considering non-standard or reduced enrollment options are responsible for seeking advising from the Admissions Office about how enrollment changes will affect scholarship eligibility.

Scholarship funds are split evenly between six semesters and cannot be combined to increase one semester's allocation. Scholarship allocations cannot exceed the intended semester's funding amount, i.e. $\frac{1}{6}$ of the total scholarship funds. Law School scholarships are intended for tuition only and will not result in cash payments to students.

Scholarship funds cannot be added retroactively to a previous semester.

The total allocated scholarship support award will not exceed three times the annual award, even if a student does not complete all requirements within the anticipated three years and enrolls for additional terms. For example, a student with a \$10,000 annual scholarship award is eligible for a maximum of \$30,000 over the course of his/her legal education at the Law School.

FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

Students who receive a scholarship covering full tuition at the time of admission are awarded funds that cover full tuition each semester as long as their status remains as a full-time law student (12 credits or

more each semester). University fees will not be covered.

RESIDENCY STATUS:

All non-resident to resident status changes may result in reduction of the scholarship amount. Reductions typically cover the same percentage of tuition as the original non-resident scholarship award. Scholarships for students whose residency status changes from resident to non-resident will not be adjusted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

The University of Minnesota Law School does not guarantee the availability of scholarships for students who take a leave of absence. In consultation with the Office of Admissions, the Scholarship Committee will reconsider, re-evaluate, and if necessary, adjust a scholarship award upon return from a leave of absence. Students returning from a leave of absence are responsible for contacting the Office of Admissions in writing at least two calendar months before the start of their semester of return.

REPAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

If a student withdraws from classes mid-semester (i.e. after classes have begun and after tuition refund deadlines have passed), the student will be required to repay some or all of the scholarship received for that semester.

Refund and drop/add deadlines are posted on the [Law School's website](#). The student's responsibility to repay scholarship funds for a mid-semester withdrawal rises inversely with the tuition refund schedule set by the University. For instance:

Refund Percentage as set by the University	Scholarship amount owed back to the University of MN
100%	0%
75%	25%
50%	50%
25%	75%
0%	100%

If a student withdraws from classes BEFORE the 100% tuition refund deadline, the student would not be responsible for scholarship repayment in any amount.

If a student remains enrolled at the end of the semester for all classes, the student does not need to pay back the scholarship amount.

Students who experience an unexpected personal or health emergency during a semester may be eligible for a [Tuition Refund Appeal](#) through the University. Tuition refund appeals requests are due in August following the academic year during which a student withdrew. Students who are successful in obtaining a Tuition Refund are not responsible for repaying their scholarship back to the University.

SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

Law School scholarships provide funding for students to use during six semesters of full-time study in the Law School (12 or more credits) toward completion of the J.D. degree, which requires 88 Law School credits. Scholarship funds are not available for use during the summer semester.

STUDYING ABROAD OR VISITING AWAY:

Scholarship funds do not cover tuition or expenses for students enrolling in foreign or domestic study away programs through another ABA-accredited law school or foreign institution. Scholarship funds apply to and only cover the credits incurred by full-time students who have their tuition and fees incurred through the University of Minnesota Law School.

If a student studies away from the University of Minnesota Law School, the student forfeits all scholarship funds for the semester(s) in which the student is studying away, and cannot apply these funds to future semesters. This includes any student taking a small number of credits at MN Law, but the majority of their credits at another institution.

GRADUATE COURSES:

A student may use scholarship funds for up to 6 credits from another graduate or professional program at the University of Minnesota as long as those credits will be counted toward the student's JD degree, and the credits taken are on the Law School transcript. Students must inform the Office of Admissions of any plans to take graduate courses in writing when the student registers for other graduate coursework. The University of Minnesota Law School does not guarantee the availability of scholarship funds to any student who fails to inform the Office of Admissions as to their enrollment in other graduate coursework by the start of the semester.

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS:

Students pursuing a dual degree at the University of Minnesota should carefully consider tuition and scholarship eligibility as they plan their programs, in consultation with the Admissions Office, Dean of Students Office, and appropriate advisors from the partner program. Law School scholarships may be used for Law School study only. In no cases will scholarship funds exceed the total tuition charged under the Law Career in a given semester.

Dual Degree enrollment: Students may be eligible to receive scholarship, fellowship, and assistantship support in both programs in a given semester.

Law Scholarships: After a student has completed the 1L year, the Admissions Office calculates a per credit scholarship rate (see example below). Scholarship support will then be applied to Law classes for each semester that remains on a per-credit basis. This amount is not to exceed the total Law tuition and fees charged in a given semester. It is important that students finalize their enrollment as early as

possible each semester to ensure the correct calculation of Law tuition and fees and correct allocation of per-credit law scholarship funds. Once a student has elected to have scholarship funds calculated per credit, that calculation remains in effect for the duration of his/her studies at the Law School.

If a student determines that it is in their best interest not to have scholarship calculated per-credit, the student will be eligible for their semester's scholarship award only when taking a full-time credit load (12 or more) at the Law School. Because of the way J.D. credits are earned through a dual degree program, most dual degree students will only have five full-time semesters at the Law School prior to graduation; and, therefore, will not receive the entire scholarship amount awarded in the initial scholarship letter.

Dual Degree Enrollment Per-Credit Scholarship Example:
\$20,000/year or \$60,000 total for 3 years at full time status
\$60,000 divided by 88 credits (to graduate from MN Law) = \$682/credit

Partner program support: Partner programs devise their own policies for applying support in any semester of enrollment in non-law credits. Students should consult an advisor in the partner program to determine how support from the partner program will be allocated.

LESS THAN FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT:

Scholarships are not disbursed to any student who is enrolled less than full-time (12 credits) at the law school.

The Office of Admissions will need written approval from the Dean of Students Office if a student plans to take a reduced credit load or graduate early in a future semester. [Reduced enrollment plans](#) should be confirmed BEFORE the start of the semester to ensure proper calculation of tuition, fees, financial aid, and scholarship amounts.

Students are required to obtain approval from the Dean of Students to enroll for less than full-time (12 credits) in any semester they are reducing credits and must submit the proof of approval from the Dean of Students to the Office of Admissions before the start of the semester and request the partial disbursement of their award. A percentage of the student's scholarship will be calculated and applied to their account by the Office of Admissions, depending on the number of credits taken (example below). The Office of Admissions will then manually update the scholarship disbursement database. Students studying away are not eligible for partial scholarship awards.

\$20,000/year or \$60,000 total for 3 years at full time status
\$60,000 divided by 88 credits (to graduate from MN Law) = \$682/credit

DONOR APPRECIATION LETTER:

The Law School greatly appreciates the generous donors who fund law school scholarships. Writing thank you notes is a professional courtesy and is expected to be done by scholarship recipients if the award letter provides details and requires a thank you. Failure to write a letter could result in scholarship withholdings.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHANGES:

It is possible that a scholarship award name could change throughout the year as scholarship funds may

come from different sources. Scholarship amounts will remain the same. If scholarship funding changes to another named scholarship, the student will be notified and informed if a thank you letter is required. Failure to write a letter could result in scholarship withholdings.

OUTSIDE FUNDING

Law students that receive funding from outside sources (Veterans services, fellowships, employers, etc.) will have the outside source funding applied to their account first. Law Scholarships will then be applied, but cannot exceed 100% of tuition. Law School scholarships may be reduced or removed if outside funding covers Law School tuition.

REMOVAL OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

The Law School reserves the right to temporarily or permanently remove or reduce scholarship funds from any current law student if they do not adhere to the rules and administrative policies of the University of Minnesota Law School. If you are required to withdraw from the Law School for any reason, your scholarship will expire.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE:

There is no minimum GPA requirement for scholarships and the Law School will not revoke scholarships of enrolled students based on GPA if the student otherwise satisfies eligibility requirements. Students may retain scholarships while on academic probation if they comply with probation requirements.

APPEAL PROCESS:

In very rare instances, a student may have an extenuating circumstance that does not fall within the scholarship policy. If a student would like the Scholarship Committee to review their special situation, they must submit in writing the issues to the Office of Admissions for review within one week of the scholarship disbursement date. The Scholarship Committee will review the situation and inform the student of the scholarship decision. The University of Minnesota Law School does not guarantee the review of any appeal that a student does not submit in accordance with this timeline.