



Financing Your 2026-27 Masters in Legal Studies (MLS) Program: An Overview

Admission-Based Merit Scholarships

The College of Law automatically considers first-year law students for scholarships during the admission process. Scholarship eligibility is based primarily on academic merit, and notification of any award will be included in your acceptance letter.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

To qualify for federal student loans and need-based financial assistance, you must complete the 2026-27 [FAFSA](#). Create an [FSA ID](#), if you do not have one to complete your FAFSA and related documents.

Your Aid Eligibility and Financial Aid Offer Notification

In some cases, the U.S. Department of Education and/or the State of Illinois may require our office to collect additional information before determining your financial aid eligibility. If this applies to you, we will notify you via email, and the required tasks will also appear on your To-Do List in the “Tasks” tile in [Campus Connect](#).

Once your financial aid offer is ready, we will notify you by email. You can view and accept your aid through the “Financial Aid” tile in [Campus Connect](#). Read our knowledge article: [How do students proceed with a federal student loan offer—accept or decline?](#)

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

The [Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan](#) plays a crucial role in financing education for many law students. This loan offers a maximum of \$20,500 per academic year, with interest starting to accrue as soon as the funds are disbursed. Repayment begins six months after graduation or when you drop below half-time enrollment. As an MLS student you are considered a graduate student for the purpose of borrowing federal loans.

As a graduate student, the new lifetime borrowing limit is \$100,000, though final regulations are still pending. This lifetime limit includes the outstanding balance of all federal student loans borrowed at the graduate level. Your loan eligibility is influenced by your enrollment status each term, as well as the credit hours you attempt and complete, which may lead to adjustments in your loan amount for both current and future terms.

For details on eligibility requirements, interest rates, loan origination fees, and to review your federal student loan borrowing history, visit [Federal Student Aid](#). Note that loan origination fees vary depending on the amount borrowed.

Private Educational Loan Program

With ongoing [changes to loan programs](#) in federal financial-aid regulations, [private educational loans](#) have become an increasingly important option for students who need additional funding. Because private loans differ in interest rates, fees, and credit requirements, make sure you’ve taken advantage of your federal student loan option before turning to a private loan. Choosing a private lender is an important step, so take time to compare lenders and understand their terms. Please visit our [private loan comparison tool](#) to assist you.

2026-27 Estimated Cost of Attendance

Full-time Cost of Attendance		Part-time Cost of Attendance	
Tuition estimate (9 hours per semester)	\$23,796	Tuition estimate (6 hours per semester)	\$15,864
Comprehensive Fees	\$300	Comprehensive Fees	\$300
Books, course materials, supplies, & equipment	\$990	Books, course materials, supplies, & equipment	\$660
Transportation	1,314	Transportation	\$1,314
Living expenses (housing and food)	\$18,766	Living expenses (housing and food)	\$18,766
Miscellaneous personal expenses	\$6,810	Miscellaneous personal expenses	\$6,810
TOTAL	\$52,076	TOTAL	\$43,970

The tuition amount is an estimate; the Board will finalize tuition for 2026-27 in June. Full [cost of attendance](#) estimates include direct and indirect costs. Tuition and fees are direct costs billed by and paid to DePaul. Indirect costs (including origination fees) associated with some students’ college attendance are estimated based on expenses incurred by College of Law students; your actual indirect costs may vary. For more information on tuition and fees, refer to our [Graduate and Professional Tuition and Fees](#) webpage.