



*let's talk*  
**Financial Aid**





# Welcome.

We are excited to have you at Richmond Law! We recognize that financial aid can seem overwhelming. If you aren't sure how to pay for law school, we are here to help. We hope to make the process as simple as possible.

This booklet will help guide you through the process. We are happy to answer any questions you may have, so don't be afraid to reach out.

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**Q.** What types of **financial aid** are available to me at the University of Richmond School of Law?

**A.** Once admitted, the Office of Financial Aid will offer you a financial aid package that will include federal loans and may also include scholarship awards. Scholarships are monetary amounts that do not need to be repaid. Loans, both federal and private, must be repaid.

**Q.** How do I **apply for Scholarships**?

**A.** The Law School considers all admitted students for merit scholarships. Awards are based on the applicant's undergraduate academic achievement and aptitude for the study of law. A separate application form is not required.

**Q.** How do I **apply for loans**?

**A.** The University of Richmond is a Federal Direct Lending institution and, therefore, can offer you a streamlined Federal Loans process. To apply for Federal Direct Loans, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa). In order for the University of Richmond to receive your FAFSA, you will need to list us using the **FAFSA school code: 003744**.

The FAFSA requires income information from two years prior. If you have filed your personal tax return, the University of Richmond Office of Financial Aid encourages you to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool available on the FAFSA. This tool will allow you to directly pull in your tax data from the IRS and auto-fill the form's tax portion.

If you submit a FAFSA and meet the eligibility requirements to qualify for Federal Direct Loans, you will receive an award package that includes the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan and possibly also the Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan. For more information about these loan programs, please review the Types of Aid section on the Federal Student Aid website at [studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types](https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types). If you prefer, you can also apply for private education loans. Applications and terms for private education loans are available directly with the lender. Students are not required to accept all loans offered. Please note students can only borrow up to the Cost of Attendance minus any other financial aid (i.e. federal loans, scholarships). Parental income is neither required nor considered.



**Q.** When should I submit the **FAFSA**?

**A.** February 25<sup>th</sup> is the priority consideration deadline. The FAFSA school code is 003744. If a student misses this date, we encourage them to submit it as soon as possible. Individuals who complete the FAFSA after this date may have a delay in receiving their financial aid package.

**Q.** How do I qualify for **Federal Loans**?

**A.** To qualify for federal loans, you must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen. In addition, you must have a valid Social Security number, not be in default on a federal student loan or owe money on a federal student grant, be enrolled at least half-time, have completed and signed the FAFSA, and, if a male, registered with Selective Service (you must register between the ages of 18 and 25). In addition to these requirements, to qualify for the Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan, a credit check is performed to determine eligibility. The Office of Financial Aid will begin sending award notifications to law students by early April.

**Q.** Will my federal loans **cover my tuition**?

**A.** Yes, but keep in mind that the annual maximum limit for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan is \$20,500, so you may need to borrow from the Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan to cover any remaining charges or expenses. The Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan can be taken out in an amount up to the cost of attendance established for the academic year minus any other aid received or borrowed.



**Q.** Are all of these programs open to me if I am an **international student**?

**A.** Unfortunately, international students cannot participate in federal loan programs. However, you are still eligible for scholarships and may still apply for private education loans. It is important to note that the Office of Financial Aid cannot assist you in securing any private education loans. You must apply directly with private lenders. A U.S. cosigner may be required for you to secure funding with a U.S. lender.



**Q.** **How much** financial aid can I get?

**A.** The total of all aid, including scholarships and loans, cannot exceed the cost of attendance as established by the Office of Financial Aid. The breakdown for 2021-2022 is at right.

<b>Tuition</b> (charges billed by UR)	<b>\$50,500</b>
<b>Other Estimated Costs</b>	
Room, board, utilities	\$13,950
Books & supplies	\$1,200
Personal expenses	\$1,530
Direct Loan fees	\$1,450
Transportation	\$1,830
<b>Total of Other Estimated Costs</b>	<b>\$19,960</b>
<b>Total Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$70,460</b>

**Q.** **When** will I receive my **financial aid package**?

**A.** Loan information is released beginning in early April. If you are admitted later in the season, you will receive your offer approximately one month after your admission or shortly after the Office of Financial Aid receives your FAFSA.

**Q.** **How** will I receive my **financial aid package**?

**A.** Your offer notification will be emailed to you using the address provided on your admission application.

**Q.** Once I have decided to attend Richmond Law, how do I **accept** my **scholarship and/or my financial aid offer**?

**A.** Once you have paid your full deposit, you have officially accepted your scholarship. Please visit [financialaid.richmond.edu/law/loans/direct.html](http://financialaid.richmond.edu/law/loans/direct.html) for directions on how to accept or decline the Federal Direct Loans for which you were offered. You must have paid your full deposit and have access to Bannerweb to accept or decline your Federal Direct Loans.

**Q.** **How** will I receive my **financial aid**?

**A.** All financial aid except Federal Work Study is credited directly to the student's account at the beginning of the term, once the student has submitted all required forms and met all requirements for the aid. Aid for the academic year is split evenly between fall and spring terms. If the amount of financial aid exceeds your billable charges at Richmond, then you are eligible for a refund. The Student Accounts Office will automatically generate a refund for a credit balance caused by federal financial aid within 14 days of the actual disbursement date. Any other credit balances will remain on your account unless you request a refund from the Student Accounts Office.





**Q.** When will I receive the funds for my **financial aid award**?

**A.** For the 2021–2022 academic year, funds will disburse to the student's account on August 18, 2021, for the fall semester and January 5, 2022, for the spring semester.

Disbursement dates for summer sessions are set for the first day of the start of the earliest summer session in which you enroll. Disbursement dates for study abroad programs are designated for ten days prior to each program's first day of classes.

The Student Accounts Office will automatically generate a refund for a credit balance caused by federal financial aid within 14 days of the actual disbursement date. Any other credit balances will remain on your account unless you request a refund.

**Q.** What if I have **questions** about my **award**?

**A.** If, after reviewing your award, you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Financial Aid at (804) 289-8438 or via email at [finaid@richmond.edu](mailto:finaid@richmond.edu).



**Q.** If I wasn't offered a scholarship in my 1L year, **are there other opportunities in my 2L or 3L year?**

**A.** Students who enter Richmond Law without a scholarship award will be re-evaluated at the end of the student's first year based upon 1L GPA. There are very limited additional internal scholarships after 1L year.

**Q.** Do I need to apply for financial aid **each year**?

**A.** Yes, you must re-submit the FAFSA and loan applications each year. Scholarships awarded when a student enters the first year of law school will automatically renew in the student's second and third year for the amount initially awarded, provided the student is in good standing and meets the standards on Satisfactory Academic Progress. For more information on Satisfactory Academic Progress, see [financialaid.richmond.edu/law/sap.html](http://financialaid.richmond.edu/law/sap.html).





**Q.** Do you **match scholarships** offered by peer institutions?

**A.** As a general rule, we do not match scholarship awards from other institutions. However, we are committed to assisting admitted students truly interested in Richmond Law. To that end, we would be happy to discuss your situation and work through your concerns. Please e-mail [lawadmissions@richmond.edu](mailto:lawadmissions@richmond.edu) if you would like for us to review your scholarship award. We will do our best to make Richmond Law an option for you.

**Q.** Does Richmond Law offer any **assistance** to students interested in public interest?

**A.** Recognizing that sometimes the summer job that is of greatest interest to a student may be an unpaid or underfunded position, Richmond Law guarantees a \$4,000 fellowship one summer to support every student who takes such a position with a government or non-profit entity anywhere in the world.

New graduates are also eligible for the Bridge to Practice Fellowship Program. The Fellowship supports and encourages those who wish to pursue careers in government and public interest law through placements in the field and enhanced career development services throughout their search for permanent employment.

For students who enter the public interest field, there is a Federal Public Service Forgiveness Program offered through the federal government that you should take maximum advantage of if you graduate with loans. Unfortunately, Richmond Law does not have its own Loan Assistance Program.

**Q.** Does Richmond Law participate in the **Yellow Ribbon Program**?

**A.** Yes, the Law School is proud to be a participant in the program. The University of Richmond will provide a maximum award of \$5,000 each to up to 25 qualifying students for the 2021–2022 school year. This amount will be matched by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). Richmond's Yellow Ribbon Program funds will be awarded to qualifying students on a first-come, first-served basis. To be considered, qualifying students must:

- Be accepted for enrollment to a degree program, or be currently enrolled in a degree program at the University of Richmond; and
- Submit the Certificate of Eligibility provided to them by the VA to the University of Richmond's School Certifying Official (SCO).

Recipients will be selected based upon the date by which both conditions are met. New applications for the 2021–2022 school year will not be accepted after January 13, 2022. Our SCO contact information is Jean Creamer, Registrar's Office, Phone: (804) 289-8396, E-mail: [jcreamers@richmond.edu](mailto:jcreamers@richmond.edu).

If you have questions about your eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill or the Yellow Ribbon Program, you should contact the VA. If you have questions about the University of Richmond's participation in the program, contact Jean Creamer.

**Q.** What happens to my financial aid **if I withdraw**?

**A.** Students who drop below half time or withdraw should visit the Controller's website at [controller.richmond.edu](http://controller.richmond.edu) to learn more about federal and university withdrawal policies.



**Q.** I have to buy a laptop to meet the Law School **laptop computer requirement**. Can I get financial aid to help meet this expense?

**A.** Yes, you may be able to borrow loans to help with this expense. For more information, refer to the Cost of Attendance Increase for Computer Purchase form. The form can be found at [financialaid.richmond.edu/law/computer.pdf](https://financialaid.richmond.edu/law/computer.pdf).



**Q.** Is financial aid available for **summer term**?

**A.** Yes. Federal Direct Loans are available for summer term if you enroll for three or more credit hours. The amount borrowed for summer will reduce the amount of Federal Direct Loans available to you for the fall and spring terms. If you plan to enroll for summer term, you should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit the Summer Federal Direct Loan Application, available at [financialaid.richmond.edu/law/forms.html](https://financialaid.richmond.edu/law/forms.html), at least six weeks prior to the beginning of summer enrollment. We encourage students to borrow from a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan before a Federal Grad PLUS Loan since the interest rates are more favorable. The amount borrowed from this loan fund will reduce the amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan available to you for the fall and spring terms since there is an annual maximum. You will be able to borrow the difference you need in the Federal Grad PLUS Loan for the fall and spring semesters. Please note there are not summer class options every year.

**Q.** What if I need **more money** than budgeted for me?

**A.** You should set up a time to discuss your request with the Office of Financial Aid. Please note that we have guidelines that need to be followed when adjusting student budgets. We cannot assist you with consumer debt, car payments, and other such expenses. If you have a financial issue and are not sure whether you can ask for more funding, please feel free to contact us directly.

**Q.** What if I **still have questions** and need more direction?

**A.** Please feel free to contact us and set up a time to talk one-on-one. We know that financial aid can be stressful, and we would like to help you in any way we can. Scholarship questions should be directed to Law Admissions; financial aid-related questions should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid.





## CONTACT US

### **Richmond Law Office of Admissions**

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804-289-8189

### **Office of Financial Aid**

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