



Columbia Law School

FINANCIAL AID CHECKLISTS

APPLYING FOR LAW SCHOOL GRANTS

Submit by February 15, 2023

Applies only to entering 1L students (Class of 2026)

- Financial Aid Questionnaire (FAQ) to the Law School*
- CSS Profile Application to the College Board
- FAFSA Form to processor
- 2021 Federal Income Tax Forms to the College Board using the Institutional Documentation (IDOC) Service
- Federal Loan Application(s) to Federal Direct Loans and/or Private Loan Application(s) to the Law School (by May 15)

*Submit by February 15 or as soon as possible if admitted later.

APPLYING FOR LOANS ONLY

Submit by May 15, 2023

- Financial Aid Questionnaire (FAQ) to the Law School
- FAFSA Form to processor
- Federal Loan Application(s) to Federal Direct Loans and/or Private Loan Application(s) to the Law School

DESCRIPTION OF CHECKLIST ITEMS

Financial Aid Questionnaire (FAQ)

Required of all applicants for ANY type of financial aid. The FAQ is available to admitted students shortly after admission.

CSS Profile Application

Required of all applicants for admission to the entering J.D. class (Class of 2026) who are seeking consideration for Law School grants. Financial information must be submitted for the applicant, both of the applicant's parents, and, if applicable, the applicant's spouse. Apply: cssprofile.collegeboard.org. Questions? Call 844-202-0524.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The need analysis form used by U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens to establish eligibility for federal student aid (Direct Unsubsidized and Direct Graduate PLUS loans, Work-Study). Parental information is NOT required on the FAFSA for graduate/professional students. Apply: studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa.

The Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID consists of a user-created username and password to electronically apply for the FAFSA. You can use your FSA ID immediately to sign your FAFSA. Questions regarding the FAFSA can be addressed by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) at 800-433-3243. The Federal School Code for Columbia University is 002707.

The results of the federal need analysis are transmitted to schools electronically and are sent to the student in the Student Aid Report (SAR). Students may make corrections and communicate them to the processor online.

Note: The FAFSA is NOT a loan application (see Loan Application Materials on next page).

2021 Federal Income Tax Forms

All first-year grant applicants (Class of 2026) must submit signed copies of federal income tax forms (with all schedules, attachments, and W-2s) for all persons included on the CSS Profile application. If an applicant/spouse/parent(s) owns a business, complete business returns must also be included, as well as any partnership and/or S Corporation returns. If 2021 returns are not available by February 15, submit complete 2020 returns by that date so that the grant application can be reviewed. Complete 2021 tax returns are required by the end of April to finalize the grant award.

Note: Students will be notified by the College Board to submit tax returns via IDOC shortly after they are admitted and once the CSS Profile form has been received by Columbia. All FAFSA filers who were selected for verification of their information are required to submit 2021 federal income tax transcripts from the IRS before the Office of Financial Aid can certify eligibility for federal aid and/or certify Federal Direct Loan applications (Unsubsidized, Graduate PLUS). Students also must complete the 2023–2024 Verification Worksheet, which can be requested from the Office of Financial Aid. The SAR notifies students if they have been selected for verification.

Loan Application Materials

For Federal Direct Loans, you must complete your Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note(s) (MPN) online at studentaid.gov for Unsubsidized and/or Graduate PLUS loans. You will need your Federal Student Aid ID to submit the MPN electronically.

Private educational loan applications must be submitted annually; send completed applications to the Office of Financial Aid or follow the lender's instructions. The most current information on these programs can be found on the Office of Financial Aid's website.

Please also be aware that students have the right and ability to select the education loan provider of their choice, are not required to use any of the university's suggested lenders, and will suffer no penalty for choosing a lender that is not a suggested lender. To view the university's disclosure concerning lender selection, please visit sfs.columbia.edu/financial-aid/private-loans. It is recommended that U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens apply for federal loans before private/alternative loans because federal loans generally have better terms and conditions.

Grant Data Sheet

Required of all recipients of Law School grant and scholarship awards. Information from this form is used to prepare annual stewardship reports for Law School alumni and friends whose generous donations help fund our programs.