

California Western School of Law | Financial Aid Office

2021 Bar Costs Budget Increase Request

Application window: Spring: March 1 - April 1 • Summer: July 1 - July 23 • Fall: October 1 - November 19

Students in the final trimester of their J.D. program may request a one-time increase to their student budget (also called Cost of Attendance) for direct costs related to the bar exam. Other expenses, such as the cost of a bar preparation class such as Barbri or the cost of living expenses after graduation, cannot be added to the student budget. Upon request, we will add the following amounts to your Cost of Attendance for your final term:

California Bar Examination Fee + Laptop Fee:	\$830.	} Total increase: \$1617.
Determination of Moral Character Fee:	\$551.	
Average LiveScan Fee:	\$ 33.	
MPRE Fee:	\$135.	
Graduate PLUS loan fees*:	\$ 68.	

*If you will not receive a Graduate PLUS as a result of this request, the amount of loan fees may be reduced or excluded from your increase.

Request for Additional Aid:

Check one or more of the following.

- I request that the maximum amount of federal student loans, including any remaining unused loan eligibility, be added to my award package.
- I request an additional \$ _____ in federal student loans.
- I request an additional \$ _____ in Federal Work-Study.
- Other (attach explanation).

By submitting this form, I request that my cost of attendance (student budget) be increased by the amount listed as the "Total increase" amount above. If the California Bar Examination fee, Laptop Computer fee, Determination of Moral Character fee, or MPRE fee are increased to be higher than the amounts indicated above, I request an additional amount to cover those additional fees as well.

I have read both pages of this form, and understand and agree to the terms described.

I understand that each request must be reviewed and approved by the Financial Aid Office, and that a request may be denied or limited for any reason – even if a similar request has previously been approved for me or for another student. If the Financial Aid Office receives my request after the deadline for the current trimester, it may be denied without review.

I understand that if I am awarded a Federal Direct Loan based on my request, that loan fees will be deducted from each disbursement by the Direct Loan Program.

I understand that my additional loans, if awarded, may require a new credit check.

I understand that the addition of a new student loan will increase the amount of my student loan debt, and that this may result in higher student loan payments, additional time needed to pay off my student loans, or both.

I agree not to rely on the funds specified in this request until they are disbursed to me by the Business Office. I agree that any expenditures or financial decisions I make prior to disbursement are my own responsibility and are at my own risk.

Student Name

CWSL ID Number

Student Signature

Date

Information and Instructions:

Each school must determine a Cost of Attendance (COA), also referred to as a “student budget”, for each of its programs. During a given period of enrollment (usually a two-trimester academic year), a student may not receive a total amount of student aid (including scholarships, grants, federal student loans, private student loans, and Federal Work-Study) that exceeds that student’s COA. The Cost of Attendance includes the student’s tuition and fees as charged by the school, as well as allowances for books, supplies, and living expenses such as rent, food, utilities, transportation, and an allowance for miscellaneous personal expenses.

The standard Cost of Attendance at California Western School of Law includes a generous living expense allowance that should cover the education costs of the majority of California Western students. In some cases, a school’s financial aid office is permitted to adjust the COA to reflect a student’s allowable and documented education expenses that are either greater than the amounts included in the standard budget or else not normally included at all. If approved, such an adjustment will often result in additional eligibility for Federal Graduate PLUS loans.

Some allowable costs:

- Unreimbursed medical expenses, including prescriptions
- Day care (does not include private school tuition)
- Auto repair costs other than routine maintenance
- Gasoline costs, if student lives more than 20 miles from school
- Airfare or other transportation, if required for an out-of-town externship, or if needed to travel out of town to attend approved classes at another location
- Computer purchase (no more than \$1500, one time only, may include related items such as software, extended warranty, printer, etc.)
- Bar exam costs (direct costs of the first bar exam only; cannot include bar study course fees or other related costs; cannot include living expenses after graduation; one time only)
- Other allowable costs that are determined by the Financial Aid Office to be directly related to a student’s education

Note that the Financial Aid Office may limit the amount of a student’s increase for any reason, and must decline an increase if it is determined that a cost was not incurred during the current period of enrollment or if it is not an allowable education-related expense.

Some costs can never be added to a student’s cost of attendance. These include:

- Auto purchase or payments
- Credit card or other consumer debt payments
- Costs incurred by a family member, including a spouse or roommate’s portion of rent or mortgage
- Child support and other child care expenses (other than day care)
- Legal fees, bail, traffic tickets, parking tickets, or fines
- Veterinary costs, unless for a service animal
- Luxury items, such as premium cable channels, high-speed internet, food costs in excess of the standard allowance or other similar costs unless required for a specific education-related reason

Because most budget increases must be performed after an expense is incurred, students may wish to determine in advance whether a cost would be approved prior to incurring that cost. In such cases, students should submit a request for a pre-approval. Financial Aid Office staff will review the request and inform the student of the amount that would be approved. After a pre-approval, a student must still submit an increase request, along with proof that the pre-approved payment was made during the current award period in order to receive a budget adjustment and additional student aid.

Since most budget increases result in eligibility for additional Federal Graduate PLUS loans, a student may be required to undergo an additional credit check. A student will be required to obtain an additional endorser addendum if the student needs an endorser to qualify for Graduate PLUS.

Students should not rely on their requested funds until those funds are disbursed by the Business Office. Any expenditures or financial decisions made prior to disbursement are the student’s responsibility and are at the student’s own risk.