



Eligibility to Receive Federal Financial Aid

This policy addresses the minimum number of credit hours a student must register for in a given academic term to be eligible to receive federal financial aid.

Students should note that the terms “full time” and “half time” as used below do not necessarily equate with “full time” and “part time” as used in other policies or contexts at the College of Law.

Other loan requirements — such as entrance and exit counseling, satisfaction of verification requirements, and discretionary aid increases — are governed by federal law and other policies, as applicable.

- A. Minimum Hours Status for Aid Purposes:** Among other federal requirements, only students who are enrolled on at least a half-time basis are eligible to receive federal aid. Therefore, regardless of whether a student is classified as full time or part time by the Registrar’s Office, loan eligibility for federal aid purposes requires at least half-time enrollment, as defined below.

Status	JD and JD/Dual Degree	LL.M. International Law	LL.M. Elder Law
Fall/Spring*	Full-Time Status: 10 hours Half-Time Status: 5 hours Below 5 hours: not eligible for federal loans	Full-Time Status: 12 hours Half-Time Status: 6 hours Below 6 hours: not eligible for federal loans	Full-Time Status: 10 hours Half-Time Status: 5 hours Below 5 hours: not eligible for federal loans
Summer*	Full-Time Status: 5 hours Half-Time Status: 3 hours Below 3 hours: not eligible for federal loans	Full-Time Status: 5 hours Half-Time Status: 3 hours Below 3 hours: not eligible for federal loans	Full-Time Status: 5 hours Half-Time Status: 3 hours Below 3 hours: not eligible for federal loans

*May include study-abroad programs for J.D., J.D.-dual degree, and International Law LL.M. students.

- B. Recalculation of Aid Awards:** A financial aid award will be recalculated only for changes in status that occur during an add/drop period, or for program changes (i.e., a change from the full-time to part-time J.D. program, or the reverse). If a student drops classes during this period, but remains enrolled in at least one course, his or her *eligibility* to receive federal loans may be impacted. More specifically, if a student receives a federal loan disbursement based on preliminary registration information, but then drops enough credits to trigger a change in status (e.g., a change from full time to half time), an “over award” situation may exist. When an “over award” occurs, federal financial aid funds likely must be returned by the College. In addition, as required by federal regulation, the student’s status is periodically reported to the [National Student Loan Database System](#). A loss of aid eligibility may cause the grace period or loan repayment obligations to begin. Accordingly, federal loan recipients should contact the Office of Financial Aid when making schedule changes that will impact their enrollment status. In addition, if a student adds or drops classes after receiving a financial aid disbursement, the student may then owe additional sums to the College of Law.
- C. Relationship to Other Policies:** Aid eligibility operates independently from other requirements — including but not limited to student visa enrollment requirements for international students and approvals necessary to drop classes while in the required curriculum. The Associate Dean of Academics must approve reduced course loads for students in the required curriculum J.D. curriculum and for students enrolled full time in the Elder Law LL.M. program. The Associate Dean of Graduate and Cooperative Programs must approve reduced course loads for full-time students in the International Law LL.M. program. Title IV return calculations for students on leave or who withdraw are handled in accordance with other applicable policies, including Refund of Tuition and Fees.

Cross-Reference: Refund of Tuition and Fees.

Administrative policy effective Fall 2009.