



Yale Law School

2015-2016 Financial Aid
Policies, Program, & Procedures for JD Students

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Yale Law School

Jill C. Stone – *Director of Financial Aid*

Yale Law School's financial aid policies and programs are designed to make it possible for students to pursue their legal education at Yale regardless of their financial circumstances. Using a combination of loans and scholarship grants, we make every effort to provide students with the difference between their resources -- such as family resources, summer earnings and student savings -- and the cost of attending Yale. About 72% of the student body received some form of financial aid in 2014-2015. More than half (59%) of our students qualify for Law School scholarship grants, which are awarded solely on the basis of financial need.

The Financial Aid Office is committed to:

- assisting you in understanding our program and the resources and options available to you;
- flexibility and concern in responding to individual circumstances and special needs, consistent with the guidelines of our general policies;
- protecting the confidentiality of the information you provide to us; and
- doing our best to notify you of any changes in federal programs and University or Law School policies.

In return, we expect you to:

- provide us with accurate information about your financial situation and notify us of significant changes;
- meet deadlines and otherwise handle paperwork and reporting responsibilities promptly and carefully; and
- complete the required student loan entrance and exit interviews.

Kellie Webb, Assistant Director, Roselyn Llanos-Robles, Senior Administrative Assistant, and I are always pleased to answer your questions and to help you with your financial planning and individual concerns. We look forward to meeting and working with you.

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I. ACADEMIC YEAR FINANCIAL AID

Academic year financial aid consists of need-based grants and loans. The primary goal of our financial aid program is to ensure that all admitted students can afford to attend Yale Law School regardless of their financial resources. Below is a discussion of the elements of our academic year financial aid.

Students who are not United States citizens or permanent residents are eligible for the same amount of need-based aid as all other students, in that international students are eligible for both grants and loans. Although federal loans are not available to non-U.S. citizens, the University has alternative loans available to borrow for international students without needing a U.S. citizen co-signer.

STUDENT BUDGET/ COST OF ATTENDANCE

Our financial aid awards for 2015-2016 are based on a budget of tuition and fees plus allowances for living expenses, books, etc. These budgets reflect our estimate of the cost of a moderate style of living in New Haven for the nine month academic year.

Components of the 2015-2016 Basic Budget

Tuition	\$55,800
University Administrative & Activities Fee	\$2,250
Room, Board, & Personal Expenses	\$17,000
Books	\$1,100
University Hospitalization Coverage	\$2,102*
TOTAL	\$78,252

*At the time of publication (3/1/15) the University Hospitalization Coverage charge for academic year 2015-2016 had not been set. As such the 2014-2015 charge of \$2,102 was used to set the student budget.

University Administrative & Activities Fee:

This fee includes University assessments for basic health coverage and use of University facilities and resources.

Room, board and personal expenses:

This allocation represents a reasonable student expense for housing, utilities, food and other personal expenses. It is the same for all students whether they live on-campus or off-campus.

Travel:

An additional allocation will be made to the cost of attendance to account for 2 roundtrip travel costs from the student's permanent home address (as reported on the Need Access and/or FAFSA) to New Haven based on a universal assessment of average travel costs on a state by state or by country basis.

University Hospitalization Coverage and Health services coverage:

Note: At the time of publication (3/1/15) the University Hospitalization Coverage and Health Services Coverage for academic year 2015-2016 had not been set by Yale Student Health Services. As such the charges listed below reflect academic year 2014-2015 costs.

All students are required to have hospitalization coverage. The cost of hospitalization insurance for single student coverage is automatically added to the basic budget for all students. If a student obtains outside insurance and waives this coverage, this expense will be removed from the student's bill and the student's financial aid award. If a student has dependents and will be enrolling in the two-person or family coverage plan, a Budget Revision form (with documentation of enrollment) must be completed and submitted to the Financial Aid Office for a budget adjustment (available at our website in the 'Forms' section for download). Additional financial aid for this expense is available in the form of a student loan. The mandatory fees include membership in the Yale Health Plan (YHP), a comprehensive pre-paid group practice plan and are set at \$2,102 (2014-2015) for single students, \$7,824 (2014-2015) for two party coverage and \$13,126 (2014-2015) for family coverage. Additional information on Yale Health Plan can be accessed at www.yalehealth.yale.edu

Children:

For students with dependent children, an allowance of \$5,000 for each child is added to the applicable budget.

Extraordinary Expenses:

Adjustments to the basic budget may be made in the event of extraordinary expenses and special needs (e.g., extraordinary medical expenses). Additional financial assistance resulting from such an adjustment will be available in the form of a loan. Students are encouraged to discuss their individual situations with the Financial Aid Office, which is committed to being as responsive and flexible as possible.

Expenses Not Included:

Moving expenses, prior debt, credit card debt and costs associated with automobiles will not be considered part of student budgets in determining eligibility for financial aid.

HOW WE DETERMINE YOUR FINANCIAL AID

Award Packaging Parameters

YLS determines financial need and awards aid to meet that need based on the following two part calculation:

1. Cost of Attendance (i.e. Budget)
minus contribution (student + parent+ spouse)
= student's amount of financial need

Need is then filled with a set amount of unit loan funds and then by a Yale Law School Institutional Scholarship

2. Student's amount of financial need
minus unit loans (based on class year)
= YLS Institutional scholarship award

Student Contribution

Students are expected to help meet the cost of their education through savings and employment.

Student Assets: Students are expected to exhaust their savings and other financial assets (determined at the beginning of Law School) by contributing one-half in their first year and the remaining half in their second year. Students must conserve the assets anticipated for use in the second year; the Law School's second year financial aid calculation will assume that these assets are available. This schedule of expenditure (as opposed to one requiring all assets to be consumed before any grant aid is offered) is designed to lessen the financial impact of withdrawal from the Law School after the first year. It is also designed to back-load loans, and thus reduces the interest that accrues. Additional assets acquired during Law School are considered to be fully available to meet Law School expenses.

Summer employment: Students are expected to contribute towards the cost of their education through summer employment.

The determination of the expected summer contribution for continuing students is based on the following steps:

1. The calculation of gross earnings based on the weekly rate of pay applied to the number of weeks worked:
 - o Gross earnings for students who split compensated employment between two employers will be derived by calculating an average weekly income for all weeks worked then applied to the actual number of weeks worked up to the 12 week maximum.
 - o Gross earnings for students who work beyond twelve weeks will be derived by calculating an average weekly income for all weeks worked applied to the maximum of 12 weeks only.

2. The calculation of net earnings based on a 30% adjustment to the gross to account for federal, state, local income tax and FICA.
3. The exclusion of the first \$6,000 of net summer earnings to be retained by the student to meet summer living expenses.
4. Net income in excess of the \$6,000 exclusion will be considered as available to meet academic year expenses and will be termed the summer employment contribution.

Summer contributions of \$2,500 are imputed to students in all classes who choose not to work during the summer. We expect that students entering the Law School will contribute the higher of a summer contribution calculated by the formula above or \$2,500.

Continuing students interested in summer public interest and government employment should consider the Law School's programs of direct support for such work through Summer Public Interest Fellowships ([SPIF](#)). Students who participate in SPIF generally do not have a summer contribution as their SPIF grant is less than or equal to the \$6,000 exclusion.

Term-time employment: Term-time income in excess of \$1,000 will be considered as an asset to meet financial need. Seventy percent of net income in excess of \$1,000 will be applied first to replace any unmet summer employment contribution or asset contribution expectation or parental contribution that is not in fact available, or to meet expenses in excess of the basic budget. If no such shortfall exists or if the net income exceeds the shortfall, the income (or that portion in excess of the shortfall) will be used to reduce loan and/or grant eligibility. Net income less than \$7,200 will be used to reduce loans; income in excess of \$7,200 will then reduce grants.

- For 1Ls and 2Ls – adjustments for any term time employment completed during the current academic year will be factored into the following academic year aid award. Students will report their term-time income on the next academic year Need Access application (Note – those students who opt not to complete Need Access (i.e. loan consideration only) will be asked to supply this information separately on an addendum to their Notification and Confirmation form). Students whose income exceeds the parameters outlined in the policy above will see a calculation for term time income on their next academic year aid award letter in their student contribution (along with any existing assets and summer earnings contributions). As such, students should plan accordingly knowing that any income derived in 2014-2015 may affect their 2015-2016 aid award.
- For 3Ls – students will receive an e-mail at the beginning of the Spring term requesting that they report term time employment for the current academic year. Based on this data, students will be informed if a term time adjustment of their aid is required. If so, 3L students will have the choice of 1) having funds adjusted directly off their student account or 2) having the adjustment made in the amount of COAP eligible loans they have incurred while enrolled. By offering two options, students who cannot afford to lose direct funds in their spring term have the option of the COAP adjustment.

*****Please Note:** The American Bar Association law school accreditation rules limit term-time employment to twenty hours per week. The Law School strongly discourages first term students from taking jobs. All students must complete a Term Time Employment Verification form during the school year as requested by the Financial Aid Office.

Parental Contribution

For those students applying for **institutional scholarship support**, the Law School will take into account all resources available to meet the cost of their education, including, to some extent, family resources. (Please note: for students applying only for loans, parental resources are not considered). The Law School considers family resources on a sliding scale, based on the age of the student:

- If the student is **26 or younger** on December 31st of the academic year for which the student is applying for financial aid, a parental contribution (as described below) will be expected. Parents' information must be submitted via the Need Access application (www.needaccess.org) to the Law School.
- If the student is **27 or 28** on December 31st of the academic year for which the student is applying for financial aid, the expected parental contribution will be decreased by 50%. Parents' information must be submitted via the Need Access application (www.needaccess.org) to the Law School.

- If the student is **29 or older** on December 31st of the academic year for which the student is applying for financial aid, no parental contribution will be expected. Parents' information does not need to be submitted via Need Access to the Law School.

Expected parental contribution calculation: The expected parental contribution is calculated based on the information in the Need Access application. The Need Access methodology for measuring parents' relative financial position is based on the concept of "available income." Available income is defined as that income available to the family to meet its economic needs after deductions from the parents' total taxable and nontaxable income for the following: U.S. income and social security (FICA) taxes; state and other taxes; medical and dental expenses; employment allowance (if appropriate); elementary and secondary tuition expenses; and minimum living expenses. The remaining income is considered available for the family's discretionary use and a percentage of this available income is calculated as a reasonable contribution toward educational expenses. This calculation of available income also takes into account a number of factors like parental income, age, retirement needs, home equity, assets, family size, and whether both parents are working. As the amount of available income rises, the percentage considered available for education expenses also increases. This amount is then divided among family members enrolled in full-time higher education programs to determine the expected parental contribution. Students who actually receive only part or none of the expected parental contributions may increase the amount that is being borrowed (generally through the Grad PLUS loan) to make up the shortfall. These loans to support the parent contribution will generally be covered by COAP.

*****Please Note:** Students whose parents are divorced or separated must submit a Need Access analysis for both natural parents

Spousal Contribution

Spousal contributions are calculated based on the following parameters:

- Spouse is full time enrolled student (including a fellow YLS student) – no contribution assessed
- Spouse is documented unemployed – no contribution assessed
- Spouse is a stay-at-home parent due to childcare responsibilities – no contribution assessed (a \$6,000 living allowance for the spouse is also added to the Cost of Attendance in this circumstance)
- Spouse is gainfully employed – a contribution based on the gross income according to the schedule below:

Gross Income	Spouse Contribution
under \$50,000	None
\$50,000 to \$65,000	15% of income
\$65,000 to \$80,000	\$9,750 plus 30% of income over \$65,000
Over \$80,000	\$14,250 plus 60% of income over \$80,000

It is the student's responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office of any changes to the spouse's employment status during the academic year at which time an aid award adjustment may be made. The Financial Aid Office will also request documentation to verify the spouse's status as unemployed, fulltime student or primary childcare provider.

Students may opt to borrow additional loan funds to compensate for the calculated spouse contribution up to their Cost of Attendance. However, any additional borrowing for this purpose will not be eligible for the COAP program.

Student Loans

The Law School expects all students to finance a portion of their education with loans. We strive to minimize and equalize our students' debt load. We allocate our grant resources to students with the greatest financial need and use a formula which increases the proportion of grant as total need increases. In 2015-2016 students will be expected, depending on the class year, to meet the first \$42,000; \$43,000; \$44,000 (depending on class year) of their need with loans. Students whose total need is less than this amount will normally receive only loan assistance. Students whose need exceeds this amount will receive grants. Further need which exceeds the basic budget is usually met in the form of additional loans.

While law school debt may seem daunting, all YLS graduates are eligible to apply for the Law School's post-graduate loan forgiveness program ([COAP](#)).

As the borrower, you have the ability to:

1. Choose what type of student loan you wish to borrow to fill your calculated unit loan contribution. Several types of loans are available and the most common type (which will be auto packaged on your aid award) are the Federal Direct Unsubsidized and Grad PLUS loans (see loan details below). Since Yale University participates exclusively in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program there is only one lender, the Department of Education for these federal loans. There are also numerous private loans available and you are free to select the lender of your choice (indicating as such on your Notification and Confirmation form). We encourage students to carefully weigh the benefits of each loan program including interest rates, repayment plan flexibility, forgiveness terms, fees, etc. when making your loan selection, as these factors vary significantly between loan products.
2. Decide how much or how little of the loan offer you wish to accept. You are not obligated to borrow the full loan amounts that are included in your aid award letter. Based on your personal needs, you can decline any portion or the entire loan offer. If you do decline, you retain the right to re-accept the loan offer at any point during the academic year. As such, we encourage you to think carefully about your own budget and the loan amounts you will actually need.

Federal Direct Loans:

Note: Based on the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013 federal student loans now have market term interest rates set specifically for each academic year. Once these rates are established they carry as a fixed rate for the life of that loan. These rates are based on the 10 year Treasury bill rate (as of June 1 annually) plus the following add-ons: Direct Unsubsidized Loan +3.6% and Direct Grad Plus Loan +4.6. The YLS Financial Aid Office will notify both newly admitted and current students of these interest rates annually in early June.

Federal Direct student loans include the Direct Unsubsidized loan and the Direct Grad PLUS loan:

- **Federal Direct Unsubsidized-**
 - o Maximum: \$20,500 per academic year and aggregate maximum of \$138,500 per student for all Direct (and/or previously awarded Stafford loans) for entire (undergraduate and graduate) enrollment.
 - o Application: apply for eligibility by completing [FAFSA](#).
 - o Eligibility: no financial need test- however Direct Unsubsidized loans may not exceed the difference between the Cost of Attendance and all other financial aid for the period of enrollment.
 - o Interest rate is established for loan specific to academic year and then carries as a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan. Borrower is responsible for the interest which accrues while enrolled in school, either by making regular monthly or quarterly payments, or by capitalizing interest.
 - o Fees: An origination fee will be deducted from each disbursement you receive and shown on the disclosure statement which will be sent to you. Presently, this fee is set at 1.073% but may vary (based on the Budget Control Act of 2011)
 - o Grace Period: Although the grace period and interest rate of any Stafford loan will remain in effect for those loans, any new disbursements will carry a six month grace period.
- **Federal Direct Grad PLUS**
 - o Maximum: Credit worthy students may borrow up to the total Cost of Attendance (budget) minus

- o any other financial aid per academic year.
 - o Application: apply for eligibility by completing [FAFSA](#).
 - o Eligibility: no financial need test- however Grad PLUS loans may not exceed the difference between the Cost of Attendance and all other financial aid for the period of enrollment.
 - o Interest rate is established for loan specific to academic year and then carries as a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan. Borrower is responsible for the interest which accrues while enrolled in school, either by making regular monthly or quarterly payments, or by capitalizing interest.
 - o Fees: An origination fee will be deducted from each disbursement you receive and shown on the disclosure statement which will be sent to you. Presently this fee is set at 4.292% but may vary (based on the Budget Control Act of 2011)
 - o Grace Period: The Grad PLUS loan does not carry a grace period. However, students may request a "deferment" for up to six months post graduation to delay payment.
- **For Both Federal Unsubsidized Loan and Grad PLUS Loan**
 - o Deferments/Forbearance: After graduation, loan repayment can be deferred for a variety of reasons, including further study, unemployment and economic hardship. First-time borrowers will be subject to all terms and deferments which are in effect at the time their loans are disbursed. For borrowers who have any outstanding balance on a prior loan(s), the deferments which are stipulated in their original promissory note(s) will pertain to any new disbursements as well.
 - o Documentation to Establish Loan: Students must complete the required online Entrance Interview and Master Promissory Note before Federal Direct loans will be disbursed. Instructions on these requirements will be sent from Student Financial Services via the Student Information System (SIS).

Private Loans:

You have the ability to consider a private loan to meet your unit loan obligation or if you need additional funding for educational expenses after you have exhausted potential scholarship and federal loans. Private student loans are offered by private lenders, such as banks and credit unions. Unlike federal loans, which are guaranteed by the federal government, private student loan terms vary from lender to lender. It is important to ask questions when deciding to borrow a private loan so that you can compare the terms and choose the best one that fits your needs. Terms you may wish to assess include: interest rates (fixed vs. variable), lender fees, grace periods, deferment and forbearance options, as well as ease of access and customer service. *Please note: private loans are not eligible for federal loan forgiveness programs, although they are covered based on overall need based eligibility by Yale Law School's COAP loan forgiveness program.*

As with any student loan (federal or private), you are not required to take the full amount; please consider how much you will really need. You will then need to select a lender and apply for the loan. Instructions for how to do this can be found on the lenders' websites. Once the loan has been approved by your lender, you will then need to complete the Notification and Confirmation Form which is available on the [Forms](#) section of the website. The Financial Aid Office will then need to "certify" your private loan (i.e. attesting both to your enrollment and to the fact that the loan will not exceed your need based Cost of Attendance awarded aid).

For additional information on private loan options we encourage you to review [Yale's alternative loan list](#).

Yale Loans

- *Yale Student Loans:* Students whose loan needs exceed federal limits, who are not eligible for federal or supplemental loans or whose private loan need is less than \$1,000, may apply for the Yale Student Loan (YSL) as a "loan of last resort". The interest rate is fixed by the University at 7.5% with a six month grace period. YSL loans do not have origination or guaranty fees.
- *Yale Graduate and Professional International Loan (YGPI):* The YGPI loan is available without a co-signer for international students attending Yale Law School. The YGPI has a fixed interest rate of 7.75%, a 5% origination fee, a 10-year repayment schedule and a six month grace period after graduation or enrollment of less than half-time. The loan program also offers incentives such as no payments during graduate study, no prepayment penalties and the ability to pay ahead while in repayment.
- *Short Term and Emergency Loans:* "Short-term" advances up to \$1,500 per month (maximum of two

advances per semester) are available from Yale to help students meet basic needs temporarily (e.g., when a student has completed a financial aid loan application on a timely basis but disbursement has been delayed). Emergency loans are intended to meet needs not covered by financial aid. Students are expected to identify a source of repayment and demonstrate that repayment can reasonably be expected within 60 days. Emergency loans normally do not exceed \$350 and cannot be used to pay term bills and cannot be extended beyond the next registration period or graduation. Traditionally both short term advances and emergency loans are only granted to students to meet financial challenges as they enter/transition to YLS and are made fully at the discretion of the Financial Aid Office. Currently enrolled students are expected to budget their financial aid across the academic year to meet their need and avoid shortfalls of monies. Students facing financial difficulties at any time should come to talk to one of the counselors in the Financial Aid Office.

Institutional Scholarships

Yale Law School scholarships: are provided from the Law School's resources and endowed scholarship funds. Grants are awarded solely on the basis of financial need based on the following calculation:

Cost of Attendance	
(-) minus	
Contribution (Student + Parent + Spouse)	
= Need	
Need	
(-) minus	
Unit Loans (1L vs. 2L vs. 3L levels)	
= YLS Scholarship/Grant Amount	

The Law School does not give merit-based or criteria-based scholarships. The maximum possible grant is the amount of tuition. The same need based calculation applies to U.S. Citizens, permanent residents and international students who are reviewed for eligibility for institutional scholarships in the same manner. .

Special or endowed scholarships, such as those listed in the Law School Bulletin, are awarded only to students with demonstrated financial need and do not increase the recipients' awards. Questions to assess a student's eligibility for specific endowed scholarships criteria are included on the Need Access form and as such, no separate application is necessary. If a student is notified that their institutional need-based scholarship was supported through one of the endowed funds, they will be asked to submit a resume and a thank you acknowledgement to the fund donor for stewardship reporting. Students may also have opportunities to meet the donors directly.

Scholarships are distributed by crediting 50% each term to the student's term bill account.

Scholarships and grants from outside sources:

Scholarships or grants from outside sources will be applied first to reduce the loan portion of a Yale Law School award up to 50% of the student's unit loan amount and second to reduce any institutional grant/scholarship awarded. NOTE: if a student is not a recipient of an institutional grant/scholarship, then 100% of outside support would be applied against loans. Regardless of the size of the outside scholarship, you are required based on the terms of your financial aid award to notify the Financial Aid Office of the source and amount of the award as soon as possible.

Examples illustrating how outside scholarships are applied:

	Without Outside Scholarship	Outside Scholarship = \$5,000	Outside Scholarship = \$25,000
Cost of Attendance	\$78,252	\$78,252	\$78,252
Student Earnings Contribution	-\$2,500	-\$2,500	\$2,500
Student Asset Contribution	-\$1,000	-\$1,000	\$1,000
Parent Contribution	-\$5,000	-\$5,000	\$5,000
Amount of Need	\$69,752	\$69,752	\$69,752
Base (unit) loans	\$42,000	\$37,000	\$21,000
YLS Grant	\$27,752	\$27,752	\$23,752
Outside Scholarship		\$5,000	\$25,000

The Yellow Ribbon Program:

For the 2015-2016 academic year, Yale Law School is again participating in the Yellow Ribbon program, a supplemental scholarship designed to assist eligible veterans pay for college, graduate school, or professional school. The Law School will provide up to \$10,000 — to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Department of Veterans Affairs — for a maximum scholarship of \$20,000 for an unlimited number of veterans or eligible dependents. Veterans who choose to receive the Yellow Ribbon benefit at Yale Law School will continue to be eligible for other veterans' education benefits and for need-based Yale Law School aid. The Yale contribution and the matching benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs will be treated as an outside scholarship, which will first be used to reduce student loans. Students and accepted applicants who believe they may be eligible for the benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Office.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

The process of applying for financial aid differs for both [new admit students](#) and [continuing students](#), for U.S. Citizens vs. International students and for those students only seeking loan support versus those seeking a full financial aid package of both loans and scholarship. The following charts outline the requirements for making initial aid applications as well as accepting the aid award and establishing student loans.

Financial Aid Application Requirements- New Admit Students:

SUBMIT TO RECEIVE INITIAL AID AWARD					March 15th, 2015
Application Requirement	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	
Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA)	✓	✓			
Need Access Application		✓	✓		✓
SUBMIT TO FINALIZE AID AWARD:					May 5th, 2015
Application Requirement	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	
Student 2014 1040 IRS tax return/ equivalent foreign documentation	✓	✓	✓		✓
Parent 2014 1040 IRS tax Return/ equivalent foreign documentation <i>Only for student under age 29 as of 12/31 of aid year</i>		✓			✓
Notification and Confirmation Form	✓	✓	✓		✓
Educational Purpose Form			✓		✓
SUBMIT TO ESTABLISH STUDENT LOANS:					August 15th 2015 (approximately)
Requirement	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	
Master Promissory Note*	✓	✓	✓		✓
Entrance Counseling Session*	✓	✓			
Title IV Authorization*	✓	✓			
International Loan Disclosure*			✓		✓
Truth in Lending Act (TILA) Disclosure*			✓		✓
Truth in Lending Act Self Certification			✓		✓
Asset Confirmation		✓			✓

* Will receive email notification from Student Financial Services to complete these requirements on the Student Information System (www.yale.edu/sis) at the appropriate time during the Summer.

Financial Aid Application Requirements- Current (Returning) Students*:

SUBMIT TO INITIATE AID APPLICATION				April 15th 2014	
Application Requirement	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	
Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA)	✓	✓			
Need Access Application		✓	✓	✓	
SUBMIT TO FINALIZE AID APPLICATION				June 15th 2014	
Application Requirement	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	
Notification and Confirmation Form	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Educational Purpose Form			✓	✓	

* **Note - if you are a returning student who:**

- o *has not yet borrowed student loans at YLS you will also need to complete the requirements to “Establish Student Loans” under the Financial Aid Requirements for New Admits.*
- o *did not previously apply for need based scholarship support but now seeks consideration - you must submit the required tax documentation identified under the Financial Aid Requirements for New Admits.*

Application Requirement Notes:

- FAFSA [used to determine eligibility for federal student loans]:
 - o Yale Law School’s Title IV federal code number is 001426
 - o Regardless of your age, it is not necessary to submit parental information on the FAFSA
 - o Married students will need to submit their spouse’s information
 - o You must e-sign the FAFSA using your assigned PIN
- Need Access [used to determine eligibility for institutional scholarships]:
 - o Students who will be 28 years old (or younger) on December 31, 2015 need to submit parental information. Students who will be at least 29 years old on December 31, 2015 do not need to submit parental information.
 - o Married students will need to submit their spouse’s information.
 - o Some questions on Need Access reflect data required for the purpose of specific scholarships fund eligibility and are used solely for that purpose.
- Tax Documentation:
 - o All copies of tax documentation must be signed
 - o If student, spouse or parent were not required to file taxes a [Student/Spouse Non Tax Filer Form](#) or [Parent Non Tax Filer Form](#) must be filed with accompanying W-2 forms.
 - o Married students must submit their spouses’ individual 2014 tax return or joint tax return.
 - o For new admit students who will be 28 years old (or younger) on December 31, 2015, parental tax documentation needs to be submitted as part of the standard financial aid application
 - o **, YLS will not collect tax documentation on the student, spouse or parent as part of the routine financial aid re-application process for returning (2L and 3L) students. However, YLS Financial Aid reserves the right to request and students are responsible for submitting additional documentation.

- (including tax documentation), as needed for the purposes of reconciling discrepancies, providing clarification of application data, or for federal verification purposes.
 - o International students should submit equivalent foreign tax documentation both for themselves and applicable spouse or parent.
- [Notification and Confirmation Form](#) (to be completed in its entirety):
 - o This form acts as your acceptance of the aid award offered. Please complete Section A indicating if you are declining or accepting any portion of the loans awarded.
 - o In addition to the unit loans offered in your award letter, you may choose to borrow additional funds to cover the calculated parent, spouse or student contribution(s). If you choose to do this, you should indicate the additional borrowing requested in Section A. Note that only additional borrowing to support the calculated parent contribution is COAP eligible.
 - o If you are opting to use a private loan, you should indicate the lender, lender ID and type of loan in the appropriate fields in Section A.
- Documents to Establish Loans:
 - o The Yale Law School Financial Aid Office does not certify loans with lenders until after July 1. After the loans have been certified, Student Financial Services will alert you by email that you may now complete entrance counseling, promissory notes and other loan disclosures. Do not complete any promissory notes prior to receiving confirmation that the loan has been certified.
 - o Note that some of these requirements will be directly accessible as downloads from the Student Information System (SIS), some will be web driven via URLs and some will be manual documents that must be returned directly to Student Financial Services. Student Financial Services will provide full instructions on how to access the specific requirements you must complete.
 - o These loan documents will only need to be completed once as a new borrower at Yale Law School and will then be effective for your entire enrollment.

Students are also responsible for submitting additional documentation as requested by the Financial Aid Office for the purposes of reconciling discrepancies, providing clarification of application data, or if selected for federal verification purposes. All internal Financial Aid Forms are available for download from our [Forms](#) website.

AFTER RECEIVING YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER

Once we have received your application, it will be reviewed and an award letter generated. Award letters are then accessible on the Yale Student Information System (SIS). Incoming students will receive a temporary Net ID and PIN to access the SIS system to review their award. Current students may use their permanent Net ID and password.

Incoming students will receive a preliminary aid award letter based solely on submission of their FAFSA and/or Need Access application and then will receive final award confirmation upon submission of all pending financial aid documents (tax documents, Notification and Confirmation Form , etc.). Continuing students will receive final aid award letters based on the submission of their FAFSA and Need Access.

Your aid award letter will specify the loan and grant amounts you are eligible for as well as the student, parental and spousal contributions (if applicable) that are expected from you. *You are not obligated to borrow the full loan amounts that are included in your award letter. We encourage you to think carefully about the loan amounts you will need.*

You may borrow a Federal Direct Grad Plus or private loans to replace the expected student, spouse and/or parental contributions. Loans taken to replace the parental contributions will generally be covered by COAP. Loans taken to replace student contributions and loans borrowed in excess of the standard budget generally are not covered by COAP. If you have questions about whether or not a loan qualifies, please contact the Financial Aid Office. Subsequent documentation necessary to both accept your aid award and establish your student loans are outlined in the Application Requirement charts. Note that all students must submit a Notification and Confirmation Form to accept (or decline) their aid award.

First time Yale Law School students will also need to complete student loan entrance counseling and promissory

notes regardless if you have already completed these steps at another educational institution. You will receive email notification from Student Financial Services (traditionally in midsummer) after your loan has been certified (i.e. established with the Department of Education) with detailed instructions on how to complete the entrance counseling and promissory note requirements. International students will receive similar email notifications during the summer with instructions on completing requirements for the Yale Graduate and Professional International loan.

PAYING YOUR TUITION BILL

Using Your Financial Aid to Pay Your Bill

Student Financial Services creates a “student account”. This account is used both for charges (tuition, housing, meal plans, etc.) and for payments and financial aid awards. The student account is available for you to review at any time on the Student Information System (SIS) at www.yale.edu/sis. During the summer prior to initial enrollment, Yale sends incoming students a NetID along with instructions on how to activate the NetID and how to access your student account.

Financial aid awards, loans and -scholarships, are disbursed to a student’s account on the first day of each semester. The full loan and scholarship amounts are disbursed 50% in the fall term and 50% in the spring term.

You can view and pay your term bills and monthly bills using the SIS *eBill-ePay* system - select the *Student Accounts* tab at the top and then *eBill-ePay*. Any awarded aid will appear as “estimated aid” until it actually disburses on the first day of the term. You are responsible for making payment of any charges beyond those covered by your aid award or if you intend to decline aid. If you prefer to pay by check, the remittance advice (payment stub) is required and can be printed from the Main Menu within the eBill-ePay system. The complete mailing instructions are on the remittance advice and is required to be submitted with each check payment to assure accurate, efficient and timely posting to your student account. All bills must be paid in U.S. currency. Checks should be payable in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank. All other checks will be returned to the sender without being processed. A printer-friendly (PDF) version of the monthly account statement is also available within eBill- ePay. Fall 2015 term bills are due by August 1, 2015 and spring 2016 term bills are due December 1, 2015. Failure to pay any portion of the bill by the due dates will result in late fees. Yale Law School will not waive late fees for any reason.

Using Your Financial Aid to Receive A Refund:

Funds in your account are first applied to any core Yale institutional charges, for example, your term (tuition) bill and student fees. If there is a credit on your account due to excess aid funds over the amount of your core charges, (i.e. if you took out loans to cover living expenses), you are entitled to a “refund.”

<i>Example:</i>		
Tuition and fees bill per semester	\$29,025	(debit)
YLS scholarship per semester	\$12,500	(credit)
Student loans per semester	\$21,000	(credit)

Credit available to you as refund	\$ 4,475	

You can request refunds of credit balances on the SIS system by selecting the *Student Accounts* tab at the top and then *Refund Request from Student Account*. By federal regulations, the earliest a credit balance in your Yale Account will be available as a refund, is the first day of each semester. **Since it may take a few days for the refund to be processed, be sure to bring sufficient funds to cover your expenses during Orientation and the first week of the semester.** If you wish to have your refund directly deposited into your personal bank account, select the *Student Accounts* tab at the top and then select *Direct Deposit Authorization*. If you change bank accounts, please update your new account information here as well.

The Yale Payment Plan:

The Yale Payment Plan (YPP) is administered by the University’s Office of Student Financial Services and enables

students and families to pay all or a portion of the term bill in ten monthly installments beginning at the end of May preceding the academic year. The only fee associated with YPP is an enrollment fee of \$100. If you are participating in the Yale Payment Plan, your Yale student account will be credited with one-half the annual contract amount each semester. If your YPP account becomes delinquent (not paid by the payment plan due date), the unpaid contract balance may be charged to your regular Yale student account and be subject to applicable late payment fees. The enrollment form can be found online in the Yale Payment Plan section of the Student Accounts Web site: www.yale.edu/sfas/financial/accounts.html. For additional information, please contact Student Financial Services at (203) 432-2700 or email ypp@yale.edu.

Yale Tuition Insurance:

Yale Tuition Insurance (YTI) is designed to protect you by alleviating the loss of funds you paid for tuition, room and board should you find it necessary to withdraw from school during the term for medical reasons. This plan complements Yale's published refund policy, assuring you of a significant tuition refund any time during the term. YTI is available to all Yale students. The cost is based on the total amount of tuition and other insured expenses. Full details on coverage and exclusions are available at www.yale.edu/sfas/financial/tuition_ins.html. Interested students should contact: A.W.G. Dewar, Inc. at 617-774-1555 directly for an application form which contains the specific cost for your school. Complete and return the application to the address indicated on the application. The application and payment for YTI must be mailed so that it is postmarked prior to the opening date of classes.

OTHER FINANCIAL AID POLICIES

Federal Verification: FAFSA applicants are randomly selected for the federal verification by the Department of Education. Your Student Aid Report (generated from your FAFSA) will indicate if you have been selected for verification. You will also be informed of your selection by the Financial Aid Office and provided with detailed instructions on the additional documentation required to satisfy the verification requirement. You will not receive an aid award letter until the verification process has been completed.

Institutional Verification: Students seeking first time consideration for grant/scholarship support undergo institutional verification for funds requiring applicants to submit a **signed** copy of their own and their spouse's complete (all pages, including W2s) 2014 Federal income tax returns (Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ). Students who are applying for grants and are age 28 or younger (by December 31st of the academic year) must also submit **signed** copies of their parents' tax returns. This information is used for internal audit only and will be treated in the strictest confidence. This requirement can be satisfied with photocopies or the actual income tax return filed with the IRS. If you have not kept a copy, please go to www.irs.gov to obtain Form 4506 to request a tax transcript.

Awards Disbursement: Scholarship funds will not be disbursed and loans will not be processed until all required forms are in the student's financial aid file. Failure to provide these forms may result in substantial late fees charged to the student's bill.

Independence Determination: For the purposes of distributing Yale Law School grants, we consider the financial resources of the parents of students who are age 28 or younger (by December 31st of the academic year for which aid is sought) as described on pages 6-7. In very rare cases, students who are younger than age 29 may be able to demonstrate independence from their parents. Please feel free to discuss your situation with the Financial Aid Office.

Default on Prior Student Loans: It is the University's policy to refuse financial aid to a student who is in default with any federal loan, university student loan or if a refund is owed to the Department of Education, Yale, or any other educational institution. If a student is found to be in default after being offered financial aid, the University will withdraw all aid immediately and continue to hold the student responsible for any charges that may have been incurred.

Selective Service Act: The Selective Service Act provides that no student may receive Title IV funds (Federal Direct Loans) who has not executed a "Statement of Registration Status" (located on the FAFSA) which either affirms that the individual has registered for Selective Service or states why he or she is not required to do so. All of the Law School's financial aid awards (except those to foreign students) include funds from at least one Title IV

program. Failure to execute a Statement of Registration Status will render students ineligible for that portion of the financial aid award which is normally provided through these programs. Students for whom this requirement presents special problems should consult the Financial Aid Office.

Fraud or Misconduct: Federal regulations require that the University report any information that indicates that an applicant may have engaged in fraud or other criminal misconduct in connection with his or her federal loan application. The information will be reported to the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education or other law enforcement officials.

*****Please note:** For non-U.S. Citizens, the information on the Student visa form and the financial aid application must correspond. If the information varies, it must be corrected or it will be reported to the Office of International Students and Scholars.

Federal Drug Policy: As required by section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, if a student is convicted of drug trafficking or possession, the court may deny that student's eligibility for Title IV student financial assistance.

Satisfactory Academic Progress: Title 34 Part 668 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires institutions to establish reasonable Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards for "determining whether an eligible student is making satisfactory academic progress in his or her educational program and may receive assistance under the Title IV, HEA programs" and institutional financial aid. Refer to the [Yale Law School Policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress for the Juris Doctor Degree](#).

Law School Tuition Rebate and Refund Policy:

On the basis of the Federal regulations governing the return of Federal Student Aid (Title IV) funds for withdrawn students, the rebate and refund of tuition is subject to the following policy:

1. For purposes of determining the refund of Federal Student Aid funds, any student who withdraws from the Law School for any reason during the first 60% of the term will be subject to a pro rata schedule which will be used to determine the amount of Title IV funds a student has earned at the time of withdrawal. Funds are earned according to the percentage of the term completed. A student who withdraws after the 60% point has earned 100% of the Title IV funds. In 2015-2016, the last days for refunding Federal Student Aid funds will be November 6, 2015 in the fall term and April 2, 2016 in the spring term.
2. For purposes of determining the refund of institutional aid funds and for students who have not received financial aid, tuition will be rebated in accordance with the following policy:
 - a. 100% of tuition will be rebated for withdrawals which occur on or before the end of the first 10% of the term (September 11, 2015 in the fall term and January 29, 2016 in the spring term).
 - b. A rebate of one-half (50%) of tuition will be granted for withdrawals which occur after the first 10% but on or before the last day of the first quarter of the term (September 28, 2015 in the fall term and February 15, 2016 in the spring term).
 - c. A rebate of one-quarter (25%) of tuition will be granted for withdrawals which occur after the first quarter of a term but on or before the day of Midterm (October 27, 2015 in the fall term and March 22, 2016 in the spring term).
 - d. Students who withdraw for any reason after Midterm will not receive a rebate of any portion of tuition.
3. The death of a student shall cancel charges for tuition as of the date of death and the Bursar will adjust the tuition on a pro rata basis.
4. If the student has received student loans or other forms of financial aid, funds will be returned in the order prescribed by Federal regulations; namely, first to Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans, if any; then to Federal Perkins Loans; Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans; next to any other Federal, State, private or institutional scholarships and loans; and finally, any remaining balance to the student.
5. Recipients of Federal and/or institutional loans who withdraw are required to have an Exit Interview before leaving Yale. Students leaving Yale receive instructions on completing this process from Yale Student Financial Services.

II. ADDITIONAL YALE LAW SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Summer Public Interest Fellows (SPIF):

Yale supports one of the most expansive programs of summer public interest work in the law school world. In the summer of 2014 we provided fellowships for 158 students through the Summer Public Interest Fellowship (SPIF). We will continue this program for the summer of 2015 supporting Yale students working in public interest, government, and not-for-profit organizations.

SPIF provides students with funds to support their living costs while they pursue unpaid employment at eligible public interest organizations. The Law School has guaranteed that a SPIF fellowship will be at least \$6,000 (prorated at \$500 per week for up to 12 weeks).

Work in federal, state, and local government and with not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt statuses qualifies for SPIF. For positions outside the United States, it is impossible to define a precise eligibility standard, but in general, governmental entities and those entities that would be 501(c)(3) organizations if they were located in the United States will qualify. To guide your job search and selection process, you may request an advisory ruling on whether the organization qualifies by giving the Financial Aid Office a description of the organization.

Full information, application information and guidelines are available on the [SPIF website](#). Note that guidelines for Summer 2016 SPIF will be released in Fall 2015.

Career Options Assistance Program (COAP):

Yale Law School has pioneered a loan repayment assistance program to ensure that law school loans do not dictate a graduate's career choice: the Career Options Assistance Program (COAP). In order to allow YLS alumni to choose their jobs without regard to their student loans, COAP is designed to assist graduates with their loan payments.

Established in 1989, COAP was one of the first loan forgiveness programs of its kind. Since its inception, it has served as a model for similar programs at law schools across the country. Today, it is one of the most distinctive, generous, and flexible loan forgiveness programs available. From 1989 through 2013, over 1,600 Yale Law School graduates have participated in COAP, receiving over \$49 million in benefits. Most recently in 2014, COAP disbursed over \$4.3 million to 431 alumni to assist in the repayment of their student loans.

COAP grants are calculated based on a graduate's income, indebtedness, and an imputed loan repayment schedule. First, the graduate's income is adjusted to deduct retirement savings, child care costs, etc. For graduates whose adjusted income is less than a certain "threshold" level, COAP covers their entire imputed loan payment. Graduates who earn more than the threshold are expected to contribute a percentage of their income to their loan repayment with COAP supporting the balance. Unlike most programs, COAP grants cover not only loans for Yale Law School, but also some need-based undergraduate educational loans as well.

As with all of Yale's policies and programs, individual factors and special needs are taken into account. The program's income levels, guidelines, and regulations are also reviewed and revised periodically. For COAP specifics, students should consult the COAP Program Description and COAP Handbook specific to their Class Year posted on the website: <http://www.law.yale.edu/admissions/COAP.htm>

III. FINANCIAL AID TIPS

- It is your ethical obligation to inform the Financial Aid Office of any changes to your financial situation.
- Keep copies of all of your financial aid applications and forms.
- You do not need to borrow the full amount of loans included in your award letter. Please consider your budget and only borrow the amount you think you will realistically need.

- Develop a budget to allocate your financial aid funds and to ensure that you have sufficient resources during the academic year. Note that the Financial Aid Office can assist you in budget preparation.
- Keep an account of how much you have borrowed each year and be aware of your anticipated monthly payments. It is important that you know what your payments will be before you take out additional loans because that will increase your monthly debt. The Financial Aid Office can refer you to many loan repayment calculators which can help you estimate payments.
- Carefully read all of the documents that you signed and verify the accuracy of all the information you provided.
- Review your credit record for accuracy. Even if you pay your bills on time, inaccurate information could be used to deny you credit. We strongly suggest that you obtain a copy of your credit report, review it for accuracy and dispute erroneous information promptly to avoid delays in obtaining your student loans. Credit worthiness could impact your eligibility for students loans (i.e. federal Grad Plus loan or private loans) and could also impact your approval for a private Bar Loan post graduation.
- If you face any changes or challenges during the academic year impacting your finances, we encourage you to share that information with the Financial Aid Office so that we can review what support and options might be available to assist you.

IV. FINANCIAL AID GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accrued Interest: Is interest that accumulates on the loan and is paid by the borrower.

Capitalization of Fees and Interest: When fees and accrued interest on a loan are “capitalized” they are added to the principal balance. The interest becomes part of the principal balance and begins to accrue interest.

COAP: The Career Options Assistance Program is available to graduates of Yale Law School within ten years of graduation and is a loan forgiveness/repayment program to assist alums pursuing lower-paying jobs in any field.

Co-signer: A co-signer on a loan assumes responsibility for the loan if the borrower should fail to repay it.

Consolidation: Combining several loans into a single loan to reduce the monthly payment amount and/or increase the repayment period. Most federal loans may be consolidated after graduation.

Default: The failure of a borrower either to make installment payments when due or to comply with other terms of the promissory note.

Deferment: A period during which the repayment of the principal amount of the loan is suspended as a result of the borrower’s meeting one of the requirements established by law and/or contained in the promissory note. During this period, the borrower may or may not have to pay interest on the loan. Deferments are often granted if the borrower continues to be a full-time student in another program after graduation from law school.

Deferred Interest: Is interest that accrues, but on which payment is delayed until a later date. Such deferred (accrued) interest may be capitalized.

Delinquent: A borrower who has failed to make one or more scheduled payments by the due dates.

Disbursement: The release of loan funds to the school for delivery to the borrower. Disbursements are usually made in two equal installments directly to the school.

Forbearance: An agreement to accept a temporary cessation of loan payments, smaller payments than were previously scheduled, or an extension of time for making payments. Forbearance may be given for circumstances not covered by deferment that adversely affect the borrower’s ability to meet loan payment obligations, such as economic hardship.

Grace period: Specified period of time between the date a student graduates or drops below half-time status and the date loan repayment begins.

Interest: A charge for the use of money. Interest is calculated as a percentage of the loan principal. The interest rate charged can be fixed, which means it does not change over the life of the loan, or the rate can be variable, in which case, it changes periodically.

Loan: A type of financial aid which must be repaid, with interest.

Need-Based Financial Aid: Need-based financial aid is determined by the student’s financial resources and ability to pay for his/her education. When the amount he/she is able to pay is subtracted from the cost of education, the difference is the student’s financial need. This need is usually met with federal loans, private loans, and/or Law School scholarships.

Principal: Principal refers to the total amount borrowed plus any capitalized fees and interest.

Promissory Note: A legal document signed by the borrower, and co-signer if required, when obtaining a loan. It lists the conditions under which the loan is made and the terms under which the borrower agrees to repay the loan.

Scholarship : A scholarship is a gift from the Law School to help defray the cost of tuition which does not have to be repaid