

Financial Aid

Information for New Students | 2013-2014



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Welcome to Hofstra Law

In the Office of Financial Aid we are committed to helping students meet the costs of financing their legal education and understanding what is involved in financial aid. This booklet provides an overview of what you need to know regarding financial aid at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University. It is not a comprehensive resource, but is targeted to issues of particular concern to entering students. This booklet is a financial aid guide for the entering class of 2016 and a supplement to the Law School's Student Handbook, Catalog and website. In the case of any conflicting information, those three documents take precedence over the contents of this booklet.

The financial aid program at Hofstra Law aims to provide assistance to students who are unable to cover the cost of their educational expenses from their own assets. Financial aid is available in the form of merit scholarships, fellowships, research assistantships, federal loans, federal work-study and private loans. We encourage you to read the information in this booklet and visit our website for more information, law.hofstra.edu/FinancialAid.

Contact Us

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For forms and additional
information, please visit
law.hofstra.edu/FinancialAid.

Hours

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
During the summer, we close at 4 p.m. on Friday.

Cost of Attendance 2013-2014

	Living on Own		Living on Campus		Living With Family	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Tuition and Fees	\$49,780	\$37,260	\$49,780	\$37,260	\$49,780	\$37,260
Books	\$1,400	\$1,120	\$1,400	\$1,120	\$1,400	\$1,120
Room and Board	\$16,900	\$16,900	\$16,300	\$16,300	\$870	\$870
Personal	\$3,634	\$3,634	\$3,634	\$3,634	\$3,634	\$3,634
Stafford Loan Fees	\$205	\$205	\$205	\$205	\$205	\$205
Transportation	\$1,695	\$1,695	\$1,589	\$1,589	\$1,695	\$1,695
Total Budget	\$73,614	\$60,814	\$72,908	\$60,108	\$57,584	\$44,784

Types of Financial Aid

Hofstra Aid

Hofstra offers a variety of institutional merit scholarships and loans that are awarded on the basis of merit or financial need. The most common forms of aid administered by the Office of Financial Aid are:

Hofstra Law Loan. The Hofstra Law Loan was established in order to offer needy students additional subsidized funding beyond the grants. The loans range from \$2,000 to \$7,000 annually. Hofstra Law Loans are awarded on the basis of need, and students must reapply for the loan each year. Hofstra Law Loans carry a fixed subsidized interest rate of 5 percent. Interest does not accrue while you are in school or during the nine-month grace period following graduation or withdrawal from Hofstra Law. The ten-year repayment period begins following this nine-month grace period.

Merit Scholarships. Merit Scholarships are awarded to entering students from whom we have reason to expect a high level of academic success. Merit scholarships are awarded annually for one academic year and are renewable during your time at the Law School provided that you maintain a year-end cumulative average within the top 40 percent of your class after the first year of law school.

Students whose academic performance places them in the 41st-50th percentile will retain 50 percent of their award and those in the 51st-60th percentile will retain 25% of their award. This scholarship is renewable each year after the first year for the remainder of law school enrollment, provided that the students maintain a cumulative academic rank that places them in the top 40 percent (not rounded) of their entering class. Note that at the end of their first year, full-time and part-time students are ranked together. In subsequent years, students must maintain a cumulative academic rank that places them in the top 40 percent (not rounded) of their entire graduating class (all full-time and part-time students with a common anticipated graduation date). The cumulative academic rank used to determine a student's eligibility for renewal is calculated at the conclusion of the spring semester each year, and is not reviewed again until the conclusion of the spring semester of the following year.

A portion of these merit scholarships comes from the funds of Hofstra Law's endowed scholarships. No application is required for these scholarships. *Please Note:* Merit scholarships may not be used toward study abroad and/or the winter and summer sessions.

Dean's Honor Scholars Program. The Dean's Honor Scholar Program recognizes student achievement with financial awards of \$15,000 (full-time) and \$10,000 (part-time) in merit scholarships for those students who achieve a class rank in the top 10 percent

(not rounded) of their entering class at the conclusion of their first academic year. These scholarships will be applied in equal portions to the fall and spring semesters. In addition, Dean's Honor Scholars receive exclusive academic benefits, including invitations to meet with visiting scholars and to attend faculty workshops. They are also invited to participate in Law School conferences and symposia. Interested Dean's Honor Scholars may be matched with faculty members in areas of interest to assist faculty members with their research.

Qualified rising 2L students will be awarded a Dean's Honor Scholarship for their second year, which will be renewed each year for the remainder of Law School enrollment, provided that students maintain a cumulative academic rank that places them within the top 40th percentile of the class to retain 100 percent of their merit-based aid for the following year. Partial retention of merit-based aid is also allowed for students whose academic performance places them in the 41st-50th percentiles and 51st-60th percentiles: 50 percent and 25 percent of their award, respectively. The cumulative academic rank used to determine the students' eligibility for renewal is calculated at the conclusion of the spring semester each year and is not reviewed again until the conclusion of the spring semester of the following year.

This scholarship may not be used to cover tuition expenses related to the summer sessions, study abroad programs or the winter intercession. Nor may this scholarship, plus any other awards or scholarships received, exceed the cost of tuition and fees for the academic year in which they are awarded.

Dean's Scholar Program

The Dean's Scholar Program recognizes student achievement with financial awards of \$10,000 (full-time) and \$7,500 (part-time) in merit scholarships for those students who achieve a class rank in the top 11 percent-20 percent (not rounded) of their entering class at the conclusion of their first academic year. These scholarships will be applied in equal portions to the fall and spring semesters. In addition, Dean's Scholars receive exclusive academic benefits, including invitations to meet with visiting scholars and to attend

faculty workshops. They are also invited to participate in Law School conferences and symposia. Interested Dean's Scholars may be matched with faculty members in areas of interest to assist faculty members with their research. Qualified rising 2L students will be awarded a Dean's Scholarship for their second year, which will be renewed each year for the remainder of Law School enrollment, provided that students maintain a cumulative academic rank that places them within the top 40th percentile of the class to retain 100 percent of their merit-based aid for the following year. Partial retention of merit-based aid is also allowed for students whose academic performance places them in the 41st-50th percentiles and 51st-60th percentiles: 50 percent and 25 percent of their award, respectively. The cumulative academic rank used to determine the students' eligibility for renewal is calculated at the conclusion of the spring semester each year and is not reviewed again until the conclusion of the spring semester of the following year. This scholarship may not be used to cover tuition expenses related to the summer sessions, study abroad programs or the winter intercession. Nor may this scholarship, plus any other awards or scholarships received, exceed the cost of tuition and fees for the academic year in which they are awarded.

Federal Loans

Direct Stafford Loan Program. Federal Direct Stafford Loans are guaranteed by the federal government, and no credit check is performed.

A student can borrow up to \$20,500 per year through the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan program. Payments on the principal of the Direct Unsubsidized Loan can be deferred while the student is enrolled at least half time. The loan has a fixed interest rate of 5.4 percent for 2013-2014. If a student is applying for a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan for the first time at Hofstra University, he or she will need to complete the Master Promissory Note online. Student loan amounts are split into two disbursements, one delivered at the beginning of each semester.

Borrowers should understand that a fee of 1.051 percent will be deducted from the gross amount of the loan borrowed. The borrower should expect to receive 1.051 percent less money than he or she asked to borrow. The borrower is responsible for paying any interest that accrues while he or she is a student. The loan servicer will give the borrower the option to make regularly scheduled interest payments, or the borrower may choose to capitalize your interest. Capitalization means that any interest that accrues while the borrower is a student is added to the principal of the loan, so the borrower has no payments while enrolled.

Students applying for a Stafford Loan must complete the FAFSA and have a valid Student Aid Report (SAR). Students must be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens; not in default on a prior federal grant or loan; registered for Selective Service, if necessary; “match” the Social Security database for name and date of birth; be enrolled at least half-time in a degree program, maintain “satisfactory academic progress”(as defined on page 6 of this document and in the Student Handbook), not have borrowed more than \$138,500 in federal loans and, finally, have applied for a Stafford Loan.

Direct Grad PLUS Loan Program. The federal PLUS Loan was expanded to be available to graduate and professional students (including law students). Currently called a “Grad PLUS” loan (to distinguish it from the PLUS loan for parents of college students), this federal loan can be used to supplement the unsubsidized federal Direct Stafford Loan. Eligibility for this loan is the same as for the Stafford Loan, except for a credit check.

If you have an absence of bad credit (you are not in default on any loan, in a collections status, charge off, write-off or are not currently more than 90 days past due on any of your accounts), you may be eligible for a Grad PLUS loan.

The Grad PLUS loan differs from the unsubsidized Stafford Loan in the following ways:

- The current interest rate is fixed at 6.41 percent for 2013-2014.

- There is no grace period; repayment will begin directly after graduation, or upon leaving graduate school or falling below half-time in school.
- There is no annual or aggregate loan limit other than the standard Cost of Attendance less other financial aid.
- The Grad PLUS loan requires a credit review; you will need to have the absence of bad credit in order to receive a Grad PLUS Loan (but not as good as you would need to have for most private educational loans).
- The Grad PLUS loan has a mandatory fee of 4.204 percent

All federal loans require the completion of a Master Promissory Note (MPN).

You must complete the following in order to receive your loans for the 2013-2014 year:

You will need a federal PIN to complete this process. For PIN information, visit www.pin.ed.gov. For assistance, please call 1-800-848-0979.

For Stafford Loans

Students will need to complete a new Master Promissory Note (MPN) with the U.S. Department of Education and complete a new entrance counseling session. Please visit www.studentloans.gov. Under “Manage My Direct Loan,” click on “Sign In” to complete the MPN.

For Grad PLUS Loans

Students will need to complete a new Master Promissory Note (MPN) with the U.S. Department of Education and complete a new entrance counseling session. Please visit www.studentloans.gov. Under “Manage My Direct Loan,” click on “Sign In” to complete the MPN.

Private Loans

Many lenders offer private educational loans to law students. These loans differ from federal loans in several significant ways:

- Private loans are not federally guaranteed.
- Private loan interest rates and fees are not subsidized.
- Private loans are only issued to students who have an “absence of bad credit.”
- Credit worthy co-signers may be required if the student has bad credit.
- Since there is no guarantee or subsidization, private loans are usually more expensive.
- Private loans may have a longer repayment period.
- Private loans are not eligible for deferments, but lenders may offer forbearance.
- Private loans are not forgiven in the event of death or disability.
- Private loans may not be consolidated with federal loans.
- Some private loans may be used for less than half-time study.

Privacy Act (FERPA). The Office of Financial Aid, as part of Hofstra University, complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The following is a reproduced fact sheet available from the U.S. Department of Education Family Policy Compliance Office. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR § Part 99) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children’s education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are “eligible students.”

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student’s education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

Rights and Responsibilities

Rights

Access to financial aid procedures, deadlines and personal records, and assurance of confidentiality.

Responsibilities

Take the time to learn about your responsibilities and the funds you have borrowed. Loans affect you after law school. The fiscal-responsibility skills you will develop are transferable to the legal profession and will help make you a responsible lawyer.

1. **Enrollment.** Maintain at least half-time enrollment.
2. **The Family Educational Rights and**

34 CFR § 99.12 Limitations to the Right to Inspect and Review Records

- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
 - o School officials with legitimate educational interest;
 - o Other schools to which a student is transferring;
 - o Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
 - o Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
 - o Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
 - o Accrediting organizations;
 - o To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
 - o Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
 - o State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information, such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about

directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

- **FERPA Authorization.** Students wishing to grant access to their education records to their spouse, parents or anyone else may do so by completing a FERPA Authorization which can be found in the Students Services and Financial Aid section of the Hofstra Portal.

3. Satisfying Aid Requirements.

Provide all necessary documentation to the Office of Financial Aid in a timely fashion. Necessary documents include proof of citizenship, proof of Selective Service registration, verification of FAFSA data and copies of tax returns.

4. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

Pursuant to federal regulations, Hofstra Law is required to monitor the academic progress of each student who applies for federal financial assistance, and to certify that the student is making satisfactory academic progress toward his or her degree.

For purposes of this certification, every full-time J.D. student who has (1) successfully completed at least 75 percent of their total credits attempted at Hofstra Law and (2) achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.2 by the end of the **first** year and each year thereafter at Hofstra Law will be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress. Every part-time J.D. student who has (1) successfully completed at least 75 percent of their total credits attempted at Hofstra Law and (2) achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.2 by the end of the first year at Hofstra Law will be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress.

Please note that these criteria are not identical to the residency

requirements for full- and part-time status at the Law School.

In addition, any full-time student who does not complete the J.D. degree within five (5) academic years will not be eligible to receive federal financial assistance after the fifth year. Any part-time student who does not complete the J.D. degree within six (6) years will not be eligible to receive federal financial assistance after the sixth year.

Any student who is considered ineligible for federal financial assistance based on any of the above provisions may file an appeal by submitting a written petition to the Chair of the Law School’s Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing. A determination will be made in accordance with the requirements of the applicable federal regulation. The petition must address the reasons for the student’s poor performance and/or the circumstances that necessitated withdrawal from classes, rather than the student’s need for financial assistance.

5. Change of Status. Notify the Office of Financial Aid of any changes of status, such as living arrangements (on-campus/off-campus) and enrollment by credit load. These changes should also be corrected on your FAFSA.

6. Withdrawal and Academic Leave. If a student finds it necessary to withdraw or take an academic leave from the Law School, the student must officially withdraw in writing to the Office of Student Services in order to receive an adjusted remission of the student’s tuition obligations. The amount of remission diminishes as the student’s attendance at the Law School lengthens.

The Law School shall refund student’s payments, other than Title IV aid, in accordance with the following schedule. Please note that the Admissions seat deposit submitted by incoming first-year students and university fees are non-refundable. Students must apply for all eligible refunds in writing. An application

for refund is available in the Office of Student Accounts or on the university website.

If a student is receiving financial aid, he or she should contact the Law School Office of Financial Aid and ask to speak with a financial aid counselor regarding the effect of withdrawal. Upon withdrawal, the student will need to do an exit interview through the Office of Financial Aid.

The refund policy associated with housing and dining plans is available from the Office of Residential Programs. Students are required to withdraw from classes in accordance with this established policy. Students may not withdraw from classes or the university without official notification. Nonattendance from classes does not constitute withdrawal and does not relieve the student of his or her financial obligation, or entitle the student to a refund. Students remain fully responsible for all financial obligations subject to the refund schedule below.

Academic leaves will be granted only upon a showing of compelling circumstances. The deadline to apply for an academic leave is the same as the last day of classes, or prior to the date that 25 percent of the course’s grade has been determined, whichever is earlier. Academic leaves are granted for no more than 12 months. Consult the Office of Academic Records for the withdrawal deadline for the semester.

Date of Withdrawal Refund of Tuition & Fees
(less non-refundable fees)

Prior to 1st day of classes.....	100%
1st week of classes.....	100%
2nd week of classes.....	75%
3rd week of classes	50%
4th week of classes.....	25%
Thereafter	0%

7. Title IV Aid Refunds. Students who withdraw from the Law School and who have received, or were eligible to receive, funds from the federal Perkins Loan, federal Stafford Loan (Unsubsidized, Subsidized) Programs and federal Grad PLUS Loan are subject to federal regulations relating to the refund of Title IV aid, and to Hofstra Law's refund policy for all other payments. The amount of refundable institutional charges shall follow the Law School's refund schedule.

Upon a student's withdrawal during a period of enrollment in which they have begun attendance and have received federal Title IV aid, the university is required to determine the amount of earned and unearned Title IV aid. A student is eligible to retain only the percentage of Title IV aid disbursed or could have been disbursed, which is equal to the percentage of the enrollment period actually completed by that student. The unearned Title IV aid must be returned to the appropriate federal aid program(s). This federal formula considers the date of withdrawal, the form of aid and the amount of aid credited to the student or previously refunded to the student. If the student has completed more than 60 percent of the enrollment period, no Title IV aid needs to be returned.

Unearned financial aid dollars, which must be returned to the federal aid programs, may create a balance owed by the student to the university. Students remain responsible for such financial obligations.

In addition to the amount of federal aid that the university must return, students receiving federal aid directly from Hofstra or other sources toward other educational costs, including off-campus living expenses, may be required to repay a portion of those funds to the federal aid programs. Failure to return the aid to the federal aid programs may result in loss of eligibility for additional financial assistance. Federal aid funds to be returned are distributed to the programs in the following order:

1. Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan
2. Federal Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan
3. Federal Perkins Loan
4. Other Title IV Programs

8. Repayment. You are responsible for the timely repayment of student loans borrowed to cover the cost of your education.

Tuition Bill and Receiving Your Aid

Tuition Bill. The Office of Student Accounts mails one copy of the fall semester bill mid summer, but you can always check your student account information online via the Hofstra Portal at My.Hofstra.edu. It is important to respond to your bill by the due date in order to avoid possible late fees and interest.

Receiving Your Aid. Receiving your refunds (any remaining funds after your tuition and other charges have been paid for). The Office of Student Accounts, in Memorial Hall Room 206, prepares the refund checks, and the fastest way to receive your refund is to pick it up in person. Refunds not picked up in 10 days will be mailed to the student's mailing address. Please note you are only eligible for a refund when your account on the Hofstra Portal reflects a negative balance.

Financial Planning

1. Borrow Prudently. Credit card debt is probably the worst type of debt that one can have. Since it cannot be included in our Student Cost of Attendance Budget, pay it off, if possible, before you enroll in law school. While students with good credit may borrow up to the Cost of Attendance, many students are able to supplement their borrowing with savings or income earned from work. Remember, even with attractive Stafford Loan interest rates, you will most likely pay back a minimum of 150 percent of what you borrowed — up to three times what you borrowed if you take 30 years to repay.

2. Develop a Budget. Build good financial habits. Learn to live on a budget. Develop your budget, then borrow only what you need. Remember, if you live like a lawyer now, you may have to live like a student later.

Student costs of attendance are just that, *student* costs. While our budgets are set so that you do not have to eat ramen noodles and mac and cheese daily, they are set to a different lifestyle than that of a New Yorker earning \$50,000 a year.

While you may simply construct a monthly worksheet showing income and expenses and adjust when expenses exceed income, you may want to look at some websites offering budgeting and planning information and calculators, such as FinAid.org and The AccessGroup. The following are links to these sites:

- www.accessgroup.org/Paying-For-School/
- www.finaid.org/calculators

3. Review All Your Resources. Savings, earnings potential and parental (and other) offers of help should at least be reviewed before considering the short-term ease of borrowing student loans.

4. Review Your Credit Report Now. Maintain that good credit rating. Employers, especially financial employers, are beginning to review credit reports of applicants. Bar examiners are beginning to look at repayment of student loan debt as an ethical/disciplinary issue.

5. Life and Disability Insurance. Students borrowing large sums of money to finance their education should consider buying some low-cost life and disability insurance, especially those students borrowing private loans or using a co-signer for those loans. Unlike federal loans, private loans are not forgiven upon death or permanent disability; the co-signer is responsible for any outstanding balance.

Winter and Summer Session Borrowing

Students studying abroad or on campus during the winter or summer sessions may borrow student loans to cover the expense of these sessions. *Note:* Merit scholarships are applied only during the fall and spring semesters. Students taking at least five credits during these periods may be eligible to borrow a Stafford Loan. Students taking less than five credits may be eligible to borrow a private loan.

Preparing Your Financial Aid for Next Year

Timeline

September 2013 Through March 2014

This is the time period during which most outside scholarship applications deadlines occur. In an effort to help students search for new scholarship opportunities to pay for law school, the Law School Office of Financial Aid has created an extensive list of external scholarships for which we feel Hofstra Law students could apply.

This information can be found on the Law School Financial Aid website at:

<http://law.hofstra.edu/admissions/financialaid/typesofaid/externalscholarships/index.cfm>

January 2014

- Earliest month for filing the 2014-2015 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Earliest month for filing the Need Access Application for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- Processing times for both forms is four to six weeks.

March Through June 2014

- Students receive Financial Aid award letters. Students must indicate which awards they will accept or decline, and return the award letter to the Law School Office of Financial Aid.

April 1, 2014

- Submission deadlines for the 2014-2015 Financial Aid Application.

- Students admitted after April 1 have 30 days to complete their Financial Aid application.

April 15, 2014

- Current student deadline for submission of Stafford, Grad PLUS and private loan applications for the current (2013–2014) academic year.

June 30, 2014

- Financial aid for the 2014-2015 academic year must be completed to avoid late fees on the fall bill.

August Through September 2014

- Enrolled students may submit Refund Request Forms to have Hofstra University issue a check to them for their living expenses.

Continuing Student Financial Aid Checklist

(for a returning borrower)

- o **Step 1:** Complete a FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov by April 1, 2014.
- o **Step 2:** Complete the Hofstra Law Loan Authorization Form enclosed with the award letter. Return the form to the Office of Financial Aid (faxed forms are acceptable). Incomplete or incorrect forms cannot be processed. Your aid may be delayed if your materials are not received promptly. Federal aid is evenly disbursed across the period of attendance as indicated in the loan authorization.
- o **Step 3:** Apply for a Grad PLUS Loan and/or a private loan. This process varies depending on the lender. In most instances, the MPN can be completed online at www.hesc.com. A federal PIN is required.

Private Loan: If applicable, apply for a private loan to your chosen lender's website

and submit an electronic application. If you prefer to submit a paper application, contact your lender to have them mail you an application form. (Submitting a paper application will increase the processing time of your loan.) *Note:* Submitting numerous applications will negatively affect your credit score.

- o **Step 4:** Register for courses.
- o **Step 5:** Pay your bill. Loan disbursements are released in two or more disbursements to Hofstra University. The funds are received via electronic funds transfer (EFT) or by check made co-payable to you and Hofstra University. These funds must be used for education-related expenses. Pending completion of all steps, loans should disburse directly to the Office of Student Accounts during the first week of each semester. The Office of Student Accounts will refund any remaining loan money to you. You are responsible for any charges not covered by your financial aid.

Life After Hofstra Law

Loan Repayment

Your student loans are a major responsibility, and they should be taken very seriously. First and foremost, stay in contact with your lender(s) (or holder/servicer of your loan) to take full advantage of the student loan program benefits. The successful repayment of your student loans will prove to be very beneficial. This will help establish a good credit rating, which, in turn, will allow you to borrow in the future for items such as a home.

You need to be familiar with the repayment process, your rights and responsibilities,

and what benefits or options are available to you. Remember, even if you do not graduate, you are still responsible for repaying your loan.

Student Loan Exit Interview

If you have borrowed under any of the federal loan programs, you are required by federal regulation to complete an exit interview prior to graduation that describes your rights and responsibilities. Completion of the exit interview via the Internet at www.studentloans.gov is an easy process and only takes about 10 minutes.

You can also locate information on your prior and current federal loans, including prior consolidation loans, by accessing National Student Loan Data Systems (NSLDS) at www.nsls.ed.gov. This website has information on loan amounts, outstanding loan balances, loan statuses and disbursements. In order to access your records on the NSLDS website, you will need to provide your Social Security number, the first two letters of your last name, your date of birth, and your FAFSA PIN number.

Repayment Process

Repayment of your student loans begins once you graduate, leave school or drop below half-time. However, most loans have a six- or nine- month grace period from the point at which you become less than a half-time student to the point at which your first payment is due.

Both subsidized and unsubsidized federal Stafford Loan borrowers are entitled to receive a grace period. A grace period gives you time to get your finances together before your first loan payment is due. Your grace period begins the day you drop below half-time enrollment status and lasts six months.

During the grace period, the federal government continues to pay the interest on Subsidized Stafford Loans. Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and Grad PLUS loan borrowers, however, are responsible for payment of the interest from the first day funds are disbursed. Therefore, payment of the interest can be made in different ways. You can pay the interest monthly or quarterly, or you can allow the interest to accrue and be capitalized into the principal balance of your loan. During repayment, your payment must be at least \$50 a month, and you have a minimum of five years and a maximum of 10 years to repay your student loan. The exact amount of your payment and number of months to repay depends on the total amount you borrowed.

Rights and Responsibilities

You have the right to prepay part of your loan, or your entire loan, at any time without penalty. This can help reduce the total cost of your borrowing. You may have the right to have your loan canceled in part or in its entirety if you are unable to continue in your program of study because your school closed and no teach-out agreement was established; participate or participated in the National Service Trust Program; or become totally and permanently disabled or pass away.

The federal Stafford Loan forgiveness demonstration program also allows for the partial repayment of loans if you are a full-time teacher in certain elementary and secondary schools teaching certain subjects, a full-time nurse in certain types of hospitals or health care centers, or a volunteer under the Peace Corps Act or ACTION Programs, or perform comparable service in a tax-exempt organization. This program is subject to federal funding. Also please note the new loan-forgiveness options listed under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 on page 15 of this booklet.

You must notify your lender(s) immediately if any of the following occur: you change your address; you change your name; you

change your telephone number; you change your Social Security Number; you change employment; your employer's address changes; or you make any other changes that will affect your loan status.

Loan Default

If you do not repay your loan on time, it will become delinquent and possibly default. This has serious consequences and can be very damaging to your credit rating.

Defaulted loans are reported to national credit agencies, which can negatively affect your credit rating and your ability to purchase a car or home in the future.

In addition, the following can occur: you may lose future eligibility for financial aid and/or educational loans; the references you supplied on your loan application may be contacted; additional fees and interest may be charged to you; you may lose deferment and forbearance options; your federal and state tax refunds may be applied to your loan balance; your professional license renewal may be denied; your employer may withhold part of your salary for payment of your loan; and legal action may be taken against you.

If you are unable to make your scheduled loan payments, do not wait to ask for help — contact your lender(s) immediately.

Deferment and Forbearance

If you qualify, you can receive deferment of payments. If your circumstances change such that they affect your ability to make your payments, contact your lender(s) immediately to see if you qualify for a deferment or forbearance. Letting your lender(s) know your situation can help prevent your loan from becoming delinquent or going into default.

A deferment allows you to postpone your payment (principal and, in some cases, interest) for a certain period of time for

specific reasons recognized by the federal government.

Forbearance allows you to temporarily postpone or reduce your principal payments for periods of up to one year at a time. Payment of the interest that accrues during forbearance is your responsibility. You have the option to either pay the interest on a monthly or quarterly basis, or have it accrued and be capitalized into the balance of the loan.

Deferment

Many situations allow you to defer your loan payments. Your eligibility for a specific deferment is determined by the date your first Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) loan was disbursed. The most common reasons to receive a deferment include: returning to school; or being unable to find employment of at least 30 hours per week. If you are currently making student loan payments, it is very important that you continue making payments until your deferment request is approved by your lender.

If you are requesting an in-school deferment and applying for a new student loan for the same period of enrollment, you may request an in-school deferment on the Application and Promissory Note.

If you become too delinquent in your scheduled payments, you will default and lose the option to defer future payments. In order to receive the deferment, you may be required to provide supporting documentation and/or certification, depending upon the type of deferment you are requesting.

Forbearance

In the event you do not qualify for a deferment, you can request forbearance. Forbearance allows you to temporarily postpone or reduce your principal payments for periods of up to one year at a time.

There are four types of forbearance: discretionary, administrative, mandatory and mandatory administrative. Contact your lender to discuss the type of forbearance for which you may be considered.

Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)

Upon graduation, students who enter qualified areas of public interest employment may be eligible for Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) to assist them with repaying their Hofstra Law Loans. LRAP provides loan repayment assistance on an annual basis to qualified graduates. This assistance comes in the form of loans from Hofstra Law, which are forgiven at the end of each and every full year of program participation.

Criteria for 2013-2014:

- You must have official state bar membership and be employed as an attorney by a government agency (local, state or federal) or by a non-profit employer satisfying Internal Revenue Code §501(c)(3) or (4) for at least six months prior to application.
- You must be employed full-time in such a job during the entire calendar year. As in similar programs, judicial clerkships are not included in this program.
- Your current income cannot exceed \$57,000. The graduate's income is calculated on the greater of (a) his or her income or (b) half the joint income of the graduate and his or her spouse. In calculating income, we will take a deduction of \$3,500 per child for dependent care.

Required Items to Apply for the LRAP:

1. A completed Hofstra Law LRAP application form.
2. Employer Certification Form for the applicant, completed by the employer and indicating dates of employment, job title and annual salary.
3. Signed photocopy of the applicant's (and spouse's) most recently filed federal income tax return form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ, with all accompanying schedules, and photocopies of all W-2 forms.
4. A photocopy of the Hofstra Law Loan billing statement.

Hofstra Law reassesses LRAP guidelines in accordance with the available resources each year. If you are already in LRAP, you will be required to reapply each year by resubmitting an application, with required forms, to review eligibility. If while in LRAP you make any changes that no longer fit the criteria of the program, you must contact the Law School Office of Financial Aid immediately.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007

Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Program – July 1, 2009

Available to Low-Income Borrowers

1. Monthly student loan payments may be reduced by the Income-Based Repayment (IBR) program, which began July 1, 2009. The government pays any unpaid interest on the subsidized portions of the loans for up to three years if the borrower elects to participate in the IBR program. Under the IBR program, borrowers may limit their annual educational debt repayment to 15 percent of their discretionary income — adjusted gross income minus 150 percent of the poverty level for the borrower’s family size.
2. High-debt borrowers who expect low incomes for a long period may want to consider the IBR program, although this will cause their total payments to increase. After 25 years of payments, any balance still remaining on their loan will be forgiven.
3. High-debt, low-income borrowers who expect their incomes to rise substantially might use the IBR program to ease their repayment burden for a few years. This will cause their total payments to increase. They may repay the total amount before 25 years elapse, and will not qualify for loan forgiveness.
4. As borrowers receive salary increases and the amount due under standard repayment no longer exceeds the amount due under IBR program payments, they will no longer be eligible for IBR program payments. The borrower will repay at the standard repayment rate, but the unpaid interest will be capitalized rather than compounded, which will cost the borrower less in interest.

Loan Forgiveness After 10 Years of Payments

Available to Graduates Working in Public Service

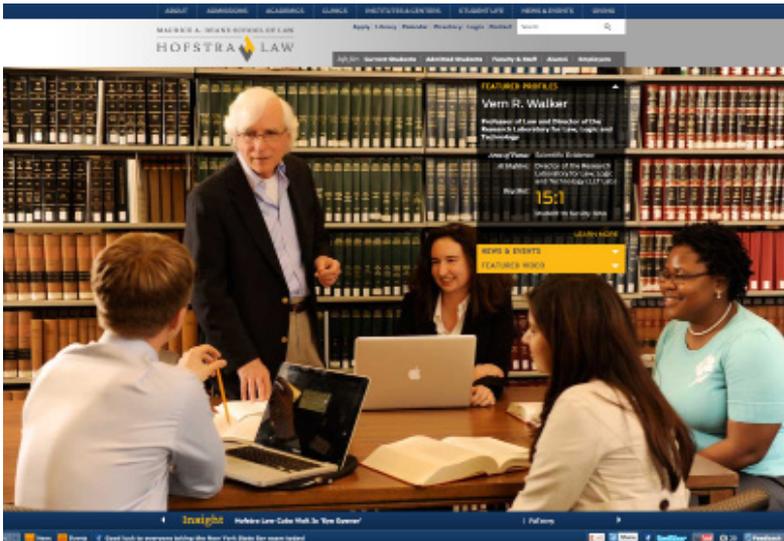
1. Law school graduates working in public service — including government workers and employees of nonprofit organizations with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status — are entitled to full debt forgiveness of a Federal Direct Consolidation Loan after making modest payments for 10 years (120 payments) of full-time employment. Stafford loans, Perkins loans and Grad PLUS loans are eligible for consolidation under this plan. Private loans are not eligible. Payments made on a federal Direct Consolidation Loan after October 1, 2007, will count toward loan forgiveness.
2. Borrowers must consolidate their student loans with a Federal Direct Consolidation Loan in order to obtain the benefits of forgiveness after 10 years of payments. Borrowers who already have FFEL Consolidation Loans, must reconsolidate with Federal Direct Consolidation Loans on or after July 1, 2009.
3. Monthly payments can be reduced by the Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Program beginning July 1, 2009. See details in the preceding section.
4. If the borrower does not complete 10 years of public service, any interest that remains unpaid because of IBR program payments is capitalized when the borrower leaves the program. Any remaining debt is forgiven after 25 years if you remain in the IBR program.

The Obama Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Plan

- a.** Repayment term: up to 20 years.
- b.** Eligible loans: Direct Stafford, Direct Grad PLUS and Direct Consolidation loans only.
- c.** Loan payments are adjusted annually based off of your Adjusted Gross Income and family size.
 - a.* Payments can be as low as \$0 and do not have to cover accruing interest.
 - b.* These calculated payments are smaller than payments under the IBR plan (above).
- d.** To qualify for this repayment plan, you must meet the following criteria:
 - a.* You must have a partial financial hardship, which means that your payment calculated under PAYE must be smaller than the one calculated under the standard, 10-year repayment.
 - b.* You must not have owed a balance on any federal student loans before October 1, 2007.
 - c.* You must receive a disbursement of a federal student loan, or applied for a new consolidation loan, on or after October 1, 2011.
- e.** If, after 240 payments (20 years), there is still a principal or interest balance on your loans, this remaining amount is canceled.
 - a.* Be aware that, under current tax laws, the canceled amount is considered taxable income in the year that it is canceled. Depending on the amount canceled, this could have a significant impact on your taxes.
 - b.* If you work in public service, the remaining balance on your loans can be forgiven after 120 payments (10 years).
- f.** You may pay more total interest over the life of the loan than you would under other repayment plans due to the fact that it could take you longer to repay the loan.
- g.** Additional information about the Pay As You Earn Plan can be found on the Department of Education website.

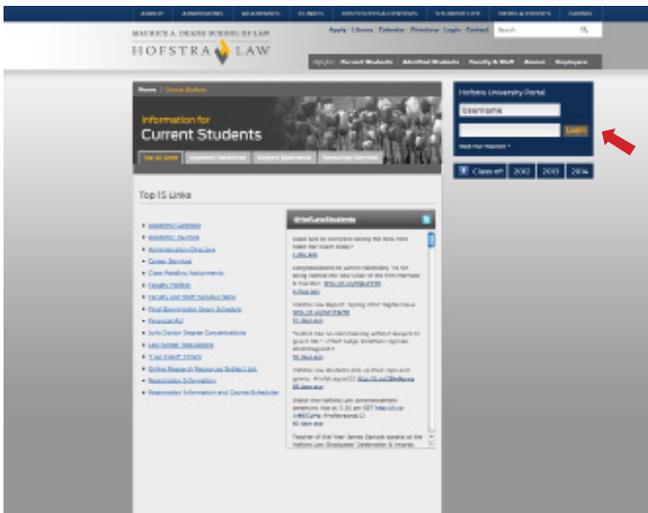
Hofstra Portal: My.Hofstra.edu

My.Hofstra.edu provides secure access to your financial aid information, university email and other university data. You can access My.Hofstra.edu through the university homepage, as well as the Law School “Current Student” webpage.



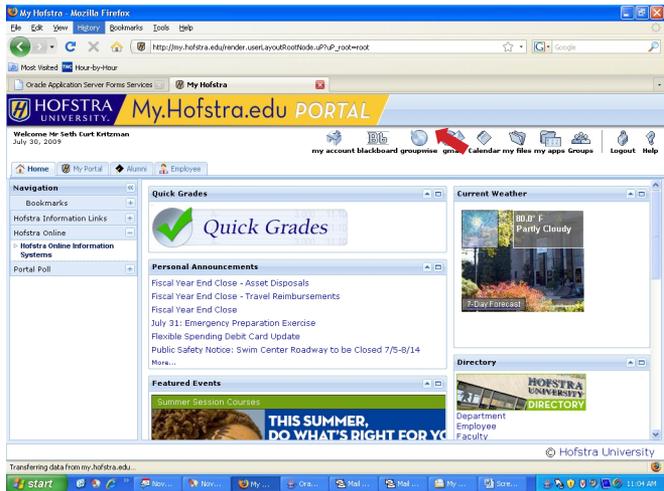
Accessing the Hofstra Portal

The Hofstra University Computer Center mails you your network ID and password. If you have yet to receive it, please contact the Help Desk at 516-463-7777.



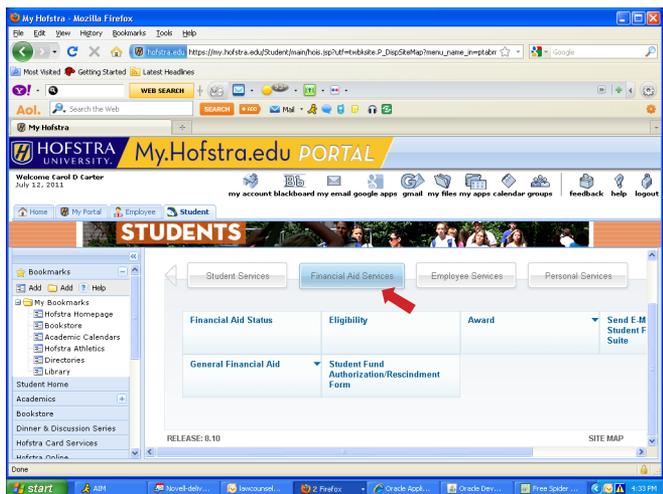
Accessing the Hofstra Portal continued

Access your email through the icon at the top of the screen. Access your financial aid information through the “Hofstra Online” tab.



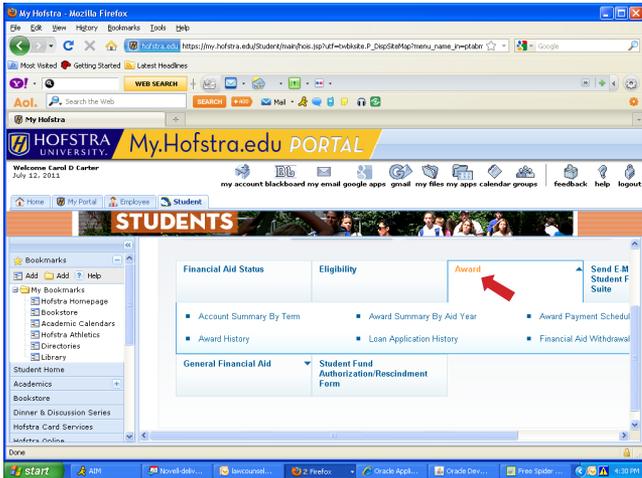
Accessing Your Financial Aid Information

Click on the “Financial Aid” link.



Accessing Your Financial Aid Information continued

Once on the “Financial Aid” page you can accept your awards, check your financial aid status and see if you are missing any required documents.



Notes

Notes

MAURICE A. DEANE SCHOOL OF LAW

HOFSTRA  LAW

Office of Financial Aid

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