

Information for students graduating or withdrawing from law school

Exit counseling

Every law student who has received a federal student loan while in law school must complete [exit counseling](#) through the Department of Education when they leave school or drop below half-time enrollment.

Repaying student loans

Not all loans are the same. You need to know what loans you have to know what your repayment options will be. You can find your student loan information at studentaid.gov.

The [Federal Student Aid Repayment Estimator](#) can be used to estimate your federal student loan payments under each repayment plan.

Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans have a six-month grace period before payments are due. PLUS loans do not have a grace period; but if you received a PLUS loan as a graduate or professional student, you'll automatically get a six-month deferment after you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment. Learn more about [deferment or forbearance](#).

Bar Exam Reimbursement

Third year law students **may** be eligible to request a one-time budget increase of federal direct loans (Unsubsidized or Graduate PLUS) for expenses paid to take one state bar exam. Note that this does not include the commercial bar preparation course that you paid through your student fees. Receipts/copies of all expenses paid must be submitted with appropriate paperwork to the SIU Financial Aid Office by April.

Examples of allowable costs are:

- application fee to take the exam (bar exam only & MPRE);
- background check;
- finger printing;
- law school transcripts; and
- two-night hotel stay during exam period.

Bar loans and lenders

- Bar loans are private, credit-based loans designed to assist law students and recent graduates with the costs of preparing for and taking the bar exam.
- The maximum amount you can borrow may vary depending on the lender.
- Interest rate, loan terms and origination fees will vary from lender to lender.
- Private student loans cannot be consolidated with federal student loans and are not eligible for loan forgiveness.
- Repayment options for bar loans are independent of federal student loans.
- All bar loan applications must be certified by the Law School Registrar, not the SIU Financial Aid Office.

Below is a list of bar lenders. This list is not exhaustive. To apply for a bar loan, you should follow all lender instructions. Furthermore, we do not endorse or recommend one lender over the other. Students should read all terms of a loan before acceptance.

- [Discover Bar Study Loan](#)
- [PNC Solution Loan for Bar Study](#)
- [Sallie Mae Bar Study Loan](#)