

## Chapter 3 Tuition and Fees

The tuition and fees for students entering ASL in the 2020-2021 academic year are listed below. Students enrolled full-time are charged a flat-rate tuition. Any student enrolled in less than full time will be charged at the Part-time tuition rate. Flat-rate tuition is guaranteed not to increase during the first three years of a student's enrollment as long as the student maintains uninterrupted enrollment. A withdrawal or leave will result in a change of tuition to the new current tuition rate upon the student's return. Each applicant's seat deposits are credited toward the first semester's tuition.

Tuition	\$35,000	(\$17,500 per semester)
Activity Fee *	\$500.00	(\$250.00 per semester)
Laptop Computer	Market Price	(an optional one-time expense – up to \$1,500)
Summer Externship Fee*	\$200.00	(payable as a course fee associated with LAW0205)
Part-time tuition rate of	\$1,460.00	(per credit hour/requires approval from Dean's office)
Summer/Intersession courses	\$1,460.00	(per credit hour)
Visitor administrative fee	\$1,000.00	(upon commencement of visit)
Transcripts	\$0.00	(current students and alumni for employment or bar applications)
Transcripts	\$5.00	(former students and non-employment or bar application purposes)
Transfer package fee	\$25.00	(per school application)
Expedited shipping	\$20.00	If expedited shipping is requested for any of the above transcript requests, the expedited shipping charge is required.
Graduation Fee*	\$100.00	(payable <b>final</b> semester of enrollment, generally Spring semester of the Third year)

\*fees are non-refundable

### Withdrawal from Classes, Dismissals, and Refund of Tuition

Students who voluntarily withdraw from the School are responsible for paying all assessed tuition and fees due for that semester. Students dismissed after the Spring semester may be responsible for prorated tuition fees for any Summer Intersession courses for which they are enrolled. For purposes of determining the amount of tuition owed by a withdrawing student, ASL follows the method described by the federal Return of Title IV Funds regulations to calculate the percentage of the academic term completed. The amount of tuition owed by a student will be assessed based upon the percentage of time the student spent in academic attendance. This policy will apply to all students regardless of whether the student received Title IV funds. Student fees are not refundable.

Up through the 60% point in each period of enrollment, a pro rata schedule will be used to determine the amount of tuition the student owes at the time of withdrawal. After the 60% point in the period of enrollment, a student owes 100% of the tuition for that semester.

Because the amount of tuition owed depends on the number of calendar days of the academic term completed by the withdrawing student, any student contemplating withdrawal should contact the Financial Aid Office for a calculation of tuition and fees owed as of the student's intended withdrawal date.

Withdrawal forms are available from the Registrar's Office. Withdrawal is effective only upon completion of ASL's withdrawal form, approval of that form by the Dean or his or her designee, submission of the completed form to the Registrar's Office, and payment of all tuition or fees owed to ASL. ASL will refund any tuition paid by the student prior to withdrawal that exceeds the amount for which the student is responsible to the student at the address provided to ASL by the student within three weeks of the date of withdrawal. However, if ASL is obligated under the terms of a student's loan program to remit the excess tuition to a lender or other appropriate agency, ASL will do so.

An interruption in enrollment will permanently deactivate all scholarship awards. Upon withdrawal scholarship awards will be pro-rated based on the same method used to calculate the return of Title IV funds.

### Penalties for not paying tuition and fees

Tuition and fees are due on the first day of class. If you fail to pay or make arrangements to pay tuition and fees in full by the last day of class, you will be subject to the following actions:

- Registration will not be processed.
- Transcript requests will not be processed.
- Grade reports will be withheld.
- Registered students may be removed from current class enrollment.
- Certification of graduated students to bar authorities will be withheld.
- Diplomas will be withheld.

### Satisfactory Academic Progress

Federal regulations stipulate that in order to be eligible for Title IV financial aid you must be making satisfactory progress toward a degree.

Full-time students at ASL do NOT make satisfactory academic progress if they exceed a maximum time frame of 84 months for earning their J.D. degree, are academically dismissed, or placed on probation in accordance with the following dismissal standards:

A. Students shall be academically dismissed from the school and *may not* be placed on probation if:

After receiving a grade in at least 12 credits of ASL courses graded on a numerical scale their Academic Standards GPA is below 2.1 for students with 32 or less total credits or 2.3 for students with more than 32 total credits.

B. Students shall be academically dismissed from the school by *may* petition to be placed on probation if:

After receiving a grade in at least 12 credits of ASL courses graded on a numerical scale their Academic Standards GPA is below 2.5, but at least 2.1, for students with 32 or less total credits or 2.3 for student with more than 32 total credits.

If you fail to meet the satisfactory progress standard, you may appeal to the Dean. The appeal will be evaluated for mitigating circumstances resulting from personal illness, injury, and tragedy, etc., and your ability to improve your academic record. See Ch. 5 Section I X(B)(2)(C) for additional information.

Ordinarily, a successful petition for academic probation will suffice as a request for continued financial aid. A grant of academic probation results in being placed on financial aid probation, during which you may continue your eligibility to receive federal financial aid funds. If you fail to return to good academic standing at the end of the probationary period, you will lose eligibility for federal financial aid. Generally, only one probationary period will be granted, except as provided by ASL's Academic Standards.

Students who lose financial aid eligibility may apply to restart their legal education at ASL and, if accepted, will regain eligibility. For specific guidance on good standing and academic probation, please refer to the ASL Academic Standards (Chapter 5; Section IX).

## Financial Assistance

A legal education is a major investment of time and money. All potential students should plan early during the application process and consider carefully, before entering, the costs and obligations of a legal education. The first step in the financial aid process is the completion of a FAFSA.

Although some assistance is available, students and their families are expected to make every reasonable effort to contribute through their own resources. The importance of responsible borrowing cannot be stressed enough. Students who borrow conservatively will find more flexibility in their future legal employment options. Counseling on student budgeting and financing options is available from the Financial Aid Office. Prior to graduation or in the event that the student leaves law school, a student must complete exit counseling <https://www.studentloans.gov> before the end of the final semester or academic year. Federal regulations state that Appalachian School of Law is responsible for ensuring that all students who receive Federal Financial Aid while enrolled at ASL complete exit counseling.

For additional information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 800-895-7411 x. 1211 or at [financialaid@asl.edu](mailto:financialaid@asl.edu). ASL's Director of Financial Aid, Kristen Lowe, is located on the first floor of the administrative building.

## Loans

Appalachian School of Law participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program beginning July 1, 2010. Students who previously received loans through the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program will now borrow through the Direct Loan Program. Instead of a bank lending the money, the U.S. Department of Education lends the money directly to students through the student's school. Students should complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. A Federal Student Aid ID is required to complete the FAFSA. Federal Student Aid ID may be obtained at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/>. First-Time Student Loan Borrowers must complete a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and complete Direct Loan Entrance Counseling. To complete a Direct Loan MPN electronically, the student must have a Federal Student Aid ID. The Federal Student Aid ID is the same ID used to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Direct Loan Entrance Counseling and Direct Loan Master Promissory notes must be completed electronically via the StudentLoans.gov Web site at <https://www.studentloans.gov>. For additional information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 800-895-7411, ext. 1211 or at [financialaid@asl.edu](mailto:financialaid@asl.edu). ASL's Director of Financial Aid, Kristen Lowe, is located on the first floor of the administrative building.

## Merit Scholarships

Appalachian School of Law is committed to recognizing the outstanding scholastic achievements of its entering students. The School therefore has established several levels of academic scholarships. Prospective students should contact the Financial Aid Office or check ASL's website to determine the current eligibility criteria for these scholarships. The School will endeavor to make these awards to all applicants who meet these eligibility criteria. However, prospective students are encouraged to complete their applications and submit their seat deposits as soon as possible in the event that the scholarships become oversubscribed.

## Other Scholarships

For the 2020-2021 academic year, ASL has set aside over one million dollars in scholarships. In addition to the Merit Scholarship program described above, Appalachian School of Law Scholars and the Buchanan County Scholarship funds provide for awards that can range up to one half of tuition. Awards are given for one academic year and may be renewed, depending on academic performance. Appalachian School of Law Scholars are chosen by the Dean based on either entering credentials or performance at ASL (for upper-level students). Buchanan County Scholarships are granted by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors based on demonstrated financial need, entering credentials or performance, and place of permanent residence.

## Veterans' Benefits

ASL has been approved under the provisions of Public Law 89-358 for eligible persons to receive veterans' benefits in connection with the J.D. degree. ASL is a Yellow Ribbon qualified school. In compliance with Section 103 of the "Veterans Benefits and transition Act of 2018"; even if the VA has not yet paid tuition and fees, ASL will not:

- Prevent enrollment
- Assess a late penalty fee
- Require you to secure alternative or additional funding
- Deny access to any school resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) that are available to other students that have paid

To be eligible for coverage under section 103 of the "Veterans' Benefits and Transition Act of 2018", you must provide ASL with a copy of your certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance no later than the last day of class. Any other requested documentation must be submitted within a reasonable time frame to allow for proper certification of enrollment. If your eligibility does not cover 100% of your educational expenses, any amount not covered must still be paid by the last day of class. For example, if your eligibility only covers 50%, then the remaining 50% of tuition and fees must be paid by the last day of class. For more information, contact Kristen Lowe at 1-800-895-7411, extension 1233.

## Federal Work Study

ASL participates in the Federal Work Study (FWS) program. A limited number of employment opportunities are available to students enrolled at ASL. These jobs pay at least the minimum wage and may not exceed twenty hours per week. All students employed by ASL must participate in the FWS program.

Federal regulations require that eligible students selected to participate in the FWS program must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and meet the federal definition of financial need. Students should be aware that FWS earnings are treated as a part of the student's overall financial aid package; that is, the total amount of a student's FWS earnings, scholarships, grants, loans, etc., may not exceed his or her cost of attendance.

Students interested in participating in the FWS program should contact the Financial Aid Office for a determination of their eligibility.