

American Bar Association
Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund
Student FAQ's

Who is eligible to apply for an ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship?

A student must be an entering, first-year law student (fall semester) to be eligible. For complete eligibility requirements and deadline information, please review the instruction portion of the application.

If I am a part-time law student, am I eligible to apply for an ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship?

Applicants who are part-time law students must be starting law school (fall semester) to be eligible. Please review the instructions portion of the application for the complete eligibility requirements.

If I am a second or third year law student, am I eligible to receive an ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship?

No. An applicant must be an entering, first-year law student (fall semester). Only students beginning law school will be eligible to receive an ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship. Please review the instructions portion of the application for the complete eligibility requirements.

Do I need to be a citizen of the United States of America (USA) to apply?

An applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the USA. Students, who are citizens and residents of a foreign country, even if they plan to attend law school in the USA, are not eligible to apply.

I am not able to obtain my official transcript in order to meet the deadline. Will you accept an unofficial transcript?

Yes. For purposes of the application, we will accept an unofficial transcript, or even a copy of the transcript. You may even be able to access your transcript from your school's website. If you are selected as a recipient of the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship, an official transcript will be required at that time.

I have not yet heard if I have been accepted to law school. Should I still apply?

Yes. An applicant will have applied to law schools, but may not yet been admitted to law school. If an applicant is selected to receive an ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship, he or she will be required to demonstrate admission to and plans to enroll at an ABA-accredited law school before receiving scholarship funds. Students who do not enroll, or who leave law school after being admitted will be required to return all or a proportional amount of the scholarship funds.

Can I submit my letters of recommendation through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC)?

At this time, the American Bar Association cannot access letter of recommendation through LSAC. Recommenders should return their letters to you in a sealed, signed envelope, to be included with your application. If your college maintains a central file of recommendations, that office may place copies of the recommendations in a sealed envelope signed by an authorized person in that office. *The recommendations must be submitted with the application.*

How will I know if I have been selected as an ABA Legal Opportunity Scholar?

Recipients of the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund will be notified during the summer. Therefore, please reflect a permanent address on the application.

I want to learn more about the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO).

To learn more about CLEO, please visit the website at <http://cleoscholars.com/> or email Thomasine M. Williams, Director of Admissions at williamtm@staff.abanet.org