2016-17 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:
First-Year JD Students

INTRODUCTION

Applying for financial aid, including scholarships, is separate from the admissions process. The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid awards scholarships on a combined basis of financial need and merit, while the Chicago Office of Financial Aid packages loan funding.

The Admissions Committee considers parents' financial information for a limited number of our named scholarships so parental information is collected through the Need Access application.

A complete financial aid application is due by:

March 1, 2016
(or, if admitted after this date, within five days of admission)

APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND FEDERAL LOANS

To be considered for scholarships and federal loans, please complete the following three items:

1. **2016-17 Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (school code 001739)
   - Available online starting January 1, 2016, for U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens.
   - If you do not already have an FSA ID, you will need to set one up before completing the FAFSA. This FSA ID will be your log-in for many Department of Education websites.
   - The Chicago Office of Financial Aid may contact you if additional information is required.

2. **2016-17 Need Access Application**
   - Available online starting January 1, 2016.
   - Select “Northwestern University School of Law” for electronic submission.
   - If you do not yet have your W-2, you can use estimated numbers.

3. **Scholarship & Grant Supplemental Application**
   - Available on the Admitted Student Website linked in your decision letter under Financial Aid.

APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS ONLY

To be considered for scholarships only, please complete the following two items:

1. **2016-17 Need Access Application**
   - Available online starting January 1, 2016.
   - Select “Northwestern University School of Law” for electronic submission.
   - If you do not yet have your W-2, you can use estimated numbers.
2. **Scholarship & Grant Supplemental Application**  
   - Available on the Admitted Student Website linked in your decision letter under Financial Aid.

**APPLYING FOR FEDERAL LOANS ONLY**

To be considered for federal loans only, please complete the following two items:

1. **2016-17 Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (school code 001739)  
   - Available online starting January 1, 2016, for U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens.  
   - If you do not already have an FSA ID, you will need to set one up before completing the FAFSA. This FSA ID will be your log-in for many Department of Education websites.  
   - The Chicago Office of Financial Aid may contact you if additional information is required.

2. **2016-17 University Aid Application**  
   - Please request a copy from the Chicago Office of Financial Aid via email.

**NOTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL AID**

- **Scholarships** – The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid sends out scholarship notifications via email throughout the Spring, starting in March.

- **Loans** – The Chicago Office of Financial Aid reviews all financial aid applications in the order in which they are received. Preliminary financial aid packages are sent out via email before the deposit deadline, provided that students meet the deadline. Official packages are sent out via email over the summer.

**FILING YOUR FEDERAL TAX RETURN**

We strongly recommend that you file your federal tax return at least 1-2 weeks before filing your FAFSA. Once the IRS approves your tax return, the FAFSA can auto-populate certain data, thus simplifying the process for you.

**CHECKING THE STATUS OF YOUR FAFSA**

If you provide an email address on your FAFSA, you will receive an electronic Student Aid Report (SAR) via email. If you do not provide an email address, you will receive a SAR in the mail. Allow one week for your FAFSA to be processed by the Central Processing Service (CPS).

Upon receipt of your SAR, please review it immediately to see if you need to take further action. If you do not receive your SAR within two weeks or need a duplicate SAR, please call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243.

**CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES**
If your financial circumstances change from what you report in your application materials, you must immediately notify the Chicago Office of Financial Aid via email. Failure to do so may jeopardize your eligibility for assistance in the current and/or subsequent academic period. A change in circumstances includes, but is not limited to, marriage, a change in enrollment, a change in your or your spouse’s expected earnings, and receipt of an outside scholarship or monetary gift.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

For scholarship-related questions:  
Northwestern University School of Law  
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid  
Rubloff, Room 130  
375 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611-3078  
Phone: (312) 503-8465  
Fax: (312) 503-0178  
admissions@law.northwestern.edu

For loan-related questions:  
Northwestern University  
Chicago Office of Financial Aid  
Abbott Hall, Room 629  
710 North Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60611-3078  
Phone: (312) 503-8722  
Fax: (312) 503-8700  
financial-aid-chicago@northwestern.edu