





AccessLex Spring Sync Workshop

#AccessLexSpringSync2025

#### Introductions



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Regional Director – South

AccessLex Center for Education and Financial Capability®



#### Introductions



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Director of Financial Aid

Penn State Dickinson Law





# Today's Topics

- The financial aid application process
- Cost of attendance
- **Scholarships**
- **Student loans**
- Helping students compare aid offers
- AccessLex resources for your students



#### FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION PROCESS

The **aid application process** will vary from school to school, so students will need to check each school's instructions and deadlines.











Will ALWAYS involve the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)







An additional application may also be required

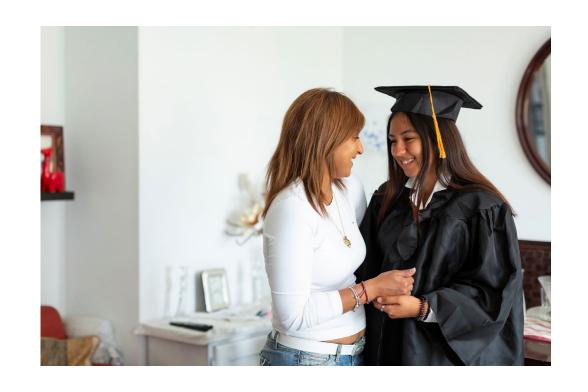
Applicati Financial			
ess fill out the form boto recised your application.	e as accurately as you can. We will a	certaict you as soon as we h	N/C
Personal Det	ails		
Name	First howne	Last Name	
Date of Birth	Select Cults		
Address	Street Address		
	City	State	
	Postsit/Ziji Code		
Ottomship	Country of Otssenship		
Type of Visa (if Applicable)	Type of Visa		







Schools may request parent information.







# COST OF ATTENDANCE

#### What Does Law School Cost?







# Cost of Attendance (COA)

- The school determines this budget to represent the costs for a typical student to attend for one academic year.
- Financial aid cannot exceed this number.



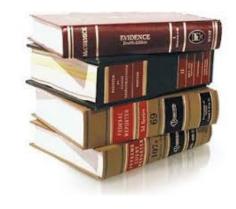




#### What is Included in COA?

















# Can anything else be included?







#### What can NEVER **be included?**











# Scholarships

- **Scholarships** are gift aid awarded for merit. They may require a certain level of performance for renewal.
- May be awarded at time of admission
- May be awarded at a later time







# Scholarships



- Be aware of conditional scholarships
- May require certain GPA or class rank for renewal
- Check the 509 Report for historical reference





# Scholarships

- Encourage outside scholarship applications
- Check with local bar associations
- Promote the AccessLex
   Scholarship Databank









# STUDENT LOANS

# Student Loans: Federal Direct **Unsubsidized Loan**



Up to \$20,500 per year

7.94% interest rate





# Student Loans: Federal Direct **Grad PLUS**

Up to COA minus other aid

8.94% interest rate

Requires satisfactory credit







# Student Loans: Private **Student Loans**



Up to COA minus other aid

Interest rates <u>vary</u>

Good credit required





#### Federal vs. **Private Loans**



#### Federal Loans

- Fixed interest rate
- Forgiveness provisions for death or disability
- Forgiveness options for public service employees
- Flexible repayment options, including income driven plans

#### **Private Loans**

- May have fixed or variable interest rate
- Generally no forgiveness provisions
- Generally no income driven payment options





# Student Loan Repayment



#### **Debt driven options**

Amortize the loan over either 10 or 25 years



#### Income driven options

Calculates the monthly payment based on the amount the borrower is earning, with forgiveness after 20 or 25 years of payments





# Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

Full-time public service work

+ income driven payment

+ 10 years

**FORGIVENESS** 

of remaining loan balance!





# But...







### HELPING STUDENTS COMPARE AID OFFERS

#### Tuition and Fees

- + Books and Supplies
- + Housing and Food
- + Other Miscellaneous Expenses
- Scholarships
- Grants

#### The Bottom Line:

The real costs that must be covered by family contribution, work, or borrowing



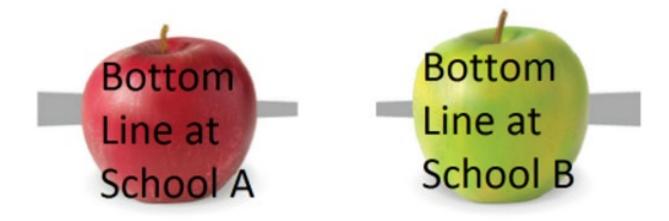


















The least expensive thing isn't always the best choice. Prioritize what is most important to the student.





# ACCESSLEX RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS

#### Pre-Law Communications Toolkit

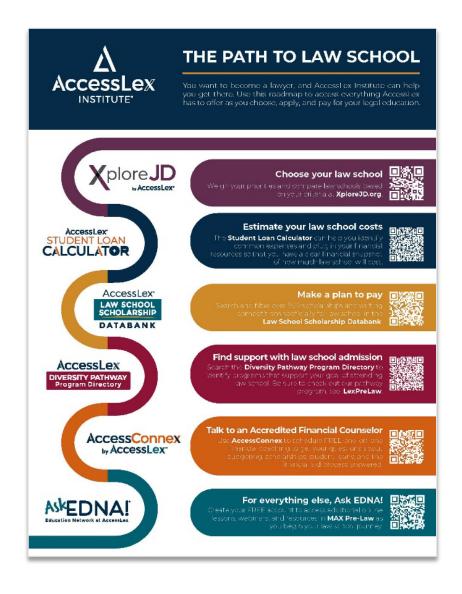
- Communications resources by platform
- Logos
- Flyers
- Social media banners and sample language
- Presentation descriptions







# The Path to Law School Flyer







#### AccessLex Pre-Law Tools and Resources



















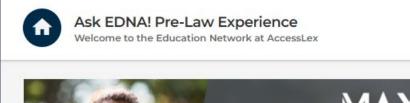
**Education Network at AccessLex** 





## REGISTER AND LOG IN NOW: AskEDNA.org

### Enter MAX Pre-Law by AccessLex®









Tips and resources for success in law school

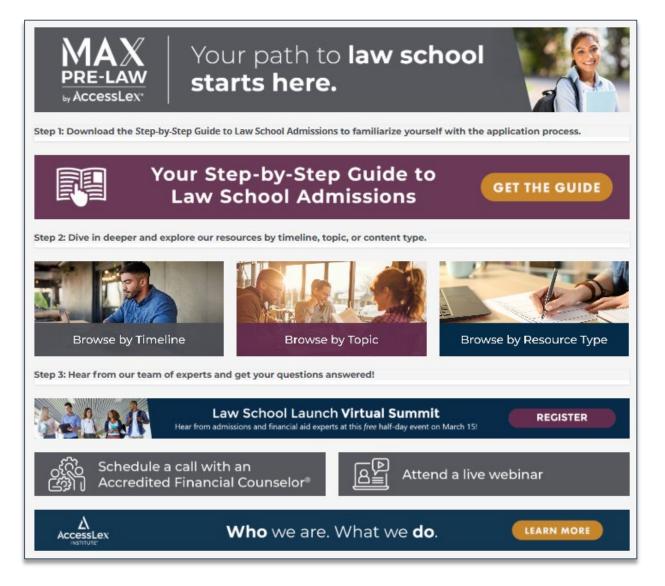


Your guide to the bar exam















#### MAX Pre-Law Worksheets and Checklists

Choosing the Right Law School for You			School Cost Comparison				1				
As you consider where to apply to law school (and ultimately, where to attend), you will want to review your personal priorities. This exercise will increase the likelihood that you'll choose a law school where you'll receive the opportunities that matter to you, and get the most value from the time and money you invest in a law degree.		Cost is a significant consideration as you compare law schools. The chart below can help you more holistically compare your out-of-pocket expenses for one year of school. You will want to think through the financial impact of your entire educational journey – and what opportunities you may have each year to change the equation (summer job, scholarships, etc.). Of course, keep in mind other fit factors as well to determine where you will get									
Many applicants will find this a helpful exercise to do twice – once, when deciding which law and again, when comparing offers from schools where you have been accepted.	v schools to apply to,		(summer job, scholarships, etc.). Of course, keep in the most value for your law school investment.	n mind other fit facto	ors as well to determin	e where you will get					
1 Identify Your Priorities											
Professional: Most people go to law school with a professional goal in mind. They see a la	w degree as a means			SCHOOL 1	SCHOOL 2	SCHOOL 3					
to begin a new career. Whether you are focused on a particular kind of legal practi- etc.) or are undecided about what kind of law in right for you, it is important to asset to get you where you hope to go. Consider the following aspects of professional pt that matter most to you.    Bor Passage Rate	PRE-LAW "AccessLex	ecklist	TUITION AND FEES TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA) GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS Grant 1				PRE-LAW N-Accesslex	Seek	ing Sch	olarship	Support
☐ Employment Region (where are most alumni working®)			Grant 2 Scholarship 1				Many prospective law sch	ol students seek	scholarship fu	nding to help p	av for law school. Here
☐ Employment Type (large firm, small firm, government, public interest?)	Action Step	Complet	Scholarship 2				are some actions to maxin				,
☐ Specialty Practice Areas	1. Before you apply:		TOTAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS				Step 1: The first step to g	tting financial suppo	ort for law school	is a strong admis	sion application, submitted
☐ Strength/Accessibility of Career Services Office	Look up the tuition, fees and overall cost of attendance at each of the schools you are		COA minus Total Grants and Scholarships = Out-of-Pocket Costs					ols where your acad			
☐ On Campus Interviewing Program ☐ Summer Employment Options	considering. Also review any of their available scholarship opportunities.		Curon occur coss				Step 2: Check to see if the make sure you co	re are any additiona relete any required	il scholarship opp application docu	ortunities at each ments by the poste	individual law school. If so, d deadlines – ensuring that
Externships/Clinics	2. With your application for admission:						you submit high o	uality materials that	have been revie	wed for content,	pelling and grammar, and
☐ Clerkship Placement Rates	Indicate your intention to apply for financial aid and your interest in being considered for		OUT-OF-POCKET COST (PAYMENT RESOURCES)				adherence to sub				
☐ Other:	scholarships, if the application form asks for such information.  Person Resource  Person Resource						of schools also ut	Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA (if you're eligible to do so). A har utilize the CSS Profile. The FAFSA and the CSS Profile allow schools to assess			eligible to do so). A handful llow schools to assess vour
	3. After your admission application is in:		Loan 1				financial need an	offer you need-bas	ed aid. You can s	ubmit the FAFSA o	is early as October 1 of the
Academic: Law school graduates who graduate in the top 1/3 of their class an	Prepare to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).	Loan 2					school start date. Cl		-		
experience most highly – and the most likely to have great choices for jobs, clerkship Wherever you choose to go, it's important to find a place where you will flouris	You can find it — and the eligibility requirements — at StudentAid.gov/FAFSA		TOTAL PAYMENT RESOURCES				Step 4: In addition to sch other organization	ool-based tunding, t s that provide financ	here are a numb ial support to lav	er of nonprofit org students. Search	ganizations, law firms, and the <u>AccessLex Law School</u>
law is challenging, so think about the kind of classroom environment that stimulal	Have your most recent tax return handy.						Scholarship Date	bank for more than	BOO carefully cure	ated and vetted scl	olarships opportunities and
performance. Do you thrive in a competitive environment? Is it important to you your professors outside of class? Do you learn best in experiential settings like clini	Get the school codes for each law school where you've applied for submission.		CT ISS CO. MINES TO M. MITTER CTORS				writing competition	ns for law students.			
interested in writing for a law journal? Identify the 5 factors that matter to you in an	Complete and submit your FAFSA.		OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (FIT FACTORS)  Job Outcomes				Action Item	Drafted	Completed	Submitted	Notes
☐ Admission Credentials of Student Body (selectivity)	-		Bar Pass Rate				Field in teem	Diame.	Completed	Jasimites	110105
☐ Student/Faculty Ratio	Mark "yes" when asked if you will be a graduate or professional student. This means your family financial information will not be part of the federal financial aid eligibility process.		Location				1. Draft, polish and submit				
☐ Class Size	Note: Some schools will require parental information on the FAFSA for consideration		Diversity				g your application for				
☐ Faculty Reputation/Credentials ☐ Curriculum Offerings (breadth and type of courses offered)	for institutional grants. Check each school's requirements.		Campus Culture				admission – as early as you can.				
☐ Curriculum Orierings (predam and type or courses offered) ☐ Journals and Publications	Need help with the FAFSA? Contact AccessConnex for free, one-on-one financial aid help.						you can.				
☐ Clinics	Save a copy for your records.										
Other Academic Offerings (joint degree programs; cross-listed classes with othe	Complete school-specific financial aid applications for each law school that requires	them.					2. Check for additional				
Other: MAX PRE-LAW ARCONIA	Some schools require additional information and applications as they award institutional grants. They may ask for a separate scholarship application, completion of the parental section of the FAFSA, or completion of the CSS Profile. Check with each school for dealing.		MAX				scholarship opportunities a each individual law school				
	Contact the school if you need help or can't provide all the requested documents.		PRE-LAW AccessLex								
	If you are an undocumented or international student, you won't be eligible for federal loans, so institutional and outside aid are your best bet.						3. Submit the FAFSA, if elig	ble.			
	Research outside scholarship opportunities—those provided by civic organizations or other groups not affiliated with your law school.										
	Financial aid offices at many law schools keep directories of these scholarships.		_				4. Seek outside scholarship				
	Eligibility may be based on academics, identity characteristics, geography, connection to an issue, work experience, or a strong essay.						availability.				
	Identify the most promising, track deadlines and apply!		_								
							AskEDNA.AccessLex.org Education Network at AccessLex				





# Analyze, Research and Compare Law School-Specific Information



Actionable data for legal education.



Side-By-Side Comparison



Peer Group Comparison



Trend Report









# YOUR LAW SCHOOL FUTURE BEGINS HERE

Answer a series of questions.

Weight your priorities.

Get a list of schools that fit what you want and need in your law school experience.

Review school profiles.



Compare school data side-by-side.

### AccessConnex by AccessLex<sup>sm</sup>

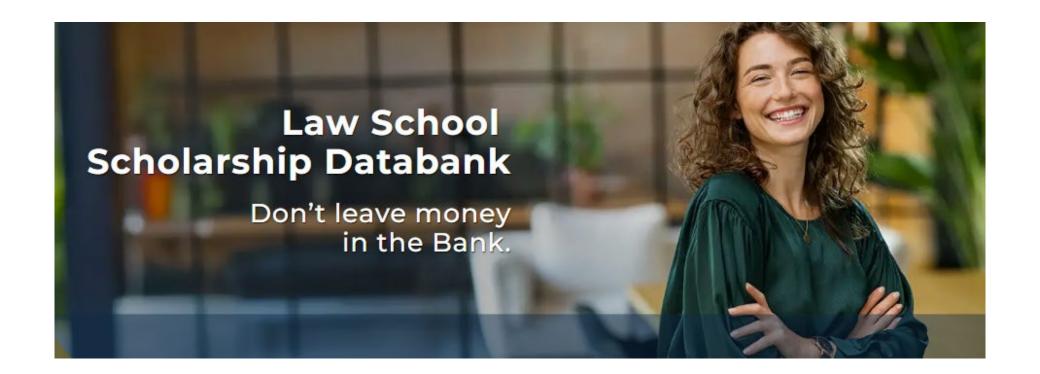
A FREE STUDENT LOAN HELPLINE

FREE on-demand, one-on-one financial aid and loan repayment counseling to aspiring and current law students, and graduates.





SCHEDULE A MEETING: AccessLex.org/AccessConnex



Search over 800 carefully curated and vetted scholarship opportunities and writing competitions – totaling more than \$3 million in aid.









Understand the financial realities of your law degree.









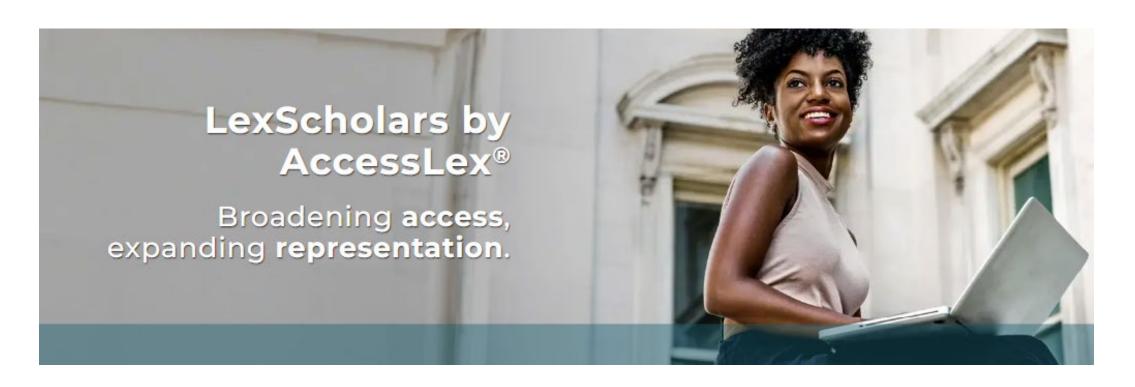
Alternative pathways to legal education exist.

Our Directory leads the way.









A pathway initiative to increase law school diversity.

LexPreLaw

LexPostBacc

LexPostBacc Direct (NEW!)







## QUESTIONS?

ACCESSLEX PRE-LAW SUPPORT: PRELAW@ACCESSLEX.ORG