

## Chapter 3 Tuition and Fees

The tuition and fees for students entering ASL in the 2023-2024 academic year are listed below. Students enrolled full-time are charged flat-rate tuition. Any student with less than full-time status will be charged the part-time tuition rate. Each applicant's seat deposits are credited toward the first semester's tuition and are non-refundable.

Tuition	\$41,000.00	(\$20,500.00 per semester)
Part-time tuition rate	\$1,585.00	(per credit hour/requires approval from the Chief Academic Officer)
Summer/Intersession courses	\$1,585.00	(per credit hour)
Visitor administrative fee	\$2,000.00	(upon commencement of visit)
Exam4 fee*	\$0.00	Exam-taking software is required for all exams unless instructed by the professor or Registrar.
Transcripts*	\$0.00	(current students and alumni for employment or bar applications)
Transcripts*	\$10.00	(current students and alumni for non-employment or non-bar application purposes)
Transfer package fee*	\$25.00	(per school application)
Expedited shipping	Amount varies depending on delivery service and amount of materials enclosed.	If expedited shipping is requested for any of the above transcript requests, the expedited shipping charge is required. The shipping charge must be paid before the request is filled.

\*fees are non-refundable

### Withdrawals 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 they are enrolled in. To determine 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 completed academic term. The amount of tuition a student owes will be assessed based on 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, the same method used to calculate the R2T4 will be used to determine the amount of tuition the student owes at the time of withdrawal. After the 60% point in the enrollment period, 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 Chief Academic Officer, submission of the completed form to the Registrar's Office, and submission of payment of all tuition or fees owed to ASL. ASL will refund any tuition paid by the student before 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.

## Military Withdrawals

Students requesting to withdraw from ASL because they have been called to active duty with orders to leave during a semester will be granted permission without punitive action, and a full refund of paid tuition and fees for the semester will be made. Refunds will be processed in accordance with regulations governing the source of the funding. In some cases, funds may be returned to their source rather than directly to the student.

Students called to active military duty are encouraged to communicate with the Chief Academic Officer to make arrangements regarding courses they are currently enrolled in. Depending on how much of the semester is complete at the time of withdrawal and the length of the active duty, it may be possible to either withdraw from the course with a grade of "W" or to leave courses in an incomplete status pending the student's return.

Students who have been called to active duty after paying a seat deposit but before matriculating will receive a refund of their seat deposit.

Students are requested to provide copies of activation orders. If orders are unobtainable (in some emergency call-ups, this is possible), the Chief Academic Officer or Registrar will contact the company commander for verbal confirmation. Students with federal financial aid are advised that withdrawal may result in a requirement to commence repayment. Students on active duty with outstanding federal loans should contact their loan servicer about whether deferment or other benefits may be available. Students with federal financial aid will be given the option of a full or partial refund as appropriate and subject to federal aid guidelines.

All military withdrawal policies are subject to and may be superseded by ABA accreditation standards in place at the time of withdrawal.

## Military Reinstatement and Deferral of Initial Enrollment

All students leaving under the military withdrawal policy are entitled to reinstatement into the JD program, or in the case of students who have paid a seat deposit but have not matriculated, to defer initial enrollment if:

- The student returns to ASL after a cumulative absence of not more than five years, and
- The student provides notice of intent to return to ASL not later than three years after completion of the service period.

Students are directed to seek academic advising from the Registrar or the Chief Academic Officer before seeking reinstatement. Students should note that ABA accreditation standards require the completion of all courses to be applied toward the JD degree within a single 84-month period. This limitation may sometimes require students to retake courses after reinstatement.

All military reinstatement and deferral of initial enrollment policies are subject to and may be superseded by ABA accreditation standards in place at the time of reinstatement or deferral of initial enrollment.

## 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, to be eligible for Title IV financial aid, you must be making satisfactory progress toward a degree.

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 or are academically dismissed. See Ch. 5, Section VIII for additional academic dismissal and probation information.

Satisfactory Academic Progress will be reviewed annually following the fall semester.

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, tragedy, etc., and your ability to improve your academic record. A successful appeal results in being placed on financial aid probation, during which you may continue your eligibility to receive federal financial aid funds. A successful appeal, however, does not change any consequences of your academic performance other than your eligibility for Title IV financial aid.

Note: financial aid probation will only be granted in conjunction with academic probation and is therefore subject to the standards set forth in Ch. 5, Section VIII. If you fail to return to good academic standing at the end of the financial aid probationary period, you will lose eligibility for federal financial aid. Students who lose financial aid eligibility may apply to restart their legal education at ASL and, if accepted, will regain eligibility.

Note for students receiving GI Bill® benefits: The School will not certify GI Benefits for students that do not meet the requirements of the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy above. Students who regain eligibility for financial aid under the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy will also regain the ability to be certified for GI Benefits.

## 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. Before graduation or if 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 all students receiving Federal Financial Aid while enrolled at ASL complete exit counseling.

For additional information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 276-244-1202 or at [financialaid@asl.edu](mailto:financialaid@asl.edu).

## 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](https://www.studentloans.gov) Web site at <https://www.studentloans.gov>. For additional information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 276-244-1202 or at [financialaid@asl.edu](mailto:financialaid@asl.edu).

## Merit Scholarships

Appalachian School of Law is committed to recognizing the outstanding scholastic achievements of its entering students. ASL has established several levels of academic scholarships. Prospective students should contact the Financial Aid Office or check ASL's website to determine scholarship eligibility criteria. ASL endeavors to make these awards to all applicants who meet these eligibility criteria. However, as scholarship assistance is limited, prospective students are encouraged to complete their applications and submit their seat deposits as soon as possible in the admissions cycle.

## Other Scholarships

For the 2023-2024 academic year, ASL has set aside monies for other scholarships. In addition to the Merit Scholarship program described above, Appalachian School of Law Scholars and the Buchanan County Scholarship funds provide awards ranging 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 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 Public Law 89-358 provisions 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 enrollment certification. 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 the Financial Aid Office at 276-244-1202 or [financialaid@asl.edu](mailto:financialaid@asl.edu).

## 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 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 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 at 276-244-1202 or [financialaid@asl.edu](mailto:financialaid@asl.edu) to determine their eligibility.