Financing Options for Bar Exam Fees
If you are a currently enrolled College of Law student in your final year of study, you may submit a Cost of Attendance Appeal Form to request an increase in your federal or private loan eligibility to cover bar exam fees. You may request consideration for fees associated with one bar exam, provided that the fees are incurred while you are actively enrolled in your final year of school, regardless of the actual exam date.

Bar Study Loans for Prep Courses and Living Expenses While Studying for the Bar
During the period between graduation and the bar exam, students do not qualify for federal or private student loans because eligibility depends on current enrollment. This makes paying for living expenses (e.g., rent, food, utilities) and other expenses (e.g., BARBRI prep courses) very difficult. To cover these expenses, students may apply for a bar study loan through certain private lending institutions.

Bar study loans are available to law students with a favorable credit history (or a creditworthy co-signer) who have recently graduated or will soon graduate from an ABA-accredited law school. Most bar study loan programs have similar requirements and limits. Fees and repayment options may vary. Please research your options before selecting a lender that is right for you.

*Bar study loans are not eligible for consolidation with Federal Direct Student Loans, or for federal loan forgiveness programs. Make sure that you have exhausted all federal loan eligibility if you prefer consolidation or are planning to pursue federal loan forgiveness.

Which lenders offer bar study loans?
Several educational lenders offer bar study loans. Lender websites provide valuable information to help you select a lender that is right for you. You can identify viable lenders by searching “bar loan” using any internet search engine. Remember to read the fine print on all applications.

When can I apply?
Most lenders require that you apply for a bar study loan and graduate from law school within the same year, or that you apply no later than six months after graduation. Your lender will provide specific application timeframes.

How do I apply?
You can apply for a bar study loan online through your lender’s website. Keep in contact with your chosen lender to ensure that all application requirements are completed in a timely manner.

Is there maximum application amount?
The maximum amount varies by lender. Typical amounts range from $8,000 to $15,000. Please note that DePaul will only certify your eligibility under a single lender (not multiple lenders).

How will I receive funds?
Unlike federal student loans and other private loans, bar study loans are NOT disbursed by DePaul. Your lender will send either a check or an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) directly to you. Discuss available disbursement options with your lender. Remember to keep your contact information current with your lender, especially if you are changing your address after graduation.

What questions should I ask my lender?
- What is the interest rate? Will the rate be variable or fixed? How often will the interest be capitalized?
- Will any fees be charged?
- Is a grace period offered before repayment? When will the grace period start and end?
- What is the maximum loan amount allowed?
- What repayment options are available? Are there repayment incentives? Is there a penalty for early repayment?

Additional questions?
If you have additional questions, please contact Danny Mason at dmason15@depaul.edu.