



### Paying for the Bar Exam

As a 3L, the cost of the bar exam fee is included in your Cost of Attendance (COA). It is not necessary submit an appeal to adjust your COA for the exam fee, but you will need to submit an appeal if you wish to borrow a loan to cover your living expenses while studying. A bar loan can be used to pay both the exam fee and living expenses. **Students who will complete their legal education during summer quarter must contact our office to ensure that their exam fee is included in the cost of attendance for the preceding academic year.** Summer graduates cannot have this fee added to the following fall semester.

### Financing Living Expenses While Studying for the Bar

Once you complete your degree requirements, you will not qualify for federal or private educational student loans because eligibility requires current, half-time enrollment. To cover living and other expenses (e.g., rent, utilities, BARBRI, etc.), you may apply for a bar study loan.

Bar study loan amounts, fees, and repayment options may vary. Research your options to select a lender that is right for you. Federal Student Aid does not offer bar loans; the only options are through private lenders. **Bar study loans cannot be consolidated with Federal Direct Student Loans and are not eligible for federal student loan benefits, including forgiveness programs.** For questions regarding consolidation, contact your loan servicer. Be sure to exhaust all federal loan eligibility if you plan to consolidate or pursue federal student loan forgiveness.

### How will I receive funds?

Bar study loans are **not** disbursed by DePaul. Your lender will issue the funds directly to you. Keep your contact information current with your lender.

### Identifying a lender

Most lenders require you to apply for a bar study loan within the same year you graduate from law school or no more than six months after concluding your coursework. (Your lender will specify required application timeframes, so check with them in the months before you plan to apply for the loan.) The maximum loan amount will vary by lender. DePaul will only certify your eligibility for a bar study loan under a single lender, not multiple lenders.

Below is a sample of questions you may wish to ask:

- What is the interest rate, and is it variable or fixed? How often will the interest be capitalized?
- What fees will be assessed?
- When will the grace period start and end?
- What repayment options and incentives are available? Is there a penalty for early repayment?
- What deferment and forbearance options are available during repayment?