Bar Costs: What Does Federal Aid Cover?

To obtain a license to practice law, graduates of law school are generally required to apply for bar admission through a State board of bar examiners. Expenses vary by State, but typically include bar exam registration fee(s), study materials, training courses and living expenses.

Q. What Bar Costs Will Federal Student Aid Cover?

A. Federal student aid may cover some – but not all – costs associated with the bar. Allowable costs include fees to take the exam and costs of applying for and obtaining the license. This allowance may only be provided one time per student. As a result, if you plan to take the bar exam in more than one State, consult your financial aid office about factoring the bar exam with the highest fee into your Cost of Attendance.

Q. When Must Fees Be Paid to be Eligible?

A. Be aware that these fees must be paid during a period of enrollment and not after – even if the exam is after the period of enrollment. Keep records of these expenses in case your school requests a copy.

Q. Will Prep Courses Be Covered?

A. Costs of bar preparation courses may only be considered an eligible cost for which Federal student aid is available if the course is part of the eligible program offered by the institution in which you are enrolled, and you incur such costs during the time you are enrolled. Speak to your financial aid office for more information as to what is offered at your institution.

Visit Your Financial Aid Office to Learn More

Speak with your financial aid office for advice on how to manage costs and minimize debt associated with the bar exam, and to learn about specific policies at your school.
Need Help Now?

Do you have questions or need help determining the best repayment strategy for your student loans?

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How do I navigate the selections?
What is the best plan for me?

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