

## **Title IV Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Q. What Programs are eligible for me to apply for Federal Student Aid?**

**A.** Please be advised that only students enrolled in the Juris Doctor Directed Study Programs may be eligible for receiving Title IV funds. If after reviewing the information that is posted on our website, you believe that you are a good candidate for this program, you may list us on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

Independent Study students (J.D. or LL.M.) are not eligible for Federally Insured Student Loans but may qualify for military or employer tuition assistance, and/or Taft University System grants.

### **2. Q. Where can I find more information regarding Taft and the Federal Student Aid that is available at Taft?**

**A.** Taft Law School participates with Federal Direct Stafford Loans where the lender is the Department of Education. The loans that students will receive will be either subsidized (the government pays for the interest while you are in school) and/or unsubsidized (the borrower is responsible for all interest accrued in and out of school). Please review the information posted on the United States Department of Education's website to see the current rates.

Please review the Consumer Information Guide which is posted on our website. The cost of attendance and the timing of the two equal disbursements are outlined on pages 19 and 20. Loan limits can be found on page 8. Information on Entrance and Exit Counseling are on pages 10 to 12.

After July 1, 2012, the Department of Education no longer offers the Federal Direct Subsidized Loans for graduate level students going into a graduate level program. However Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans will still be offered.

For more information please review the information on the [Direct Stafford Loans website](#).

### **3. Q. What is the cost of attendance for the JD Program at Taft?**

**A.** There are many factors that are required to determine what amount of Federal Student Aid for which an individual may be eligible. The School's cost of attendance includes tuition and fees (held by the School), books, and minimal Internet fees (sent to student). The School recommends that students only request Federal Student Aid to cover the cost of attendance. When it is time to package your Federal Student Aid Loan Award, our Financial Aid Office will contact you to discuss your options, calculate your specific need and award you what is allowed under the Department of Education guidelines.

The amounts students can borrow will depend on his or her grade level, determined at the time application for admission is submitted, and his or her dependency status. The following table indicates Stafford Loan funding limits based on student's status of dependent undergraduate,

independent undergraduate, or a graduate student. A student whose parent cannot obtain a PLUS loan is allowed to borrow additional unsubsidized Stafford amounts. Student's dependency status will be determined based on his or her answers to questions on the FAFSA.

**4. Q. What other steps are required to complete the packaging of my Federal Student Aid?**

**A.** Below is a link to a PowerPoint with an overview of the Financial Aid process at Taft. After your application for admission to Taft has been approved and your Enrollment Instructions have been received, you will receive an e-mail from the Financial Aid Office with regards to the next steps. When your file is ready for the packaging process a more detailed email and PowerPoint will be sent. We will assist you with determining your eligibility, entrance counseling, signing a master promissory note, the preparation of an estimate award and a final packaged award.

[Taft Law School FA Instructions](#)

**5. Q. Where can I apply for Federal Student Aid to cover my tuition and fees at Taft?**

**A.** For your convenience the link to the FAFSA website is <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> and our School Code is G41004. You will need to complete and submit a current FAFSA form to the Department of Education. The Federal Award Year is from July 1st through June 30th. Select the appropriate FAFSA for the start date that is chosen.

Once you have done this, your FAFSA information will be sent to the School's mailbox. This takes 2 to 3 days. The School will need this information to begin your Federal Student Aid process.

**6. Q. When would I get my Federal Student Aid money to cover my tuition and fees at Taft?**

**A.** If approved, your Federal Direct loan for your first award year will be paid in two equal disbursements.

The first disbursement to you will be processed and mailed approximately 38 days after the start of instruction. (Excess proceeds checks are sent via US mail to the students' address of record.) The second disbursement will be made about six months after the first disbursement. However, pursuant to federal regulations, to qualify for these disbursements you must meet the requirements for each. That means to qualify the first disbursement, you must complete 30 days of enrollment, submit all of your official transcripts, and pass the *Introduction to Law* course. Failure to satisfy any of these requirements will prevent us from drawing down any loan funds on your behalf. There is no exception to this requirement.

To qualify for the second disbursement, the School will need to be able to determine that you have met the requirements for this disbursement, which includes completing 26 weeks of study, taking all midterms as scheduled for each course that has a midterm and complete half of the assignments for courses that do not have a midterm. Midterms and course assignments may go

through the 29th week.

**7. Q. Will I get reimbursed for my books and will I have to get all of them before I begin?**

**A.** Taft will provide, as part of the tuition, the books for *Introduction to Law*. (*Introduction to Law* covers the first two weeks of the academic year.) Your loan will not be funded prior to the time you will need books for your *Legal Writing*, *Torts* and *Criminal Law* courses and perhaps the *Contracts* course. Although most students buy all of their books at the start of the year, you do not have to do this. You will need your course materials when each course starts. You will therefore need your *Legal Writing* materials by week 3, your *Torts* materials by week 4, your *Criminal Law* materials by week 6 and your *Contracts* materials by week 7. Please plan to start buying your books now.

The approximate cost of new books is \$1,350. Used books are often available online via Amazon or Barnes and Noble, BarristerBooks.com, Half.com or at local law bookstores. Booklists are e-mailed to the student upon receipt of Enrollment Instructions, when enrollment documents are sent, and again when course materials are sent, along with detailed instructions for purchasing.

**8. Q. When do you need my transcripts?**

**A.** If you have not already done so, please request copies of your official transcripts and have them mailed directly to the School. Please refer to Step 4 regarding requesting copies of official transcripts for all college degrees and units completed as posted on our website.