

# Bar Loan FAQ's

## **Why should I consider applying for a bar loan?**

Bar loans are intended to be used for expenses related to completing the bar exam. The cost of sitting for the Bar (usually a few hundred dollars) can be covered with a GradPLUS loan, as long as you are still enrolled, with proper documentation. Living expenses and the cost of a bar review course can only be obtained from a private lender. Borrowing these loans might be a good option if you don't have the funds available and are not receiving assistance for these costs from your future employer.

## **How much am I eligible to borrow?**

Bar loan caps vary by lender (ranging from \$15,000 - \$16,000), but most students find that borrowing \$10,000 or less is sufficient to meet their needs. Bear in mind that only \$8000 of a bar loan is eligible for our Debt Management Program—and of course, in general, we recommend borrowing as little as possible.

## **Where can I find up-to-date interest rate information?**

Private loans have a variable interest rate that is usually tied to LIBOR or prime rate. The following website offers information about LIBOR and prime which can be helpful when trying to determine potential interest rates for private loans:  
[http://www.finaid.org/loans/prime\\_libor.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/loans/prime_libor.phtml). Private lenders will not provide an interest rate offer until after you have applied for the loan. Further information about private loans is available at: [www.finaid.org/loans/privateloan.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/loans/privateloan.phtml).

## **How can I determine which loan is best for me?**

Interest rates and fees can vary by lender. We would like to encourage you to visit the following website: [www.finaid.org/calculators/loananalyzer.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/calculators/loananalyzer.phtml). This comprehensive website allows you to compute the various terms set by each lender, using their listed interest rate, fees, and repayment period.

## **I have chosen a lender and know how much I want to borrow. What do I do now?**

Most lenders offer an online application process. If you feel more comfortable with a hard copy application, you may contact the lender to request one. In order to ensure proper processing, your application must be certified by the school before any lender will disburse funds.

## **I have completed the loan application and have been approved. When will I receive the funds?**

Disbursement of bar loans is different from academic year loans. The bar loan check will be mailed to your current address. You get to choose the disbursement date/dates for the loan. It is a good rule of thumb that the total process takes two to three weeks from the time that you submit your application.

## **How can I obtain a copy of my Credit Report?**

You can request a free copy of your credit report once every 12 months at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). Any of the following national credit bureaus will send you a copy for a small fee:

Experian: 1-888-397-3742  
TransUnion: 1-800-888-4213  
Equifax Credit: 1-800-685-1111

## 2020-2021 Bar Loan Options

	<b>DISCOVER: <u>Bar Exam Loan</u></b>	<b>WELLS FARGO: <u>Bar Exam Loan</u></b>	<b>SALLIE MAE: <u>Bar Study Loan</u></b>	<b>PNC: <u>Bar Study Loan</u></b>
<b>Contact</b>	1.800.STUDENT	1.877.449.2421	1.800.984.0190	1.800.762.1001
<b>Loan Limits</b>	Maximum: \$16,000 Minimum: \$1,000	Maximum: \$12,000	Maximum: \$15,000 Minimum: \$1,000	Maximum: \$15,000
<b>Fees</b>	Zero	No application or origination fee, and no penalty for paying off your loan early	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disbursement fees 0.00%</li> <li>• No repayment fees</li> </ul>	No application or origination fee
<b>Interest Rates</b>	<p><b>Fixed interest rates</b> range from 6.99% APR to 12.49% APR</p> <p><b>Variable interest rates</b> range from 6.24% APR to 11.74% APR</p>	<p><b>Fixed interest rates</b> range from 12.45% APR (with discount) to 12.67% APR (without discount)</p> <p><b>Variable interest rates</b> range from 9.99% APR (with discount) to 10.21% APR (without discount)</p>	<p><b>Fixed interest rates</b> range from 5.75% APR to 12.68% APR</p> <p><b>Variable interest rates</b> range from 3.27% APR to 10.21% APR</p>	<p><b>Fixed interest rates</b> range from 4.49% APR to 11.49% APR</p> <p><b>Variable interest rates</b> range from 4.41% APR to 11.41% APR</p>
<b>Repayment</b>	<p>9-month grace period after graduation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Up to 20 years No pre-payment penalty</p> <p>0.25% interest rate reduction when you sign up for auto debit</p> <p>0.35% interest-only repayment discount for making interest payments while in school and during grace period</p>	<p>6-month grace period after graduation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0.25% interest rate reduction for a previous Wells Fargo student loan or other qualifying account</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0.25% interest rate reduction for enrolling in automatic payments</p>	<p>9-month grace period after graduation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Up to 15 Years No pre-payment penalty</p> <p>0.25% interest rate reduction when you sign up for auto debit</p>	<p>6-month grace period after graduation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Up to 15 years</p> <p>0.50% interest rate reduction when you sign up for auto debit</p>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>Must be enrolled at least half-time</p> <p>Available during final year of law school and up to 6 months after graduation</p> <p>Qualifying credit history</p> <p>Must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or international student (International students require a Social Security number and a cosigner)</p>	<p>Must be enrolled in the final year of a law program at an eligible school or have graduated within 30 days from an eligible law school</p> <p>Aggregate debt limit is \$180,000</p> <p>Qualifying credit history</p> <p>Must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or permanent resident alien without conditions and with proper evidence of eligibility</p>	<p>Must be enrolled at least half-time</p> <p>Available during third year of law school and up to 12 months after graduation</p> <p>Qualifying credit history</p> <p>Must be a U.S. Citizen or a permanent resident or a foreign borrower applying with a creditworthy cosigner who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident</p>	<p>Must have graduated from law school within the last six months OR be enrolled at least half time</p> <p>Qualifying credit history</p> <p>Must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident</p>