



Dean's Academic Excellence Scholarship
Established by Dean Jace Gatewood
Updated by Dean Marty Ellin (February 2026)
Revised by Financial Aid Office (April 2026)

History:

The ***Dean's Academic Excellence Scholarship*** was established in 2024 to recognize and reward outstanding performance of a rising 2L student.

It is a merit-based scholarship requiring a GPA of **3.2** or above. The scholarship acknowledges excellence not only in academic achievements but also in extracurricular activities, leadership roles, community service, and other endeavors demonstrating exceptional performance beyond the classroom.

Criteria:

- Available for a rising 2L enrolled law student at AJMLS, who has successfully completed their first year of law school.
- The student can be either full-time or part-time.
- Must have a **3.2** or higher GPA.
- Show excellent professional and personal skills evidenced through work experience and/or extracurricular activities.

This scholarship is renewable on a per-semester basis, provided the student maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or above. This scholarship is subject to change depending on funding and availability.

Scholarship Award:

- *If the student meets the criteria and is a full-time student, they will receive up to \$5,000.00 per semester of eligibility to begin at the start of their 2L year (Fall and Spring semester only). This scholarship will not be awarded during the summer semester.*
- *If the student meets the criteria and is a part-time student, they will receive up to \$2,500.00 per semester of eligibility to begin at the start of their 2L year (Fall and Spring semester only). Even though part-time students are required to attend the summer semesters, this scholarship will not be awarded during the summer semester for part-time students.*
- *If a student switches from part-time to full-time enrollment, the scholarship award will not be adjusted to a full-time student scholarship. If a student switches from full-time to part-time, the scholarship will be adjusted downward to the part-time rate.*

Final Year of Law School:

If the student is in their final two semesters of law school and has maintained a 3.2 or higher GPA, and their class rank is either number 1 or number 2, tuition will be paid in full for each semester of eligibility.

**The amount awarded to the student will automatically be applied if the student meets the criteria towards the tuition only. **

The Dean's Academic Excellence Scholarship is a tuition waiver scholarship that will be applied solely to cover tuition for the semester it is granted. It is not cash or a cash equivalent and cannot be used for any other expenses. The scholarship does not roll over to subsequent semesters and does not result in a refund. **The Director of Financial Aid will adjust the award if it results in a cost-of-living refund. **

**A full-time student is a student enrolled in 12-16 credit hours. A part-time student is a student enrolled in 7-11 credit hours. **

Bounce-Back Provision:

*If a student loses eligibility for the Dean's Academic Excellence Scholarship due to their cumulative GPA falling below the required 3.2, the scholarship will be suspended immediately. If the student's cumulative GPA returns to **3.2 or above in the immediately following enrolled semester (fall or spring only)**, the student may regain eligibility for the scholarship beginning next semester (fall or spring only), subject to funding availability. Eligibility may only be reinstated if the GPA requirement is met in the **next consecutive enrolled semester**; eligibility will not be retroactively applied, nor reinstated after a summer semester. The bounce-back provision may be used only once.*

Example scenario 1: Loss of scholarship at the end of the fall semester

If a student's Fall 2026 cumulative GPA falls below the required 3.2, their scholarship will be suspended for the Spring 2027 semester. If the student's cumulative GPA returns to 3.2 or above after their Spring 2027 semester, they may regain eligibility beginning Fall 2027. The scholarship would not be retroactively applied to the Spring 2027 (suspended) semester.

Example scenario 2: Loss of scholarship at the end of the spring semester

If a student's Spring 2027 cumulative GPA falls below the required 3.2, their scholarship will be suspended for the Fall 2027 semester. If the student's cumulative GPA returns to 3.2 or above after their Fall 2027 semester, they may regain eligibility beginning Spring 2028. The scholarship would not be retroactively applied to the Fall 2027 (suspended) semester.