

Law School Scholarship Reconsideration Checklist

Cost can be a primary factor for many applicants when it comes to choosing where to go to law school. Reconsideration is a process by which you can request a change in your scholarship offer.

Asking a law school for a scholarship increase can be an intimidating task, and the openness to such requests varies by school. To increase your chances of a successful outcome, follow this checklist and **schedule a MAX Pre-Law coaching call** to discuss your game plan.

Check each box as you come to a decision about each item or complete the specified task:

Research the Process

- ☐ **Request reconsideration only from the schools you are serious about attending** and where the lack of funding makes it difficult or impossible for you to attend.
- ☐ **Review the school's Admissions and Financial Aid pages to determine whether there is already a standard reconsideration process in place.** If a process exists, follow the steps outlined and adhere to established deadlines and protocol. Do not assume your situation is so urgent or unique that it should enable you to circumvent the system.
- ☐ If you are unable to find an indication of an existing process, **respectfully reach out to whomever handles scholarship communications** for more information.

Determine Your Ask

- ☐ **Solidify what you are asking for and why.** Are you petitioning for an increase in scholarship or a change in the terms and conditions of the scholarship awarded?
- ☐ When requesting an increase in scholarship funding, **crunch your numbers** to be specific about what it is you are asking for based on your budget and need. You should also determine and be able to **clearly convey the reason for your request.** Common reasons include matching the amount of another school's scholarship offer and/or reasonable cost-of-living needs. And if your school offers need-based scholarship, schools will already have a picture of your financial need via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and any additional application process specific to the institution, so **be explicit as to why you need the additional funding** – especially if your application(s) is already showing considerable assets at your disposal.
- ☐ If you are requesting an increase in scholarship, **convey why this is important and that you want to attend their school if the request is fulfilled.** If you are requesting an increase in scholarship to match another offer, the school may request documentation showing the other school's offer as part of your petition. Be realistic about the caliber of schools you are comparing. They should be similar in reputation and the school you are petitioning will generally be more receptive to requests if you are showing an offer from a peer institution.

Submit Your Request

- ☐ **Follow each step of the school's reconsideration process** and adhere to all established deadlines.
- ☐ **Be realistic, truthful, professional, and courteous** in your communications with the school's Admissions or Financial Aid Office.
- ☐ **Express your appreciation** for the opportunity to attend their law school. This is a chance for you to demonstrate that you possess the characteristics they want to see in a student and graduate of their institution.
- ☐ **Supply all the required documentation** for this request per the school's process, and be patient. Timeframes for processing your request can vary from school to school.

Review Additional Resources

- ☐ For additional information on support as you consider filing for reconsideration, access the full suite of pre-law resources through [**Ask EDNA!® – the Education Network at AccessLex**](#).
- ☐ In the event your request is denied, or if you are successful and still require additional funding, use the [**AccessLex Law School Scholarship Databank**](#) to filter and search nearly 900 scholarships and writing competitions.