



EMORY LAW

Cost-of-Living Guide



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Affording Law School: Do Your Homework

Official cost-of-attendance estimates determine financial aid eligibility, but schools differ dramatically in how they assemble these estimates. To arrive at an accurate comparison, it is important to understand how each school develops its estimate, particularly living expenses, which can make a big difference in students' daily lives.

Emory University computes the estimated cost-of-living figures based on the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) and the Indexes of Comparative Costs, both produced by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Although many universities utilize the low range of this survey, Emory uses the moderate cost-of-living numbers to allow students maximum financial aid eligibility. Many students' expenses are well below these estimates, as described in this guide.

Though it's not necessary to borrow the full amount available, it can be helpful to know the funds are there if you need them. Emory's Office of Financial Aid is committed to helping you determine the best solutions for your situation and your needs. Use this guide to get started.

Planning Your Legal Education

Attending law school is an investment in your future.

There are a number of sources for funding your legal education. As with any investment, it is important to carefully examine your options.



Scholarships

Emory Law's Office of Financial Aid can assist you in identifying external scholarship opportunities. Also, many agencies, employers, and military and service organizations award funds to students in the form of scholarships, grants, or prizes.



Federal Student Loans

Students may elect to use federal education loans such as Direct and Grad Plus Loans to help finance their educational expenses. These loans typically offer more favorable terms than other consumer loans, but they still must be repaid. We encourage students to borrow only what is necessary and to minimize expenses when possible.



Private Education Loans

Private education loans may be an important funding source for students who need more loan funds than federal programs provide. Terms of private loans vary significantly. These loans can be more expensive than federal loans because the federal government does not guarantee them.



Other Sources of Assistance

- ✓ Part-time employment
- ✓ Resident Director positions
- ✓ Veterans benefits

Estimated Costs of Attending Emory Law

2018–2019 School Year

Fixed costs	Tuition (\$28,250 per term)	\$56,500*
	Fees (\$424 per term)	\$848^
Estimated variable costs	Living expenses	\$18,918**
	Books	\$955
	Loan fees	\$220

* Tuition reflects full-time enrollment in fall and spring semesters. Optional summer classes may be offered on an additional per-credit tuition basis.

** Emory's living expenses are based on moderate, versus low, cost-of-living estimates to allow students maximum financial aid eligibility.

Additional Potential Costs

Health Insurance

You may opt out of the Emory student health insurance plan (\$3,354^ for 2018–2019) if you are covered under another policy that meets Emory's coverage minimums. Many of our students are eligible to continue coverage under their parents' plans or choose to buy an independent plan that meets Emory requirements. For more information, visit law.emory.edu/studenthealth.

Parking

An Emory annual parking pass will cost approximately \$672.^ Many first-year students opt instead to take advantage of Emory's extensive free shuttle system. Students may also purchase an Eagle permit, a reloadable parking card designed for occasional use.

^ Estimate, subject to change

“Emory chooses moderate, rather than low, nine-month budget estimates to maximize students' aid eligibility. That means students are less likely to run out of funds at the end of a semester, when they want to be focused on classes, not on their bank accounts. You have the option, of course, not to borrow the full amount you are approved for, and many Emory Law students find it quite manageable to live on much less than our estimates.”

John Leach
Director, Emory University
Office of Financial Aid



Budgeting for Law School

Your lifestyle choices make a difference. Based on Emory Law’s estimated total cost of attendance, you would receive approximately \$24,119 for variable expenses, i.e. rent, food, books, if you borrow the full amount (paid in semester installments). How far will that go? It depends on your choices. This table shows a range of high, mid, and low estimates for major living expenses:

	Living Expense Ranges		
	High	Mid	Low
Monthly Rent	\$1,100/month	\$835/month	\$500/month
Health Insurance*	\$3,354/year	\$2,864/year	\$0
Food	\$600/month	\$450/month	\$360/month
Transportation**	\$295/month	\$220/month	\$125/month
Books	\$955/year	\$800/year	\$600/year
Loan fees	\$220/year	\$220/year	\$220/year
Misc	≈\$182/month	\$150/month	\$100/month

* In this example, we have assumed the Emory Student Health Insurance estimate as the high range, an external plan for the mid range, and a parent-paid plan as the low range.

** If you choose to buy an Emory parking permit, a \$672 (approx.) parking fee is charged in the fall semester directly to your student account. In this example, the high range assumes a parking permit and gas expenses. The low range assumes that you utilize public transportation and Emory’s free shuttle system.



Following a budget can help reduce the overall amount of funds you need to borrow.

How much can you borrow? You can borrow up to **\$81,467** for the 2018–2019 school year, which is calculated by adding tuition and fees, as well as the upper range of variable and potential cost estimates presented on page three of this guide. You are not required to borrow the full amount, but the funds will be available if they are needed.

Below is a nine-month (fall and spring semesters) hypothetical budget, based on the ranges for common living expenses outlined on the previous page:

Nine-Month Budget Ranges

	High	Mid	Low
Rent	\$9,900	\$7,515	\$4,500
Health Insurance	\$3,354	\$2,864	\$0
Food	\$5,400	\$4,050	\$3,240
Transportation	\$2,655	\$1,980	\$1,125
Books	\$955	\$800	\$600
Loan fees	\$220	\$220	\$220
Misc	\$1,635	\$1,350	\$900
Potential Total Cost of Attendance	\$81,467	\$76,127	\$67,933

The table above illustrates how your individual financial decisions can impact your cost of attending law school. **Depending on the choices you make**—where you live, whether you have a roommate, how much you eat out, etc.—*your* total cost of attending Emory Law could be dramatically lower than the high-range estimate.

Tips from Students



Three Emory Law students offer tips on how they've managed some of the major living expenses during law school, such as housing, transportation, food, entertainment, and textbooks.



.....
"I spend less than the estimated cost-of-living. I live close enough to campus to walk, which allows me to save money on parking. I've been able to find many of my casebooks on Amazon Rental, which costs less than the bookstore. I budget a bit more for entertainment because I love to explore Atlanta, and I love to travel!"

Laurel Street 20L

.....
"I have found various ways to save money while attending law school. I have a roommate, I buy used books, I have my own healthcare, and I don't pay for on-campus parking. With a little preparation, it's easy to spend less than Emory Law's estimate."

Daniel Wei 19L



.....
"Because I was proactive and did research on housing, textbooks, and other expenses, I've been able to spend less than Emory Law's estimated cost of attendance. There are numerous ways to manage your expenses if you put in the work ahead of time."

Travis Jaryeneh 18L



Choosing Housing in Atlanta



For most students, housing represents their most significant living expense. Atlanta offers a broad range of options.

Emory Law is located in a tree-lined pedestrian neighborhood with numerous house and apartment rentals within walking distance, along Emory's extensive free shuttle routes, or an easy bike ride away. Share an apartment in a community with amenities, rent a studio or a carriage house, lease an urban loft, or split a rental house with others while enjoying Emory's state-of-the-art fitness facilities open to all students.

STUDENT TIPS



Popular neighborhoods include Virginia-Highland, Druid Hills, Toco Hills, Inman Park, Candler Park, Morningside, Midtown, and the City of Decatur. Visit the Emory Residential Life page, emory.edu/housing, and click on Graduate Housing for a list of available options.

"I live off campus in an apartment with two other law students, which helps with saving money. We chose our apartment primarily based on its proximity to campus."

Laurel, rent = \$850/month

"I live in an apartment about 3.5 miles from campus. Because my roommate and I split the bills, I'm able to save money on rent and utilities. It also helps that my apartment is new, and I was able to get a great deal on my lease."

Daniel, rent = \$800/month

"I used Emory's off-campus housing website to find an apartment five minutes from campus. I have a roommate, and it helps that internet and energy costs are included in my rent."

Travis, rent = \$500/month

Managing Transportation Costs

Emory University—regularly recognized as a top green school in the US—promotes an environmentally responsible approach to transportation, offering an extensive free shuttle service around and beyond campus, even to Atlanta’s midtown business district.

“I live a mile and a half from campus, so it takes about 30 minutes to walk. It’s a really nice way to start my morning and end my day!”

Laurel, transportation = \$50/month

STUDENT
TIPS

“I rely on the Emory shuttle system for transportation to campus. Fortunately, my apartment is located directly on one of the routes, and it takes about 20 minutes to get to campus in normal traffic. Occasionally, I’ll use a service like Uber.”

Daniel, transportation = \$20/month

“I live 1.5 miles away from Emory Law, so it doesn’t take long to get to class. I either use Emory’s free shuttle service or Uber. The shuttles run from early in the morning to late at night, so there’s always a bus when you need one.”

Travis, transportation = \$15/month



Living within walking distance to campus or a shuttle route is easy, and parking is free after 4 p.m. in the law school parking deck.

Strategizing on Textbooks

With planning, managing book expenses is an easy way to reduce your costs. There are a number of simple options that can help you spend less than the official Emory textbook estimate.

STUDENT TIPS

.....
"I save money by renting my textbooks from Amazon or buying them from other students."

Laurel, books = \$1,100/year

.....
"To help save money, I buy supplements and scan textbook pages from the library instead of buying textbooks."

Daniel, books = \$200/year

.....
"I really like the book rental option at Emory. If I need books and class materials, I simply go to the bookstore with my list and rent everything I need. It's really easy to use and helps manage my expenses."

Travis, books = \$1,200/year



Many students save money by renting their law books from the bookstore, purchasing used texts online, and attending the student-run Emory Law Public Interest Committee (EPIC) used textbook and study aid sale on campus at the beginning of each semester.

Enjoying Atlanta

Atlanta offers food and entertainment options for every budget. An international destination, our dynamic city has it all: farmers markets, distinctive ethnic restaurants and grocery stores, haute cuisine, and hidden dives you don't want to miss. The city's rich cultural offerings include museums, theaters, and music venues, plus dozens of free local and international festivals each year. Atlanta's many parks and public trails are perfect for outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, water sports, and camping.

STUDENT TIPS

"I love trying new restaurants and shopping. I also love how much Atlanta has to offer for free — like biking the Beltline or hanging out at Piedmont Park."

Laurel, food and entertainment = \$250/month

"Atlanta has a lot to offer! I go out on the weekends and eat out 2 to 3 times a week. I enjoy going to restaurants, local bars, concerts and sporting events. I also attend the free events hosted by Emory University throughout the year."

Daniel, food and entertainment = \$300/month

"After paying for necessities like food, transportation, and bills, I usually spend about 25% of what I have left on fun and entertainment. It is always more than enough to have a good time. I also enjoy doing free activities around campus, like playing basketball and lifting weights."

Travis, food and entertainment = \$400/month



On campus, Emory hosts a full schedule of music, speakers, and theatrical events, and many area attractions offer discounts or special nights for students.

Budgeting Tips

- ✓ Pay off as much consumer debt as possible before starting law school.
- ✓ Set a budget and stick to it.
- ✓ Get a roommate.
- ✓ Limit the number of times you eat out each week.
- ✓ Brown bag your lunch or organize potluck dinners with friends.
- ✓ Ride the Cliff Shuttle or MARTA instead of driving in every day.
- ✓ Limit use of credit cards.
- ✓ Put off unnecessary expenses until after law school.
- ✓ Take advantage of student discounts and on-campus activities.
- ✓ Monitor your expenses carefully. Deposit funds into a savings account each semester and transfer just enough to your checking account for your expenses each month.
- ✓ Use a student loan repayment calculator to keep up with projected repayment amounts.
- ✓ Clean up negative credit history on your credit report, if possible, AND keep your credit clean while you are enrolled.



If you're interested in having a roommate, connect with other students who may wish to share housing on the Class of 2021 Facebook page.

Resources at Your Fingertips



Student budget and loan calculators

- accessgroup.org/calculator
- finaid.org/calculators
- mappingyourfuture.org



Scholarship search

- fastweb.com
- collegeboard.com



Credit report

- annualcreditreport.com



Credit bureaus

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| • Equifax
equifax.com
800.685.1111 | • Experian
experian.com
888.397.3742 | • TransUnion
transunion.com
800.888.4213 |
|--|---|---|



College Cost Reduction and Access Act

- studentaid.ed.gov
- fafsa.ed.gov



Helpful cost-of-living calculators

- money.cnn.com/calculator/pf/cost-of-living
- bankrate.com/calculators/savings/moving-cost-of-living-calculator.aspx



Budgeting worksheets and applications

- mint.com
- kiplinger.com
- Use personal finance apps (e.g., Mint Bills, CashTrails)

Resources on Campus

Office of Financial Aid

200 Dowman Drive, Suite 300

Atlanta, GA 30322

404.727.6039 or 800.727.6039

Fax: 404.727.6709

Visit law.emory.edu/financialaid to get step-by-step instructions about the financial aid process and the terms and conditions of various loan options.

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Nondiscrimination Statement Emory University is an inquiry driven, ethically engaged, and diverse community dedicated to the ideals of free academic discourse in teaching, scholarship, and community service. Emory University abides by the values of academic freedom and is built on the assumption that contention among different views is positive and necessary for the expansion of knowledge, both for the university itself and as a training ground for society at large. Emory is committed to the widest possible scope for the free circulation of ideas.

The university is committed to maintaining an environment that is free of unlawful harassment and discrimination. Pursuant to the university's commitment to a fair and open campus environment and in accordance with federal law, Emory cannot and will not tolerate discrimination against or harassment of any individual or group based upon race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, genetic information, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran's status, or any factor that is a prohibited consideration under applicable law. Emory University welcomes and promotes an open and genuinely diverse environment.

Equal Opportunity Policy Emory University is dedicated to providing equal opportunities to all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, genetic information, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and veteran's status. Emory University does not discriminate in admissions, educational programs, or employment on the basis of any factor stated above or prohibited under applicable law. Students, faculty, and staff are assured of participation in university programs and in the use of facilities without such discrimination. Emory University complies with all applicable equal employment opportunity laws and regulations, and follows the principles outlined above in all aspects of employment including recruitment, hiring, promotions, transfers, discipline, terminations, wage and salary administration, benefits, and training.

SACS Accreditation Emory University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, call 404.679.4500, or visit the web at www.sacscoc.org/ for questions about the accreditation of Emory.

American Bar Association Character and Fitness Standard Statement In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every US jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

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