

Charleston School of Law

Presidential Honors Program

The Presidential Honors Program recognizes full-time and part-time students for their outstanding academic performance during their first-year or first thirty credits earned at the Charleston School of Law. As detailed below, eligible students are invited to join the program at two different times: full-time students are invited at the end of their first semester and at the end of their first two semesters of law school; part-time students are invited after they have completed eighteen credit hours and again after completing thirty credit hours. Please note: (1) students who transfer to the law school are not eligible for this program and (2) students who receive VA benefits may not be eligible for all Presidential Honors Program benefits.

Full-Time Student Eligibility

First Semester Honors:

After the first semester – either fall for fall admitted students or spring for spring admitted students -- invitation to participate in the Presidential Honors Program will initially be extended to members of the first-year class whose grades place them in the top 20% of their class. Students admitted in the spring will have their grade point averages compared to the grade point averages of the first semester grades of their colleagues who entered in the fall.

These students are eligible for:

1) Summer Educational Opportunities

Each student will immediately be eligible to receive a one-time full tuition scholarship to attend any Summer Abroad program that the Charleston School of Law sponsors or co-sponsors. Alternatively, the student may take up to a total of six credit hours in summer courses at the Charleston School of Law tuition free. Students may also use these hours in a combination of a Summer Abroad program that the Charleston School of Law sponsors or co-sponsors and summer school courses at the Charleston School of Law. For students admitted in the fall, these opportunities would typically occur during the student's first summer. For students admitted in the spring who are required to attend the summer standard session, these opportunities would occur during the subsequent summer session.

2) Third-Year Honors Seminar

All students in the Presidential Honors Program will be invited to participate in a special one-credit hour seminar which will typically take place during the members' third-year spring semester. This Presidential Honors Seminar is open only to members in the program and will feature highly regarded professionals from various fields, as well as faculty.

First Full Year Honors:

At the end of the first two semesters – spring for students admitted in the fall, and summer standard session for students admitted in the spring – additional invitations to join the Presidential Honors Program will be extended to all students who finish their first year (thirty credit hours for fall admitted students and 27-30 credit hours for spring admitted students) at the Charleston School of Law with a

cumulative grade point average in the top 20% of the first year class. Students admitted in the spring will have their cumulative grade point averages compared to the first year cumulative grade point averages of their colleagues admitted in the fall.

These new students will be entitled to all of the educational benefits listed above for First Semester Honors. Moreover, upon graduation, participation in the Presidential Honors Program will be duly noted on the student's official transcript and in the commencement program.

Additionally, these students will also receive an award of a **Presidential Honors Scholarship**.

Presidential Honors Scholarships:

Determined by a student's cumulative grade point average, Presidential Honors Scholarships are awarded as follows:

- For students who finish in the top 10% \$20,000
- For students who finish in the top 11% - 20% \$15,000

Please note: For calculation purposes, a presidential rank that is more than 10.0% will be grouped into the 11%-20% level.

For those eligible students who are currently receiving scholarship awards, these scholarships will receive new awards that replace any existing scholarship that is equal to or less than the student's Presidential Honors Scholarship. By way of example:

- A student who is currently receiving a \$10,000 scholarship and who completes his or her first year in the top 10% of the first-year class will receive a \$20,000 Presidential Honors Scholarship that replaces the current scholarship.
- A student who is currently receiving a \$10,000 scholarship and who completes his or her first year in the top 11-20% of the first-year class will receive a \$15,000 Presidential Honors Scholarship that replaces the current scholarship.
- For a student who is currently receiving a \$20,000 scholarship and who completes his or her first year in the top 10% of the first-year class that student's scholarship would remain unchanged.
 - Similarly, for a student in the top 11-20% and already holding a merit scholarship of \$15,000 or higher, that student's scholarship would likewise remain unchanged.

The new Presidential Honors Scholarship will be provided for each of the student's remaining two years, subject to the same terms and conditions of other Charleston School of Law merit scholarships.

Part-Time Student Eligibility

First Year Honors:

For part-time students, invitation to participate in the Presidential Honors Program will initially be extended upon the completion of two semesters (at least eighteen credit hours). These part-time

students will have their grade point averages compared to the grade point averages of the first semester grades of their full-time first year colleagues. Those students whose grades fall within the top 20% of their full-time colleagues will be eligible for:

1) Summer Educational Opportunities

Each student will immediately be eligible to receive a one-time full tuition scholarship to attend any Summer Abroad program that the Charleston School of Law sponsors or co-sponsors. Alternatively, the student may take up to a total of six credit hours in summer courses at the Charleston School of Law tuition free. Students may also use these hours in a combination of a Summer Abroad program that the Charleston School of Law sponsors or co-sponsors and summer school courses at the Charleston School of Law. For students admitted in the fall, these opportunities would typically occur during the student's first summer. For students admitted in the spring who are required to attend the summer standard session, these opportunities would occur during the subsequent summer session.

2) Third-Year Honors Seminar

All students in the Presidential Honors Program will be invited to participate in a special one-credit hour seminar which will typically take place during the members' third-year spring semester. This Presidential Honors Seminar is open only to members in the program and will feature highly regarded professionals from various fields, as well as faculty.

First Thirty-Credit Hour Honors:

After completing thirty credit hours, students who finish with cumulative grade point averages in the top 20% compared to the first year grades of their full-time colleagues will be invited to join the Presidential Honors Program. These new students will be entitled to all of the educational benefits listed above for First Year Honors. Moreover, upon graduation, participation in the Presidential Honors Program will be duly noted on the student's official transcript and in the commencement program.

Additionally, students who finish their first thirty credit hours in the top 20% compared to the first year grades of their full-time colleagues will also receive an award of a **Presidential Honors Scholarship**.

Presidential Honors Scholarships:

Determined by a student's cumulative grade point average, Presidential Honors Scholarships are awarded as follows:

- For students who finish in the top 10% \$20,000
- For students who finish in the top 11% - 20% \$15,000

Please note: For calculation purposes, as is the case for full-time students, a presidential rank that is more than 10.0% will be grouped into the 11%-20% level.

For those eligible students who are currently receiving scholarship awards, these scholarships will receive new awards that replace any existing scholarship that is equal to or less than the student's Presidential Honors Scholarship. By way of example:

- A student who is currently receiving a \$10,000 scholarship and who completes his or her first thirty credit hours in the top 10% will receive a \$20,000 Presidential Honors Scholarship that replaces the current scholarship.
- A student who is currently receiving a \$10,000 scholarship and who completes his or her first thirty credit hours in the top 11-20% will receive a \$15,000 Presidential Honors Scholarship that replaces the current scholarship.
- For a student who is currently receiving a \$20,000 scholarship and who completes his or her first thirty credit hours in the top 10%, that student's scholarship would remain unchanged.
 - Similarly, for a student in the top 11-20% and already holding a merit scholarship of \$15,000 or higher, that student's scholarship would likewise remain unchanged.

The new Presidential Honors Scholarship will be provided for each of the student's remaining two [or if applicable, three] years, subject to the same terms and conditions of other Charleston School of Law merit scholarships.