

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 twenty-seven to 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.

Students selected for participation in the Presidential Honors Program will have this distinction noted on their official transcript and in the commencement program.

Full-Time Student Eligibility

First Semester Honors:

After the first semester – either fall semester for summer and fall admitted students or spring semester for spring admitted students – invitation to participate in the Presidential Honors Program will initially be extended to members of the first-year class whose **cumulative grade point average is 3.3 or higher**.

Below are the benefits available to eligible students:

1) Presidential Honors Scholarships*:

Presidential Honors Scholarships are awarded as follows:

- Students whose cumulative grade point average is **3.6 or higher** are eligible for a scholarship of \$20,000.
- Students whose cumulative grade point average is **3.3 to 3.59** are eligible for a scholarship of \$15,000.

For those eligible students who are currently receiving scholarship awards, these new scholarship awards will 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 semester with a cumulative grade point average of 3.6 or higher 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 semester with a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 to 3.59 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 semester with a cumulative grade point average of 3.6 or higher that student's scholarship would remain unchanged.
 - Similarly, for a student who completes his or her first semester with a cumulative grade point average between 3.3 to 3.59 and who already holds 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. The scholarship will go into effect at the end of the first two semesters – spring semester for students admitted in the summer and fall, and summer standard session for students admitted in the spring.

2) Summer Educational Opportunities

Each student will also 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 six credit 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.

3) 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 semester for students admitted in the fall and summer, 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 of **3.3 or higher**.

These new students will be entitled to the scholarship opportunities and all of the educational benefits listed above for First Semester Honors.

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) to those students whose **cumulative grade point average is 3.3 or higher**.

Below are the benefits available to eligible students:

1) Presidential Honors Scholarships*:

Presidential Honors Scholarships are awarded as follows:

- Students whose cumulative grade point average is **3.6 or higher** are eligible for a scholarship of \$20,000.
- Students whose cumulative grade point average is **3.3 to 3.59** are eligible for a scholarship of \$15,000.

For those eligible students who are currently receiving scholarship awards, these new scholarship awards will 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 eighteen hours with a cumulative grade point average of 3.6 or higher 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 eighteen hours with a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 to 3.59 will receive a \$10,000 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 eighteen hours with a cumulative grade point average of 3.6 or higher that student's scholarship would remain unchanged.
 - Similarly, for a student who completes his or her first eighteen hours with a cumulative grade point average between 3.3 to 3.59 and who already holds 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 time at the law school, subject to the same terms and conditions of other Charleston School of Law merit scholarships. The scholarship will go into effect once a student finishes their first twenty-seven to thirty credit hours at the Charleston School of Law.

2) Summer Educational Opportunities

Each student will also 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 six credit 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.

3) 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 Twenty-Seven to Thirty-Credit Hour Honors:

Additional invitations to join the Presidential Honors Program will be extended to all students who finish their first twenty-seven to thirty credit hours at the Charleston School of Law with a cumulative grade point average of **3.3 or higher**.

These new students will be entitled to the scholarship opportunities and all of the educational benefits listed above for **First Year Honors**.