

# Florida State University

## Honors Legal Scholars Program



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LAW

# Participant Handbook

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## Section I: Program Purpose

The Honors Legal Scholars program is designed to integrate Florida State University honors students into the Florida State University College of Law community during their undergraduate tenure. The program will help educate and prepare Members for future legal education and a career in law. In addition, the program is intended to increase the matriculation of qualified Florida State University students to Florida State University College of Law. Honors Legal Scholars program Members can be automatically admitted to the Florida State University College of Law provided they meet specific criteria (See Section V below).

## Section II: Participant Benefits

A student in the program will enjoy the following benefits:

- Participation in events at Florida State University College of Law specifically for students in the Honors Legal Scholars program
- Pre-professional advising
- Access to law school professors, law students, and alumni
- Opportunities to tour the College of Law and to observe a law class
- Access to special law school events and lectures

## Section III: Program Admission

Applicants to the Honors Legal Scholars program must be current Florida State University students or incoming freshmen who have been admitted to the Florida State University Honors program. There are many competitive applicants to the Honors Legal Scholars program each year with only a limited number of available openings. Individuals not admitted in an application cycle are encouraged to reapply in subsequent years.

Eligible students will be provided with access to the Honors Legal Scholars program application by the Florida State University Honors program. A complete application will also include a resume, personal statement, letter of recommendation, and current transcripts. The application opens in mid-February and closes on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Applicants are selected on a competitive basis and are informed of the Honors Legal Scholars application decision by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Students selected for admissions will have access to program benefits beginning in the following fall semester.

## Section IV: Good Standing

To remain in good standing, Members must attend **three qualifying events** each **academic year (fall and spring semesters only)** and **remain in good standing with the Florida State University Honors program**. At least two of the qualifying events must be “Official” Honors Legal Scholars events and the third may be either another “Official” Honors Legal Scholars event or an event pre-approved by the Director of Honors Legal Scholars. Failure to attend three qualifying events by the end of the spring semester of the academic year will result in the removal of the Member from Honors Legal Scholars unless the member has obtained an approved exception from the Director of Honors Legal Scholars. Members are encouraged to attend all Official Honors Legal Scholars and pre-approved events, even if they have already attended three qualifying events for the academic year. Probation or dismissal from the Florida State University Honors program extends to the Honors Legal Scholars program as well.

Seniors are also required to attend a “Senior Advising Meeting” with a designated advisor of the Florida State University College of Law Office of Admissions prior to or at the beginning of the fall semester of their senior year. Designated advisors and the dates available for scheduling these meetings are at the discretion of the Director of the Honors Legal Scholars program. This meeting will count as one of the “Official” Honors Legal Scholars events for the Member’s senior academic year. Seniors who graduate at the end of the fall semester are still required to attend three qualifying events for their senior academic year to remain in good standing, but they can attend events during the following spring semester to fulfill this requirement.

## Section V: Automatic Admission to the Florida State University College of Law

Honors Legal Scholars Members who are admitted to the Honors Legal Scholars program for Fall 2024, and who meet all the following criteria, will be considered for automatic admissions to the Florida State University College of Law:

- Completion of the Florida State University College of Law application for admission by the Priority Deadline during the application cycle to which they desire to matriculate,
- Obtain an LSAT score of 165 or higher,
- Obtain an undergraduate GPA of 3.9 or higher as calculated by the Law School Admissions Council,
- Obtain a bachelor's degree from the Florida State University prior to matriculation to the Florida State University College of Law,
- Demonstrate good moral character and fitness expected of someone pursuing the study of law, and
- Be an active member or alum in good standing with the Honors Legal Scholars program.

The automatic admissions criteria are subject to change and are based on the year of admission to the Honors Legal Scholars program. The automatic admissions option to the Florida State University College of Law is valid for no more than one additional J.D. admissions cycle following the awarding of a Member's first bachelor's degree from Florida State University. Please note that automatic admission does not guarantee that the applicant will be awarded a scholarship.

## Section VI: Communication Policies

- Honors Legal Scholars Members are expected to be responsive to all communication from the Honors Legal Scholars program regardless of the method of communication. Lack of adherence to these policies may result in removal of a Member from the Honors Legal Scholars program. Honors Legal Scholars Members should communicate directly when a situation arises that may prevent them from being responsive.
- Any Honors Legal Scholars communication that requests a response, the scheduling of an appointment, or the completion of a questionnaire, form, or survey must be responded to in a timely fashion. If a deadline is noted, a response must be made by the noted deadline. Whenever a response is requested, a non-response will not be acceptable.
- All telephone communication from the Honors Legal Scholars program will be made to the Honors Legal Scholars Member's telephone numbers provided in their Honors Legal Scholars application. If this number changes, the Member is responsible for informing the Honors Legal Scholars program of the change immediately. Members are also responsible for ensuring that their voicemail is set up, checked regularly, does not prevent the leaving of a voicemail message, and that messages are responded to in a timely manner when a response is requested.
- Email communication from the Honors Legal Scholars program will be sent to Honors Legal Scholars Members' official FSU student email accounts and Members are required to use their official FSU student email address when responding to or providing an email address on Honors Legal Scholars questionnaires, forms, and surveys. All Honors Legal Scholars Members are expected to monitor their FSU email accounts so that they do not miss an email from the Honors Legal Scholars program.
- Many email messages from the Honors Legal Scholars program will be sent as bulk email. As such, Honors Legal Scholars Members should make sure that the **@law.fsu.edu** domain is not being filtered by a SPAM or junk email filter. Honors Legal Scholars Members should also check their SPAM or junk email folder regularly to ensure that Honors Legal Scholars program email is not being filtered.
- Honors Legal Scholars program emails can come from different individuals or from the general Admissions email account (*admissions@law.fsu.edu*). Honors Legal Scholars Members should treat all email coming from the FSU College of Law with the same level of importance, regardless of the sender.
- Marketing emails will be sent for each Honors Legal Scholars scheduled event and all in-person events will include a request for an RSVP for individuals who are planning on attending. Individuals who are planning to attend are expected to RSVP by the noted deadline date directly to the e-mail communication or through a survey form when provided. Honors Legal Scholars Members may respond to events posted on Honors Legal Scholars social media pages, but only RSVPs received via email or through a survey form will be used to reserve the Member's spot for the event.

## Section VII: Notes

- Honors Legal Scholars are selected from all majors. When choosing a major, scholars are encouraged to pursue a challenging and rigorous curriculum that they find to be most interesting and engaging.
- Applicants applying for admission to the Florida State University College of Law through the 3+3 program must meet all the Florida State University graduation requirements as well as the major requirements of their undergraduate college, school, and department.
- Honors Legal Scholars who do not meet the automatic admissions criteria are still encouraged to apply to the Florida State University College of Law. Not meeting these criteria does not constitute an automatic denial of admission and many Honors Legal Scholars would still be competitive applicants.
- Denial to the Honors Legal Scholars program will have no bearing on the decision to admit a student to Florida State University College of Law.
- Being a member the Honors Legal Scholars program does not commit one to apply or matriculate to Florida State University College of Law.