

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
- 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 on the Honors Legal Scholars page of their Web site. A complete application will also include a resume, personal statement, Seminole statement, letter of recommendation, and current transcripts. The application opens each year in mid-February and officially closes at 11:59 pm on March 15th. Applications received after the official deadline may not be considered. Please note that the submission of an application for Honors Legal Scholars denotes acceptance of all current and future program policies. Applicants are selected on a competitive basis and are informed of the Honors Legal Scholars application decision by June 1st. Students selected for admission will have access to program benefits beginning 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), follow all program policies, 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.

If you supplement your attendance requirement by attending an event other than an “Official” HLS event, it can be an event pre-approved by the Director of Honors Legal Scholars, or you can obtain prior approval by e-mail for another event. Please note that events must have a clear law-focus. If you would like to get approval for an event, you will need to do so at least one week in advance. Requests must be in writing and directed to the Director of Honors Legal Scholars. The request must also include documentation of the event via flyer, brochure, or a link to a Web page that contains the date and a description of the event. To get credit for any “Non-Official” event requires the submission of a 1 ½-2-page paper to the Director of Honors Legal Scholars no more than one week after the event, with a summary of the experience and notation of the benefits of attending. To get credit for “Official” in-person events, Members must sign-in upon arrival. Those failing to sign-in will not get credit for attending.

Failure to attend and get credit for 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. 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 Florida State University’s Honors program extends to the Honors Legal Scholars program as well.

Senior Advising

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 the beginning of the fall semester of their last academic year at Florida State. 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 following academic year. Seniors who graduate at the end of the fall semester are still required to attend three qualifying events for their final 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 2025, and who meet all the following criteria, will be considered for Automatic Admission 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 for the year they desire to matriculate,
- Obtain an LSAT score of 169 or higher,
- Obtain an undergraduate GPA of 3.95 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 Admission criteria are subject to change and are based on the year of admission to the Honors Legal Scholars program. The Automatic Admission option to the Florida State University College of Law is valid for no more than one additional J.D. admissions cycle following a Member’s final academic year at the Florida State University, regardless of the semester they graduate. 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. Members must inform the Director of Honors Legal Scholars program if a situation arises that will 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, and 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.
- Email messages from the Honors Legal Scholars program may 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 out 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 by responding 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: Additional Policies and Notes

- Policies for the Honors Legal Scholars program are subject to change and are updated each year. Members are encouraged to print or download and review a copy of the current Participant Handbook at the beginning of each academic year from the Honors Legal Scholars page on the Florida State University Honors program Web site. Members are also encouraged to retain a copy of the Participant Handbook for the year they join the Honors Legal Scholars program so that they can retain the information related to the Automatic Admission requirements set for their incoming class.
- 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.
- Honors Legal Scholars 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. Please note that individuals applying as 3+3 applicants are eligible for the Automatic Admission option but NOT the Seminole Scholars Options.
- Honors Legal Scholars applying for admission to the Florida State University College of Law through the Seminole Scholars option must meet the requirements noted on the Seminole Scholars Option page of the Florida State University College of Law Website. Please note that individuals applying through the Seminole Scholars Option are NOT eligible for the Automatic Admission option OR the 3+3 program.
- Honors Legal Scholars who do not meet the Automatic Admission 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 of the Honors Legal Scholars program does not commit one to apply or matriculate to the Florida State University College of Law.