

Florida State University

Honors Legal Scholars Program



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.
- Invitations to participate at general Florida State University College of Law events such as distinguished lectures and public policy programs.
- A current law student can be assigned to mentor a participant, as requested, during the year before the participant applies to law school.
- Access to law faculty and administration for advisement in the law school admissions process.

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. Applicants are selected on a competitive basis and are notified each year at the summer via e-mail. 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** at the Florida State University College of Law 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 any and 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 who graduate at the end of the fall semester are still required to attend three qualifying events for that academic year to remain in good standing and they can attend events during the following spring semester to fulfill this requirement, if needed. Seniors are also required to meet with a member of the Florida State University College of Law administration immediately before or at the beginning of the fall semester of their final year at the Florida State University and this meeting can count as one of their three qualifying events for that academic year.

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

Honors Legal Scholars Members who were admitted to the Honors Legal Scholars program for Fall 2023, and who meet all the following criteria, will be automatically admitted to the Florida State University College of Law:

- Completion of the Florida State University College of Law application for admission before the posted deadline,
- Obtain an LSAT score of 165 or higher,
- Obtain an undergraduate GPA of 3.85 or higher,
- 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 is based on the year of admission to the Honors Legal Scholars program. Automatic admissions to the Florida State University College of Law is valid for three years from the date a participant receives their first bachelor's degree from the Florida State University.

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. Whenever possible, Honors Legal Scholars Members should communicate with the Honors Legal Scholars program directly when a situation arises that may prevent them from being responsive.
- All telephone communication from the Honors Legal Scholars program will be made to the Honors Legal Scholars Members' 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 insuring that their voicemail is setup, 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.
- All e-mail communication from the Honors Legal Scholars program will be sent to Honors Legal Scholars Members' official FSU student e-mail accounts. All Honors Legal Scholars Members are expected to monitor their FSU e-mail accounts so that they do not miss a communication e-mail from the Honors Legal Scholars program.
- Many e-mail messages from the Honors Legal Scholars program will be sent as bulk e-mail. As such, Honors Legal Scholars Members should make sure that the **@law.fsu.edu** domain is not being filtered by a SPAM or junk e-mail filter. Honors Legal Scholars Members should also check their SPAM or junk e-mail folder regularly to ensure that Honors Legal Scholars program e-mail is not being filtered.
- Honors Legal Scholars program e-mails can come from different individuals or from the general Admissions e-mail account (*admissions@law.fsu.edu*). Honors Legal Scholars Members should treat all e-mail coming from the FSU College of Law with the same level of importance, regardless of the sender.
- 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. Unless there is not a request for a response or one is not required, a non-response will not be acceptable.
- Reminder e-mails 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. While Honors Legal Scholars Members may note if they are "Going" to attend an event posted on the Florida State Law – Honors Legal Scholars Facebook page, only RSVPs received via e-mail or through a survey form will be used to reserve the Member's spot for the event.
- Lack of adherence to these policies may result in removal of a Member from the Honors Legal Scholars program.

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 of the Florida State University graduation requirements as well as the major requirements of their undergraduate college, school, or 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 participant in the Honors Legal Scholars program does not commit you to apply or matriculate to Florida State University College of Law.