



The State Bar of California

State Bar of California

Selection of Rating Scales for the Validation Surveys

845 S. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017
February 27, 2019

The State Bar of California is conducting an analysis of the practice of law in California. The practice analysis study creates an outline of the professional activities and/or essential topics that make up the practice of law at the level expected for the entry-level licensure of attorneys. Once validated, the outline serves as the content framework for the Bar Examination, detailing the topics to be addressed and the emphasis that each topic receives in the test.

Target Audience:

§ 6180.14 Attorney and Law Practice Defined

As used in this article, “attorney” means a member or former member of the State Bar; “law practice” means (a) a law practice conducted by an individual; (b) a law practice conducted by a partnership, if Section 6180 applies to all partners; and (c) a law practice conducted by a law corporation, if Section 6180 applies to all shareholders of the corporation or if the corporation is described in subdivision (b) of Section 13406 of the Corporations Code. This article does not apply to legal services rendered as an employee, or under a contract which does not create the relationship of lawyer and client. (Added by Stats. 1974, ch. 589. Amended by Stats. 1981, ch. 714, Stats. 1993, ch. 955.)

Applicants to the State Bar must demonstrate an acceptable legal education through one of the following:

- Three or four years of study at a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA)
- Four years of study at a State Bar-registered, fixed-facility law school
- Four years of study with a minimum of 864 hours of preparation at a registered unaccredited distance-learning or correspondence [law school](#)
- Four years of study under the supervision of a [state judge or attorney](#)
- A combination of these programs

Validation Surveys

The practice analysis study will consist of two major phases:

- I. Initial Development. A panel of attorneys and potentially others with expertise in the practice of law will identify domains (major responsibilities), tasks (specific responsibilities), and the knowledge associated with each task.
- II. Validation Study. The State Bar will seek to validate the domains, tasks, and knowledge using two distinct methods. In the Experience Sampling Method, participants will receive an email that asks them to record in an online survey tool which task they were performing at the specified time that

day. A more traditional survey will collect ratings of participants' perceptions about (for example) the importance of the tasks and the frequency with which they are performed. In addition, both groups will be asked to complete a short demographic survey.

Performance

Expectation:

When were you first expected to perform the domain or task?

0 = Not at all

1 = Within the first six months of practice (includes exactly six months)

2 = After the first six months of practice (does not include exactly six months)

Point of

Acquisition:

At what point in time did you acquire the knowledge needed to perform the domain or task?

0 = Never

1 = In law school

2 = In an internship

3 = On the job in the first six months of practice (includes exactly six months)

4 = On the job after the first six months of practice (does not include exactly six months)

Importance:

How important is this activity to your practice?

0 = Not important

1 = Minimally important

2 = Moderately important

3 = Highly important

Frequency:

How often do you perform this activity in your practice?

0 = Never

1 = Rarely (once per year)

2 = Sometimes (once per month)

3 = Often (once per week)

4 = Repeatedly (daily)

Frequency:

On average, how frequently did you perform this activity in your practice during the past 12 months?

0 = Not at all

1 = Occasionally (less than once a month)

2 = Frequently (at least once per month)

3 = Very frequently (at least once per week)
