



The State Bar *of California*

**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM
OCTOBER 2019
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS ITEM O-401**

DATE: October 18, 2019

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Principal Program Analyst, Office of Admissions

SUBJECT: Discussion of Proposed 2019-2020 Educational Standards Goals

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Below please find the goals related to educational standards.

1. Implement the rules and guidelines approved by the Committee of Bar Examiners and the Board of Trustees to create a path to accreditation for qualifying law schools offering online J.D. programs.

Complete.

2. Implement avenues of engagement with law schools by forming and coordinating the work of the Committee on State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools (CSBARS) and the Law School Council (LSC) and a new e-newsletter. Continue to host the Law School Assembly and Registrars' Meeting.

Complete. Meetings commenced on April 22, 2019 for Law School Council and April 23, 2019 for CSBARS. Distribution of the quarterly e-Newsletter began in May 2019 and continued in August 2019. The next issue will be sent in November 2019 after July 2019 Bar Examination results are released.

3. Review rules to: 1) create a modified "deemed accredited" status for law schools that earn accreditation from a regional accreditor and also meet specified State Bar responsibilities and disclosures; 2) ensure rules embody best practices in accreditation; 3) review major change guidelines as requested by the Committee.

CSBARS reviewed the history of Accreditation in June and met in October to discuss Guiding Principles and Values as well as proposal concepts. Staff will follow up on this work for further input from CSBARS and presentation to the Committee of Bar Examiners at a future date.

4. Review applications for registration or accreditation of law schools, as well as petitions for major changes or waivers from existing registered and accredited schools.

Applications will be presented to the Committee as they are received.

5. Participate in the periodic inspection of prospective and current registered and accredited law schools. Consider reports of interim and periodic inspections of accredited and registered law schools and inspections performed in response to the issuance of Notices of Noncompliance; generally monitor the compliant operation of both California-accredited and registered law schools and the overall educational requirements for applicants seeking to qualify to take and pass the California Bar Examination.

Ongoing.

6. Support the State Bar's 2019 strategic initiatives related to law school diversity, retention and performance on the Bar examination.

Ongoing. CSBARS further discussed collection of expanded demographic data at its October 17 meeting. The expanded collection is expected to start with the Annual Report cycle in the new year.

7. Continue to pursue mandatory accreditation for unaccredited law schools in accordance with the Rules and Guidelines approved by the Committee of Bar Examiners and the Board of Trustees.

TBD.