



The State Bar *of California*

Discussion of Values and Principles and Development of Accreditation Rules for Implementation Continued

October 17, 2019 in Los Angeles



“One of the strengths of accreditation is broad concepts applied to very, very different, specific examples of educational pursuits and institutions.”

*Jamienne Studley, President, WASC, Insidehighered.com, 10/2/19,
“Accreditation and Innovation.”*



Agenda

- Adopt Recommended Values/Principles for State Bar Accreditation of Law Schools
- Adopt Conceptual Proposal for State Bar Accreditation Rules and Guidelines
- Adopt Conceptual Proposal for Deemed Accredited Status for Law Schools
- Assign Roles for the Action Plan to Propose Amendments to Accreditation Rules and Guidelines



Agenda

- Adopt Recommended Values/Principles for State Bar Accreditation of Law Schools – Recap and Continue
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Adopting Accreditation Values/Principles

- Values/principles of accreditors
- Sample draft Moral Character mission/values
- State Bar Mission and guiding values/principles
- Develop values/principles
- Adopt values/principles
 - Set foundation for incorporation of best practices from other accreditors
 - Set foundation for elements of deemed accredited status



DRAFT Sample: Moral Character Determination Values

- Public protection
- Uniformity
- Consistency
- Transparency
- Diversity
- Clear and appropriate standards
- Guidelines which are easy to understand



DRAFT Sample: Moral Character Determinations Mission

- The Office of Admissions advances the mission of the State Bar of California to protect the public, advance the ethical and competent practice of law, and support greater access and inclusion in the legal system by ensuring uniformity, consistency, and transparency in the moral character determination process. Towards this end, these guidelines were developed to communicate clear and appropriate standards by which moral character determinations are made and ensure that appropriate consideration is given to rehabilitative efforts undertaken by applicants.
- Please note that applicants have the burden of establishing the requisite moral character by demonstrating possession of traits critical to the ethical practice of law, such as candor and honesty, and respect for the law and the rights of others.



Sources of State Bar Values and Principles

- State Bar Mission
 - To protect the public and includes the primary functions of licensing, regulation and discipline of attorneys; the advancement of the ethical and competent practice of law; and support of efforts for greater access to and inclusion in, the legal system.
- Current regulations and practice
- Other accreditors
- Suggestions for new vision for purposes of California Accreditation



Accreditors Discussed at October 11 CSBARS Meeting

Entity	Acronym	Name
Institutional Accreditors		
Post K-12	WASC-WSCUC	Western Association of Schools and Colleges – Senior College and University Commission
Online Schools	DEAC	Distance Education Accrediting Commission
Programmatic Accreditors		
Law	ABA	American Bar Association Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
Architecture	NAAB	National Architectural Accreditation Board
Business/Accounting	AACSB	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business
Dentistry	CODA	Commission on Dental Accreditation
Medicine – MD	LCSME	Liaison Committee on Medical Education
Medicine - DO	COCA	American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation



Shared Values/Principles

Mission stated clearly

Materials & Methods offering sustainable, effective education

Measurement using evidence

Moving Forward through continuous improvement



Accreditors Guiding Elements

Entity	Elements
Institutional Accreditors	
WASC-WSCUC	Purpose, Values, Goals
DEAC	Mission, Vision
Programmatic Accreditors	
ABA	Purpose
NAAB	Mission, Vision, Values
AACSB	Mission, Vision, Values
CODA	Mission, Vision, Values
LCSME	Purpose
COCA	Mission, Goals



Possible Values/Principles to Guide Accreditation

Mission

Consumer Protection

Inclusion

Access

Materials & Methods

Affordable Legal Education

Prepares Students to Achieve State Bar Licensure

Bar Exam Preparation

Measurement

Transparency

Evidence Based Decisions

Accountability

Moving Forward

Pursues Excellence



Possible Values/Principles to Guide Accreditation	Suggested Additional Values/Principles to Guide Accreditation
Mission Consumer Protection Inclusion Access	Equity/Diversity/Elimination of Bias Retention Student Centered Teaching
Materials & Methods Affordable Legal Education Prepares Students to Achieve State Bar Licensure Bar Exam Preparation	Preparation for the future/Prepared to serve intended clients/Responsive to societal need Affordability Flexibility Civility/Professionalism/Ethics
Measurement Transparency Evidence Based Decisions Accountability	
Moving Forward Pursues Excellence	Innovation Creativity



Additional Accreditors Requested at October 11 CSBARS

Entity	Acronym	Name
Institutional Accreditors		
	HLC	Higher Learning Commission
	MSCHE	Middle States Commission on Higher Education
	NEASC	New England Association of Schools and Colleges
	NCCU	Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
	SACS	Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Programmatic Accreditors		
Nursing	AACN	American Association of Colleges of Nursing



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Framework for Developing Accreditation Rules and Guidelines

- Identify elements to memorialize to carry out values / principles for accreditation
- Review accreditation rules of other accreditors with similar values / principles
- Review current Rules and Guidelines in light of adopted values / principles
- Evaluate suggested revisions presented by CBE and law schools



Specific Next Steps – Review of Current Accreditation Rules Against Practices of Accreditors

- Honesty and Integrity
- Disclosures and Communications
- Admissions and Transfers
- Finances
- Faculty
- Curriculum
- Substantive Change
- Inspection
- Substantial Compliance
- Complaints and Noncompliance



Sampling of Relevant Accreditation Standards of Other Accreditors

- Diversity and Inclusion
- Consumer Protection / Advertising
- Balancing Regulation with Innovation



Accreditation Standards to Ensure Diversity and Inclusion

- Architecture
 - Policy communicated to staff and student and reflected in the distribution of program resources
- Medical Schools
 - Effective recruitment and retention to achieve mission-appropriate outcomes
- Business Schools
 - Address, engage and respond to social responsibility issues, as well as diverse viewpoints, backgrounds and perspectives
- Dentistry
 - Cultural competency and fostering of diverse perspectives
- Compare to State Bar Mission



DEAC Advertising and Disclosure Regulations

- All of the institution's advertising and promotion is current, ethical, and accurately presents information that allows prospective students to make informed decisions without undue pressure. The institution's recruitment efforts focus on those prospective students who are likely to be successful and meet their academic goals through the educational offerings of the institution in three areas:
 - Advertisement
 - Representations about Accreditation
 - Recruitment



Accreditors Balance Innovation and Regulation

- Regional Accreditation
 - Accreditation Journey of College Unbound
- Business Schools
 - Has specific language around innovation



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New Deemed Accredited Status

- For schools accredited through certain regional or national accreditors
- Institutional accreditation will satisfy a portion of State Bar accreditation requirements
 - Distinguished from the fully deemed accredited status applied to schools approved by the ABA



Steps to Develop Conceptual Proposal Deemed Accredited Status

- Review values / principles
- Determine if accreditor already carries out values / principles
- Determine what the State Bar will regulate directly
- Limit duplication of effort



Next steps

- Finalize Values / Principles Guiding Rules Development
- Secure Volunteer Assistance in Drafting