



The State Bar *of California*

Accredited Law School Rules

Translating Values into Rules

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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



Rules Revision Progress to Date

- January: Board of Trustees Direction on Accreditation
- April: CSBARS begins to meet
- June: History of Accreditation/Project Overview
- October: Identified Values Guiding Accreditation
- December: Translating Values into Rules



Mission of Accreditation – Working Definition

State Bar of California law school regulation promotes the public good by setting standards to ensure access to high-quality and affordable law schools. Accreditation and registration by the State Bar ensures institutional accountability and transparency, promotes continuous improvement through self and peer review, and encourages innovation, diversity and inclusion in the administration of a legal education.



Draft Values / Purpose of 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



Values Guiding Accreditation Process

- Consumer Protection/Public Good
- Access/Inclusion/Diversity/Equity/Elimination of Bias
- Student-Centered/Retention/Teaching Excellence
- Flexibility of Mission
- Affordable Legal Education
- Preparation for State Bar Licensure/Bar Examination Preparation
- Preparation for the future/Serve intended clients/Respond to societal need
- Civility/Professionalism/Ethics
- Transparency/Evidence Based Decisions/Accountability
- Pursues Excellence/Innovation/Creativity



Framework for Organizing Rule Development

Based on Best Practices

Mission

What is the purpose of accreditation in this area?

Materials & Methods

Regulations and Guidelines to effectuate the purpose?

Measurement

How to measure the outcome and inform the public?

Moving Forward

Learn from measurement and improve.



Translating Values into Rules Implementing the Purpose of Accreditation

- Review rules of other accreditors
- Add elements unique to law context
- Review current Rules and Guidelines for continued relevance
- Evaluate input from CBE, schools, and staff
- Translate Values into Rules



Example 1 of 2

- Diversity/Inclusion/Equity/Access



Diversity – Other Accreditors' Rules

- Architecture
 - Schools must implement policy communicated to staff and students and reflected in the distribution of program resources
- Medical
 - Schools must recruit and retain students and faculty effectively to achieve mission-appropriate outcomes
- Business
 - Schools must address, engage and respond to social responsibility issues, as well as diverse viewpoints, backgrounds and perspectives
- Dentistry
 - Schools must foster cultural competency and inclusion of diverse perspectives in all aspects of education



Values Guide Rules: Diversity/Inclusion/Equity/Access

Mission (Purpose of Accreditation)

Schools must create, implement and monitor plans to recruit, retain, and prepare for licensure in California lawyers from a diversity of backgrounds, perspectives, and life stages.

Materials & Methods

Specific plan to foster diversity and inclusion – students & faculty

Resources appropriate and sufficient for admitted students

Fostering of open, respectful dialogue

Measurement

Enrollment, attrition and graduation by demographic category and other categories relevant to mission

Student satisfaction survey

Moving Forward

Improve opportunity for graduation and licensure



Translation to Rules



Example 2 of 2

- Preparation for Licensure/Bar Preparation



Licensure – Other Accreditors

- Medical
 - Schools must generally prepare students for board certification in order to acquire hospital privileges
- Architecture
 - Licensure takes place after experience and over a period of years
- General
 - Schools track retention and placement



Values Guide Rules: Prepare to License

Mission (Purpose of Accreditation)

School graduates students who are prepared to take and pass the bar examination and become licensed attorneys, should they decide to do so.

Materials & Methods

Bar courses required

Bar preparation strategy

Resources appropriate to the student body's needs

Measurement

Minimum, Cumulative Pass Rate

Other Pass Rate Statistics

Moving Forward

Evaluate preparation and performance and course correct as needed



Translation to Rules



Values Guiding Accreditation Process

1. Consumer Protection/Public Good
2. Access/Inclusion/Diversity/Equity/Elimination of Bias
3. Student-Centered/Retention/Teaching Excellence
4. Flexibility of Mission
5. Affordable Legal Education
6. Preparation for State Bar Licensure/Bar Examination Preparation
7. Preparation for the future/Serve intended clients/Respond to societal need
8. Civility/Professionalism/Ethics
9. Transparency/Evidence Based Decisions/Accountability
10. Pursues Excellence/Innovation/Creativity



Values Guide Rules: Consumer Protection

Mission (Purpose of Accreditation)

Training adequate to serve clients

Training adequate to maintain confidence in the system

Public understands the credential

Materials & Methods

Comprehensive academic training

Competency training

Emphasize community service, professionalism, ethics

Measurement

Client satisfaction

Graduate placement

Moving Forward

Improve client satisfaction and graduate placement



Values Guide Rules: Student Protection

Mission (Purpose of Accreditation)

Students will have a clear understanding of the rights and limitations of attending the school, the resources required to earn a J.D. degree and an understanding of the school's past performance

Materials & Methods

Informative advertising and enrollment documents

Data comparable to ABA

Scholastic requirements clear to 1st generation student

Measurement

Student satisfaction surveys

Moving Forward

Adjust as needed



Other Accreditors - DEAC Advertising Rule

- 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



Values Guide Rules: Student-Centered/Teaching Excellence

Mission (Purpose of Accreditation)

Materials & Methods

Disclosures

Clear advertising and communication guidelines

Measurement

Moving Forward



Values Guide Rules: Transparency/Evidence/Accountability

Mission (Purpose of Accreditation)

Materials & Methods

Measurement

Moving Forward



Continuing the Process



Questions?



Values Guide Accreditation: Diversity

Mission (Purpose of Accreditation)

All demographic backgrounds and life stages license in California

Materials & Methods

Create a welcoming environment for all in written plan

Diverse recruitment of faculty and students

Resources appropriate for students admitted

Measurement

Student satisfaction

Retention by category

Moving Forward

Analysis of enrollment, attrition and graduation