



The State Bar *of California*

Accredited Law Schools Accreditation Rules Revision

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Agenda

- Board of Trustees' Direction on Accreditation
- Progress to Date
- Incorporation of Feedback on Rules Revision
 - Committee
 - CSBARS/Law Schools
 - Staff
 - Other accreditors



Board of Trustees' Direction

- Create a new Deemed Accredited Status
- Revise Rules and Guidelines
- Create CSBARS to give input and feedback on proposal and other matters of interest to the Committee



Revision of State Bar Accreditation Rules

- Accredit Qualifying Online Programs
- Re-evaluation the State Bar's purpose for accreditation
- Ensure best practices in accreditation
- Address advances in technology
- Address Committee, school and staff input



CSBARS Commenced in April

- Accredited schools represented
- Unaccredited schools represented
- CBE representative
- Accreditation Expert



Status of Rules Revision

- Accreditation History Reviewed
- Practices of Professional Accreditors Reviewed
- CSBARS created draft values/purpose for accreditation
- Staff collected suggestions from Committee/Schools/Staff
- CSBARS is beginning the drafting process



History

State Bar of California

- 1927: Accredited Schools
- 2008: Registers Unaccredited Schools

ABA Jurisdiction

- 1921 Law School Standards
- 1952 Approval of Law Schools



Values Guiding Accreditation/Purpose for Accreditation

- Proposed after reviewing
 - State Bar Mission and guiding values
 - Key institutional and professional accreditors' values



State Bar Mission

- To protect the public
- 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



ABA Mission – Approval of Law Schools

The mission of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar . . . is:

. . . To provide a fair, effective, and efficient accrediting system for American law schools that promotes quality legal education . . .



DRAFT Sample: Moral Character Determination Values

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



Institutional Accreditors

Name	Acronym
Western Association of Schools and Colleges – Senior College and University Commission	WASC-WSCUC
Higher Learning Commission	HLC
Middle States Commission on Higher Education	MSCHE
New England Association of Schools and Colleges	NEASC
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities	NCCU
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools	SACS
Distance Education Accrediting Commission	DEAC



Programmatic Accreditors

Profession	Name	Acronym
Law	American Bar Association Section on Legal Education & Admissions to the Bar	ABA
Architecture	National Architectural Accreditation Board	NAAB
Business/Accounting	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business	AACSB
Dentistry	Commission on Dental Accreditation	CODA
Medicine – MD	Liaison Committee on Medical Education	LCSME
Medicine - DO	American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation	COCA
Nursing	American Association of Colleges of Nursing	AACN



Working Definition of Mission for Accreditation

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.



Values Guiding Purpose of Accreditation

- Public Protection
- Student-Centered Focus/Teaching Excellence
- Diversity, Inclusion and Equity
- Civility/Professionalism/Ethics
- Preparation for Licensure
- Transparency/Evidence Based Decisions/Accountability



Framework for Developing Rules

Using a Best Practices Model

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.



Other Input to Consider during Revision

- Committee requests and informal input
- School input and feedback
- Staff input



Committee Requests and Input

- Students understand the nature of a school's accreditation
- Disclosures and advertising are clear and not misleading
- Schools understand fees required
- Major Change guidelines reviewed in context of school's current capacity
- Tracking metrics maximize student outcomes (MPR, employment outcomes, comparison to ABA)
- Review major change categories – notices v. motions
- Define substantial compliance
- Tailor non-compliance options to address the nature and severity of the issue



Law School Input

- Greater flexibility
 - Deadlines
 - Inspection frequency
 - Textbook requirements allow curated materials
 - Faculty teaching loads increased
 - Acceptance of elective credit from non-law schools
 - Evaluate compliance in context of school's mission
 - Role of students who do not seek licensure
- Define substantial compliance



Deemed Accredited Status

- Deemed status for regional/national accredited schools
 - State Bar retains core reporting elements
- CSBARS recommends core elements
 - Committee reviews recommendation
 - Board adopts final rule



Next steps

- Today's Committee feedback communicated to CSBARS to inform drafting
- Committee representative on CSBARS continues to provide insight into the Committee's priorities to CSBARS
- Committee reviews updates in January and April