

# ***Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules***

## TITLE 4. ADMISSIONS AND

## EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

### *Division 2. Accredited Law School Rules*

Adopted by  
The Committee of Bar Examiners  
January 1, 2009

With Approved Amendments  
Effective May 17, 2019

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## GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITED LAW SCHOOL RULES PREAMBLE

These guidelines govern the interpretation and application of the *Accredited Law School Rules* pursuant to the provisions of Rule 4.103 of the *Accredited Law School Rules*. The Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) has the authority to amend these guidelines, subject to a reasonable public comment period and after consideration of any comments received.

Division 1. General Provisions

Division 2. Honesty and Integrity

Division 3. Governance

Division 4. Dean, Full-Time Administrator, and Faculty

Division 5. Admissions

Division 6. Academic Program

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Division 12. Minimum, Cumulative Bar Examination Pass Rate

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Division 14. Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination

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## GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITED LAW SCHOOL RULES

### **Division 1. General Provisions**

#### 1.1 Provisional Accreditation, Accreditation, and Degree-Granting Authority

##### (A) General Provision

To obtain provisional accreditation and receive degree-granting authority from the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee), a registered unaccredited law school must establish its substantial compliance with the *Accredited Law School Rules (Rules)*. To obtain accreditation and receive degree-granting authority from the Committee, a provisionally-accredited law school must establish its compliance with the *Rules*.

##### (B) Transition of Registered Law Schools

###### (1) Application for Provisional Accreditation, and Accreditation

A law school seeking to become provisionally or fully accredited is required to complete a self-study, an application and pay a fee. The Office of Admissions will provide forms for each such application on its website.

###### (2) Processing of Applications, Decision on Application

Upon filing of an application for provisional accreditation or accreditation by a registered law school, the Committee may appoint an inspection team to visit the school within sixty (60) days of the filing date and produce a report to be delivered to the Committee staff and the school within sixty (60) days after the fact-finding site visit. The school will have thirty (30) days to respond to the fact finder report. The Committee will consider the school's application for provisional accreditation or accreditation at its next regularly scheduled meeting following expiration of the comment period. At that meeting, the Committee may approve the application, approve the application with conditions, deny the application, or determine that further fact finding is required. If further fact finding is required, the Committee may appoint an inspection team to visit the school within sixty (60) days of the Committee decision and produce a report to be submitted to the Committee staff and the law school within sixty (60) days after the second fact-finding site visit. The school will have thirty (30) days thereafter to respond to the fact finder's report. The Committee will consider the school's application for provisional accreditation or accreditation, with the

findings of both fact finders, at its next regularly scheduled meeting following expiration of the comment period. At that meeting, the Committee may approve the application with conditions, or deny the application.

(C) Site Visit

Prior to full accreditation, a provisionally-accredited law school seeking accreditation will be visited by an inspection team chosen by the Committee. A site visit conducted prior to the law school's application for provisional accreditation satisfies this requirement if conducted within three (3) years of the application and the fact-finder's report verifies that relevant conditions are substantially the same since the prior site visit.

(D) Program Transition

(1) Program Transition Plan

A law school seeking provisional accreditation or accreditation will include in the application a plan for program transition. The program transition plan will address such issues as a school's calendar, term structure, credit, course scheduling, attendance requirements, curricular requirements, teach-out or programs no longer to be offered, and other matters necessary for students to transition to the accredited program of the law school.

(2) Teach-Out Limitations

A law school granted provisional accreditation or accreditation may allow currently-enrolled students to complete the program in which they are then enrolled, or allow students to transition, at an academically-appropriate time, to a new program designed to comply with the *Rules and Guidelines for Accredited Law Schools*. A school allowing currently-enrolled students to complete the program they are then enrolled in at the time of accreditation must ensure teach-out of all students enrolled.

(3) New Enrollment in Accredited Program

A law school granted provisional accreditation or accreditation must, within one year after the effective date of receiving such provisional accreditation or accreditation, enroll all new students into the program granted said accreditation.

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### 1.2 Maintaining Provisional Accreditation, Accreditation and Degree-Granting Authority

To maintain provisional accreditation or accreditation, and degree-granting authority, a law school must comply with the *Rules* applicable to its status as provisionally accredited or accredited, these guidelines, and the policies adopted by the Committee.

### 1.3 Restrictions on Issuance of Juris Doctor (J.D.) Degree

The Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree must be granted only upon completion of a law program that qualifies a student to take the California Bar Examination.

### 1.4 Student Complaints

The Committee does not intervene in disputes between a student and a law school. It retains complaints about a law school submitted by students and considers those complaints in assessing the law school's compliance with the *Rules*. If a complaint is received, however, and has bearing upon a law school's compliance with the *Rules*, with the author's consent, a copy will be provided to the law school. The law school may provide a response, which will become part of its file.

### 1.5 Schedule of Charges and Deadlines

The Committee adopts, and the Board of Governors approves, the *Schedule of Charges and Deadlines* applicable to accredited law schools.

### 1.6 Compliance with Other Laws

Law schools must operate in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. While the Committee will not monitor or enforce the regulations of other agencies, noncompliance with applicable government laws and regulations may result in noncompliance with the *Rules*.

### 1.7 Primary Administrative Office, Classroom, and Law Library Facilities Location and Hours; Availability of Records

A law school must maintain its primary administrative offices, classrooms and any approved branch or satellite campus and all associated law library facilities in California. A law school must have and maintain access to all required records in its primary administrative office and, subject to applicable state and federal laws, all such records must be made accessible to the administrators, faculty and students at each approved branch or satellite campus. A law school with multiple locations must designate its primary administrative office as one of the approved locations. A law school must be able to produce copies of all such records at its primary administrative office, either by providing electronic copies, printing copies of electronic records, or producing photocopies of paper records. A law school must maintain reasonable office hours at its

primary administrative offices and at each approved branch or satellite campus so that administrative staff and the academic services provided at each campus are available to students and the Committee on an equivalent basis.

*Amended effective October 15, 2016.*

### 1.8 California Bar Examination Review or Preparation Courses

A law school may offer and grant academic credit for a bar examination review or preparation course. A law school may also require successful completion of a bar examination review or preparation course as a condition of graduation. Total credits for bar review courses must be kept to a minimum.

## **Division 2. Honesty and Integrity**

### 2.1 Honesty and Integrity

A law school must be honest and forthright in all of its activities. A law school must establish and maintain procedures and practices that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to ensuring that every law school activity is conducted honestly and in a forthright manner.

### 2.2 Honesty Regarding Finances

#### (A) Honesty and Integrity

A law school must conduct its financial affairs honestly and in a forthright manner. Decisions that may adversely affect a law school's educational program, admission or academic decisions, or academic or scholastic standards, including its ability to staff and operate each approved campus adequately, must not be based solely on financial considerations.

#### (B) Honesty in Financial Dealings with Prospective Students, Applicants, and Students; Refund Policy

A law school must deal with prospective students, applicants, and students in an honest and forthright manner in all financial dealings. A law school must adopt a written refund policy that is fair and reasonable. A law school must provide refunds in accordance with its written refund policy, accompanied by a clear explanation of the method of calculation, within thirty days after a student withdraws from a class or a program, or within thirty days of the law school's discontinuing a course or educational program in which a student is enrolled.

(C) Financial Safeguards

A law school must establish reasonable safeguards against financial fraud and other financial improprieties.

*Guideline 2.2(A) amended effective October 15, 2016.*

2.3 Honesty in Communications

(A) Honesty in Communications Generally

A law school must be honest and forthright in all communications, including communications with the Committee, the legal profession, the public, prospective students, applicants, and students.

(B) Honesty in Communications with Students

A law school must be honest and forthright in all communications with students. It must not mislead students as to their reasonable prospects of obtaining the degree in the program in which they are enrolled, their ability to qualify for or be admitted to the bar in any jurisdiction, the cost of the requirements for obtaining the degree in the program in which they are enrolled, or the financial support available through loans or scholarships for their course of study.

(C) Honesty in Communications with Prospective Students and Applicants

A law school must be honest and forthright in all communications with prospective students and applicants. It must not mislead them as to their reasonable prospects of admission, obtaining the degree in the program in which they seek to enroll, their ability to qualify for or be admitted to the bar in any jurisdiction, the cost of the requirements for obtaining the degree in the program in which they are interested in enrolling or seek to be enrolled, or the financial support available through loans or scholarships for their course of study.

(D) Required Disclosures

(1) An accredited law school must include the following statement, without alteration, in either its course catalog or student handbook (electronic or hardcopy) and on a discrete page readily accessible to the public found on the law school's website entitled "Accreditation" on which the law school refers to its status as being accredited by the Committee and any other regional or national accrediting entity or agency:

Study at, or graduation from, this law school may not qualify a student to take the bar examination or be admitted to practice law in jurisdictions

other than California. A student who intends to seek admission to practice law outside of California should contact the admitting authority in that jurisdiction for information regarding its education and admission requirements.

The type size of the foregoing disclosure must be at least as large as the type size used to discuss or explain its status as an accredited school or college of law.

(2) An accredited law school must publish on its “Accreditation” webpage information relating to the pass rates of its graduates on the ten most recent administrations of the California Bar Examination. This information must be published in one of the following ways:

(a) By means of posting an active link to the California Bar Examination “Statistics” page of the State Bar’s website; or, alternatively

(b) By means of posting the pass rates of its graduates as those published on the State Bar’s website for the ten most recent administrations of the California Bar Examination.

In all hardcopy or electronic materials used to respond to all inquiries about admission to its J.D. degree program, the law school must provide the following statement in all such materials: “For additional information visit [insert law school’s website].”

(3) An accredited law school must publish on its Accreditation webpage a standardized report, in a format determined by the Committee, all of the disclosure information required by Business and Professions Code section 6061.7. All information in the standardized report must be complete, accurate and not misleading. An accredited law school must submit its standardized report with its Annual Compliance Report required by Rule 4.161. An accredited law school must distribute the standardized report to all applicants being offered conditional scholarships at the time the scholarship offer is made.

In addition, a law school must provide disclosures in compliance with California law, including Business and Professions Code section 6061.7.

*Guideline 2.3(D)(3) adopted effective December 3, 2016; amended effective May 17, 2019.*

(E) Reference to Provisional Accreditation and Accreditation; Reference to Other Accreditations, Approvals and Memberships

(1) If a law school is granted provisional accreditation, it may make reference to such fact in its communications, provided that in any written or electronic publication in which reference to provisional accreditation is made, the following statement must appear, without alteration, on the same page, and in the same size type:

“The Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California grants provisional accreditation to a registered unaccredited law school when the law school establishes that it substantially complies with *the Accredited Law School Rules (Rules)* and appears capable of qualifying for accreditation within five years from the time provisional accreditation is granted. Provisional accreditation will automatically expire if the law school does not qualify for and receive accreditation within the time period specified by the Committee or secure an extension of time. Provisional accreditation may be withdrawn at any time, if the Committee finds that the law school no longer substantially complies with the *Rules*.”

Whenever the words "Accredited" or "Provisionally Accredited" appear in law school communications in relation to qualification to take the California Bar Examination or admission to the practice of law in California, they must be accompanied by words clearly indicating that such accreditation is by the Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California.

(2) A law school that is accredited or approved by another agency or is a member of an association may state that fact in any communication, but must indicate in connection with any such statement that its degree-granting authority in connection with its students qualifying to take the California Bar Examination and obtain admission to the practice of law in California is based on accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California.

*Guideline 2.3(E)(1) amended effective May 17, 2019.*

2.4 Forms of Ownership

A law school may be organized as a corporation, partnership, LLP, LLC or sole proprietorship and may be for-profit or not-for-profit. If it is organized in nonprofit form:

(A) It and any institution of which it is part must be organized as a non-educational institution under the laws of the State of California or, if its principal

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place of doing business is located outside California, under the laws of a state having substantially similar provisions;

(B) It and any institution of which it is part must have tax-exempt status under the United States Internal Revenue Code and the laws of the state in which it is located; and

(C) The total compensation, including fringe benefits and perquisites, paid to any person must not be more than a reasonable amount.

### 2.5 Compensation Based on Number of Applicants, Enrollment, and Students Prohibited

A law school may not base the compensation paid any person for service to the law school (other than compensation paid a student or associate for reading and correcting papers or similar activity) on the number of persons enrolled or in any class or on the number of persons applying for admission to or registering to enroll in the law school.

### 2.6 Fairness in Student Discipline

A law school must have a written policy for the imposition of student discipline and that policy must be fair.

(A) The law school's policy must include, but is not limited to, cancellation of an examination, denial of course credit, suspension, and dismissal.

(B) The law school's policy must provide for:

(1) Written notice of the specific charge or charges;

(2) An opportunity for a hearing before a panel of impartial members of the faculty and/or administration, or, if the law school chooses, a panel of impartial members of the faculty and/or administration, and students; and

(3) A written final determination, which includes a statement of the facts, conclusions, and sanctions, if any.

(C) The law school's policy may provide for, or may limit or exclude, the right to the assistance of counsel and the opportunity to call witnesses and examine adverse witnesses.

(D) The law school's imposition of student discipline policy does not apply to academic probation or disqualification; other failures to meet academic standards; or failure to pay tuition, fees, or charges billed to the student.



## 2.7 Fairness in Academic Standards and Student Assessment

### (A) Academic Standards Policy

A law school must adopt written academic standards that are fair. Changes in adopted academic standards may not be made without adequate prior notice to all affected students.

### **Examinations and Grading Policy**

A law school must adopt written policies on examinations and grading that are fair and must provide each student with a written statement of the grading system, including:

- (1) The grading system used. A law school may use a numerical, alphabetical, or other grading system. Grades should indicate whether the student's level of achievement is excellent, good, adequate, fair, inadequate but passing, or failing;
- (2) Whether, and if so, under what circumstances, courses may be graded "Pass/Fail" or "Credit/No Credit." Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit grades must not be used in courses on subjects tested on the California Bar Examination;
- (3) The rules and procedures associated with course repetition;
- (4) The courses, units, grades, and grade point average required for retention, good standing, advancement, and graduation;
- (5) Whether anonymous grading is used to protect against favoritism or bias in grading, and, if so, the procedures used to maintain the anonymity of examinees;
- (6) The circumstances under which a student is subject to disqualification for academic deficiency;
- (7) The circumstances, if any, when a student with an academic deficiency may be allowed to continue on probation and the range of conditions of probation; and
- (8) The process to request a review of a grade.

(B) Written Statement on Basis for Final Grade

A law school must provide each student with a written statement explaining the extent to which each of the following will be used in determining a final grade:

- (1) The final examination;
- (2) Mid-term or other examinations;
- (3) Class performance, including preparation and participation, whether in a classroom, through correspondence, or online;
- (4) Evaluation of examinations or other performance by other than the course instructor; and
- (5) Any other consideration that might affect the grade in any course.

(C) Authenticity of Student Work

A law school must have a written policy setting forth the procedures used to authenticate the identity of the student submitting work and participating in educational and other law school activities and to ensure that work submitted is the student's own.

(D) Examination and Final Grades

A law school must advise each student of the grade received on each examination within a reasonable time after the examination and of the final grade within a reasonable time after the student completes the course.

(E) Right to Inspect and Copy Examination Questions and Answers

A law school must allow students to inspect and copy examination questions and their answers to those questions (other than for multiple-choice, true-false, and similar tests) for a reasonable period after grades are recorded. A law school must allow students to compare their answer sheets to the answer key for multiple-choice, true-false, and similar tests for a reasonable period of time after grades are recorded. A law school may release multiple-choice, true-false, and similar questions and answers to students at its discretion.

(F) Grade Review Committee

A law school must establish a committee consisting of faculty, and, if the law school chooses, one or more members of the administrative staff and one or more students, to resolve student requests for grade reviews.

(G) Grade Review Procedures

A student who claims that an examination or course grade resulted from unfairness, a departure from established grading policy, or a clearly shown mistake, and presents credible evidence in support of such claim, may have the claim considered by the Grade Review Committee. A law school must establish written procedures for processing requests for the review of grades by the Grade Review Committee. Grade review procedures need not require a hearing.

2.8 Protection of Student Privacy and Confidentiality of Student Communications and Records

A law school must protect student privacy and the confidentiality of student communications and records. A law school must not disclose, without a student's consent, information about the student, including grades, grade average, class schedule, address or telephone number, or other private information, unless:

- (A) Required by law, including administrative subpoena or court order;
- (B) The information is requested by the Committee;
- (C) The information is requested by another accrediting agency; or
- (D) In case of emergency.

A law school may adopt a policy that allows directory information to be released without student consent. The policy must give students the right to request that their directory information remain confidential.

2.9 Security and Backup Systems

A law school must establish and maintain reasonable security and backup procedures to protect its computer systems, communication systems, and written and electronic records.

2.10 Statement of Provided Student Services, Experiences, and Activities; Adequate Support and Resources for Provided Services, Experiences, and Activities

- (A) A law school must publicly state what services, experiences, and activities are available to students at each campus, and must provide adequate support and resources for all such provided services, experiences, and activities. If any such services, experiences and activities are not available at each campus it operates, the law school must publically state which are not offered at each campus. "Publicly state" means a statement of available services, experiences, and activities in the law school's printed and electronic catalogs and on its

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website for its J.D. degree program. The type size of the statement must be at least as large as the type size used in the main text of the material in which it is included.

(B) A law school, through its faculty or otherwise, must provide academic counseling to students. A law school is encouraged to provide externship clinical, law review, and similar experiences to enrich the legal education of its students. A law school with a full-time division is expected to offer more services, experiences, and activities than a law school with only part-time students. Student services, experiences, and activities must be made reasonably available to all students though a law school may impose reasonable qualifications (such as minimum grade average or year in school) for participation in services, experiences, and activities, other than academic counseling.

*Guideline 2.10(A) amended effective October 15, 2016.*

### **Division 3. Governance**

#### **3.1 Governance Requirement**

A law school must be governed, organized, and administered so as to maintain a sound program of legal education.

#### **3.2 Governing Board**

If the law school, or the institution of which it is a part, has a governing board, the board may establish law school policies so long as they are not inconsistent with the *Accredited Law School Rules* and these guidelines. The board must provide the dean of the law school the authority and support necessary to discharge the responsibilities of the position.

#### **3.3 Optional Board of Visitors**

A law school may, but is not required to, have a board of visitors to assist in program and curriculum development, planning, or other matters. A law school must give meaningful regard to the board of visitors' advice. The board of visitors may include members of the local bar and judiciary, administrators and faculty of other law schools, students, graduates of the law school, or others.

### **Division 4. Dean, Full-Time Administrator, and Faculty**

#### **4.1 Law School Dean; Full-Time Administrator; Registrar Duties**

(A) A law school must have a competent dean who devotes adequate time to managing and administering the affairs of each campus of the law school. The

dean and faculty, as determined by the law school, must be responsible for the formulation and administration of the educational programs of the law school, including admissions, curriculum, methods of instruction, and standards for retention, advancement, and graduation of students. The governing board of the law school, or the institution of which it is a part, must determine the authority of the dean in the selection, retention, promotion, and tenure or security of position of the faculty. The dean may, but need not, devote full-time professional service to the law school.

(B) Each campus of the law school must have at least one administrator who is a graduate of an American Bar Association approved, a graduate of a Committee accredited law school, or be admitted to the practice of law in any jurisdiction of the United States and who must have demonstrated competence in the fields of legal education and administration. An approved branch campus with thirty or fewer students enrolled and offering only first-year and second-year classes may operate with a qualified part-time administrator. An approved branch campus with more than thirty students enrolled or offering third-year or fourth-year classes must have a full-time administrator. An approved satellite campus may operate with a part-time administrator.

An administrator may be the dean of the law school if he or she meets the qualifications set forth in this subsection. The duties of an administrator may also include teaching and legal scholarship, but they may not have more than limited professional activities outside the affairs and administration of the law school or branch campus. Outside activities should be limited so that they do not interfere with their regular presence at the law school or the branch campus they administer, or as to their availability for consultation and interchange with students and colleagues, and participation in responsibilities as an administrator or as a member of the faculty. The full-time administrator may teach at the law school, if otherwise qualified, but is not required to be an instructor. A lawyer who is under suspension from the practice of law, who is disbarred or who has resigned with charges pending in any jurisdiction may not serve as the dean or as an administrator at any campus of the law school.

(C) The person who is responsible for recording grades and issuing transcripts must be identified to the Committee as the school's registrar. A law school may operate with a single, full-time registrar; however, students, faculty and the administrator at each campus operated by the law school must have adequate and timely access to all services provided by the law school's full-time registrar.

#### 4.2 Faculty Participation in Formulation, Implementation, and Administration of Academic and Non-Academic Policies and Programs

The degree of faculty participation in academic and non-academic policy-making and administration is within a law school's discretion. To the extent a law school has determined faculty members are to participate in academic and non-academic policymaking and administration, they are expected to be actively involved.

#### 4.3 Faculty and Student-Faculty Ratio

There is no required number of faculty or student/faculty ratio. A law school and each campus it operates must have sufficient faculty to maintain a sound program of legal education, ensure timely response to, and evaluation of, each student, and the prompt evaluation of assignments.

*Amended, effective October 15, 2016.*

#### 4.4 Course Loads of Instructors; Availability of Instructors for Student Counseling

An instructor must not have teaching responsibilities with respect to the number of students, courses, or scheduled participation hours per week which will impair the instructor's ability to adequately prepare and effectively teach. Each instructor has a responsibility to counsel students, and must be available at times and through means that are reasonably accessible and convenient to the students. An instructor may concurrently teach courses in no more than three separate subjects. An instructor may teach no more than 10 hours per week counting sections of the same course at full value or 10½ hours per week counting sections of the same course as one-half.

#### 4.5 Faculty Credentials

At least eighty percent of the faculty teaching in any academic term must be either admitted to the practice of law in a jurisdiction in the United States, be a judge of a United States court or a court of record in any jurisdiction of the United States, or be a graduate of a law school approved by the American Bar Association or accredited by the Committee. The faculty as a whole should possess a diverse educational background demonstrated in part by degrees earned from a variety of colleges and universities. Students must not be the sole instructors of any course, seminar, program or activity for academic credit.

#### 4.6 Duty of Instructors to Continuously Improve Teaching Skills and Substantive Expertise

Instructors must continually strive to improve their teaching skills and expertise in the subjects they teach. Instructors are expected to keep informed of changes in the law

and include in their courses a discussion of recent significant statutory changes and case law developments.

#### 4.7 Evaluation of Instructors

(A) A law school must adopt a written process for the evaluation of instructor competence. In evaluating the competence of an instructor, the factors to be considered are:

- (1) The instructor's education, knowledge, and experience in the subject matter;
- (2) The instructor's competence in the classroom or in other instructional activities;
- (3) The instructor's teaching skills given the technology and methodology used in instruction, and the quality of participatory experiences employed;
- (4) The instructor's organization of the course as demonstrated by outlines and syllabi;
- (5) The quality, nature, and type of examinations and assignments, and the quality of grading;
- (6) The relation between the field of instruction and the area of specialization, if any, of the instructor in private practice or other professional activities; and
- (7) The years of experience, both in teaching and in private practice or other professional activities.

(B) A law school is not required to evaluate guest lecturers invited to address specific class sessions during a course.

(C) On and after the effective date of these guidelines, a law school must:

- (1) evaluate each newly hired instructor not less than once in the instructor's first academic year of instruction and then not less than once every third academic year thereafter and must, in addition to promptly providing a copy of the evaluation to the instructor, include a written report on each evaluation in the instructor's file promptly upon its completion; and
- (2) evaluate all other instructors at least once within the next three academic years of instruction and then not less than once every third

academic year thereafter and must, in addition to promptly providing a copy of the evaluation to the instructor, include a written report on each evaluation in the instructor's file promptly upon its completion.

#### 4.8 Basis of Instructor Evaluations

The evaluation of instructor competence is generally determined by observation in the classroom or other instructional activities, which may include, for distance-education courses, monitoring both synchronous and asynchronous activities. Evaluation also includes review of the materials used in the course, examinations given, and the extent to which examinations and grading standards provide a reasonably accurate appraisal of each student's ability. A comparison of course grades with examination scores in like subjects and the relation between the two are regarded as some indication of the quality of instruction, examinations, and grading standards. A law school may not base instructor evaluations solely on student surveys or the input or assessment of one person.

#### 4.9 Academic Freedom Policy

A law school should adopt an academic freedom policy for faculty. Under the policy, a faculty member can articulate a position or concept that may be controversial without fear of reprisal. Since the degree of academic freedom permitted will frequently depend on the nature of the institution, each law school should articulate its own policy.

#### 4.10 Notice of Changes Not Covered by Rule 4.165 (Major Changes)

(A) A law school must notify the Committee in writing of any change in administrators, dean, or registrar. The written notice, explaining the nature and effective date of the change, must be sent no later than five business days after the effective date. A "change" means resignation, termination, retirement, sabbatical, or any other leave of absence. A "change" does not mean vacation or sick leave unless the law school has approved a leave of absence in connection therewith.

(B) A law school must notify the Committee in writing of any change of mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, or fax number for the law school's primary administrative office, administrators, dean, or registrar. The written notice, explaining the changes and their effective dates, must be sent no later than five business days after the effective dates.

(C) A law school must notify the Committee in writing of any change in the Internet address of the home page of its website. The written notice, explaining



the change and its effective date, must be sent no later than five business days after the effective date.

## **Division 5. Admissions**

### 5.1 Admissions Policy

A law school must adopt and maintain a sound written admissions policy. A law school must only admit those students that meet the pre-legal education requirements contained in § 6060(c) of the Business and Professions Code, Title 4, Division 1 of the *Rules of the State Bar of California (Admissions Rules)*, these guidelines, and the written and noticed policies of the Committee.

### 5.2 Review of Pre-Legal Study

A law school must evaluate the pre-legal education of applicants to ensure compliance with section 6060(c) of the Business and Professions Code, the *Admissions Rules*, these guidelines, and the written and noticed policies of the Committee. Alternatively, a law school may request a Committee evaluation pursuant to rule 4.32 the *Admissions Rules*.

### 5.3 Official Transcripts Required within Forty-Five Days of Beginning of Term

A law school must not permit a person to enroll or attend classes for more than forty-five days after the beginning of a term unless the law school has, by that date, received official transcripts, or transcripts from the Law School Data Assembly Service, showing eligibility for admission under section 6060(c)(1) of the California Business and Professions Code and Rule 4.25 of the *Admissions Rules* or an official certification that the person had passed the equivalency examination required by section 6060(c)(2) of the California and Professions Code and Rule 4.25 of the *Admissions Rules*. The law school may extend attendance for no more than an additional forty-five days in exceptional circumstances. Such exceptional circumstances must be documented in the student file.

### 5.4 Applications Must Ask About Prior Law School Attendance

A law school must, on its application form, ask whether the applicant has ever attended another law school and, if so, what the applicant's overall standing (e.g., good standing, probation, academic disqualification, administrative disqualification, etc.) was when the applicant left each previously attended law school. A law school should have an official transcript, or transcript from the Law School Data Assembly Service, showing the applicant's overall standing at each prior law school before granting admission.

### 5.5 Special Students

A Special Student is defined under 4.25(B) of the *Admissions Rules* and section 6060(c)(2) of the California Business and Professions code. In accordance with section 6060 of the California Business and Professions code, Special Students must take and pass the First-Year Law Students' Examination within three administrations of first becoming eligible to take it, which is upon successful completion of their first year of law study. Documentation verifying a student's status as a Special Student must be received by the school within 45 days after the first day of attendance, or the student must be dismissed. The law school may extend attendance for no more than an additional forty-five days in exceptional circumstances. Such exceptional circumstances must be documented in the student file. The total number of special students admitted by a school must be kept to a minimum.

### 5.6 Admission or Readmission of Applicants Previously Disqualified for Academic Reasons

(A) Applicants previously disqualified for academic reasons may be granted admission or readmission when there is an affirmative showing by the applicant that he or she possesses the capability to satisfactorily study law. Such a showing may be made:

- (1) At any time, if the applicant presents credible evidence that the disqualification was not caused by the applicant's lack of the capability to satisfactorily study law, but resulted from a traumatic event or serious hardship that prohibited the applicant from performing at her or his normal level;
- (2) At any time, if the applicant passed the First-Year Law Students' Examination; or
- (3) After at least two years have elapsed since the disqualification, if the applicant demonstrates that work, study, or other experience during the interim has resulted in a stronger potential for law study than the applicant exhibited at the time he or she was previously disqualified for academic reasons.

In each case, the decision to reinstate a previously disqualified student, regardless of which school disqualified the student, must rest with a committee established by the school and not with a single individual. The dean or admissions officer must sign and place in the applicant's file a statement of the reasons the committee gave for admitting the applicant.

(B) A law school must require all applicants seeking admission or readmission following disqualification for academic reasons to take the Law School Admission Test, except for applicants that had taken the test prior to disqualification. A school must not admit or readmit the applicant until the law school has received an official score report on the test. A copy of the report must be retained in the applicant's file.

5.7 Credit Allowed for Admission or Readmission after Disqualification for Academic Reasons

(A) The amount of credit that an applicant previously disqualified for academic reasons may receive for prior legal studies is subject to each of the following limitations but is otherwise discretionary:

(1) Credit may ordinarily be granted only for whole courses completed within the thirty-six calendar months prior to the date the applicant is to begin further law studies. In exceptional circumstances involving serious illness or personal tragedy, credit for studies completed more than thirty-six calendar months prior to the date the applicant begins further law studies may be awarded. The dean must approve any such award of credit and documentation of the reasons for the exception must be placed in the student's file.

(2) Credit may be granted only for courses in which the applicant received a grade at the good standing level or higher from the awarding law school. However, in the case of an applicant who has passed the First-Year Law Students' Examination, the law school may acknowledge the credit previously granted for each completed course in Torts, Criminal Law, and Contracts, even if the grade was less than would be required for good standing. There is no time limitation for awarding credit based on passing the First-Year Law Students' Examination although consideration should be given to the limitations for credit in Guideline 5.8.

(B) In no case may the number of units of credit granted by the admitting law school for any course completed at the applicant's prior law school exceed the number of units that the admitting law school awards for a course of the same number of classroom hours.

(C) No credit may be granted for work completed at a registered unaccredited law school unless the student has passed the First-Year Law Students' Examination.

If the student has passed the First-Year Law Students' Examination, then credit may be granted for Torts, Contracts and Criminal Law only if the admitting school is satisfied that the content, quality and grading standards for the course were substantially equivalent to those at the admitting school.

(D) This guideline deals only with the maximum amount of credit toward the J.D. degree that an admitting law school may grant for courses completed by a student who was disqualified for academic reasons. This guideline does not require the admitting law school to grant credit. An applicant's eligibility to take the California Bar Examination as a graduate of an accredited law school is also dependent upon the applicant meeting the residency requirement of these guidelines.

#### 5.8 Credit for Prior Study in the Absence of Prior Disqualification for Academic Reasons

(A) This guideline deals only with the maximum amount of credit toward the J.D. degree that an admitting law school may grant for courses completed at another law school by a student who was not disqualified for academic reasons. This guideline does not require the admitting law school to grant credit. Credit for prior law study may be allowed to an applicant for admission who was not previously disqualified from a law school for academic reasons on the same basis as credit is allowable under Guideline 5.7(A) to students previously disqualified for academic reasons; or at any time if the applicant qualified for an exemption from the First-Year Law Students' Examination.

(1) Credit may be allowed for law study successfully completed at another accredited law school.

(2) Credit may be allowed for law study at a registered unaccredited law school:

(a) If the student has not passed the First-Year Law Students' Examination, then no more than six semester units or the equivalent may be transferred;

(b) If the student has passed the First-Year Law Students' Examination during the first three administrations after becoming eligible to take the examination, credit may be allowed for all courses taken prior to passing.

#### 5.9 Credit for Resident Study outside the United States

Persons who have obtained a first degree in law from or studied law in a law school in a foreign state or country may qualify as general applicants for the California Bar

Examination pursuant to the terms of rule 4.30 of the Admissions Rules and the policies of the Committee.

## **Division 6. Academic Program**

### 6.1 Academic Program

A law school must maintain a qualitatively and quantitatively sound program of legal education. A law school must adopt and maintain a written plan to comply with this guideline and must submit its written plan and a yearly analysis of its effectiveness to the Committee with its annual report.

### 6.2 Criteria for Determining Compliance with Guideline 6.1

In evaluating the qualitative and quantitative soundness of a law school's program of legal education, the Committee, without regard to the order enumerated, will consider:

- (A) The content and scope of the curriculum;
- (B) The competence of the instructors with respect to their knowledge of the subject matter and their ability as teachers;
- (C) The materials used in each course, including required and recommended texts, course outlines, and syllabi;
- (D) The effectiveness of the methods of instruction used;
- (E) Admission requirements, including minimum levels of prior education, preparation, or training;
- (F) The number of students in classes;
- (G) The number of units assigned to each course;
- (H) The quality of examinations, assignments, and other student work as an indication of course coverage and as a measure of student knowledge and analytical ability;
- (I) The soundness of the grading and grading system;
- (J) The availability of adequate legal research resources, administrative, academic, and counseling services at each campus of the law school; and,

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(K) The cumulative success of the law school's graduates on the California Bar Examination over such period of years as the Committee determines is appropriate.

*Guideline 6.2, Amended effective October 15, 2016.*

### 6.3 Minimum Requirements for Award of Juris Doctor (J.D.) Degree

A law school may issue a J.D. degree only to a student who has met the following requirements:

- (A) Satisfactory completion of a course of study meeting the requirements of Guideline 6.5;
- (B) Satisfaction of the law school's scholastic and other requirements for graduation and receipt of its J.D. degree; and
- (C) Satisfaction of the legal education requirements to take the California Bar Examination although the law school is not a guarantor of the student's eligibility to take that examination.

### 6.4 Evaluation of Pre-Legal Education and Law Study Contemplated or Completed

A student or law school may submit a request to the Committee for an evaluation of the student's pre-legal education and law study contemplated or completed. The student or law school, as applicable, must use the Committee's form and pay the required fee.

### 6.5 Quantitative Academic Requirements

#### (A) Minimum Requirements for the Juris Doctor Degree; Time Requirements for Completion of Course of Study

The minimum requirement for the J.D. degree is the satisfactory completion of a course of study requiring 1,200 hours of verified academic engagement with a law school's facility and curriculum. The 1,200 hours of academic engagement must be earned through completion of no fewer than eighty semester units or their equivalent, with each semester unit requiring a minimum of 45 hours of student work, including both academic engagement and preparation, of which a minimum of 15 hours must be academic engagement verified as prescribed by these guidelines. A law school must require the course of study for the J.D. degree be completed no earlier than thirty months and no later than eighty-four months after a student has commenced law study at the law school or a law school from which the law school has accepted transfer credit.

(B) Academic Engagement

For purposes of this section, “academic engagement” includes instruction in a compliant Juris Doctor degree curriculum offered through any of the following means: (a) student attendance in a physical classroom; (b) student participation in a synchronous or asynchronous curriculum offered through distance-learning technology; (c) a combination of academic engagement offered through (a) and (b). Academic engagement may include up to 120 hours of student participation in an experiential or clinical program approved under Guideline 6.6. Final examination time, not exceeding ten percent of the total number of hours of academic engagement, may be included as academic engagement hours, and counted toward the 1,200 hour requirement.

(C) Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance in academic engagement is required. A law school must have a written policy that requires the verifiable academic engagement of each of its students. The policy must require completion of not less than eighty percent of the academic engagement in regularly scheduled class hours or not less than eighty percent of the minimum number of hours of other types of academic engagement required in each course in which the student is enrolled. The policy must also include requirements to verify student participation in an approved experiential or clinical program.

(D) Curriculum

(1) A law school requiring student attendance in a physical classroom must use either semester or quarter terms of study (regular academic term) or their equivalent as defined in Guideline 6.5(A), and may offer a summer session of not less than five weeks for semester-based law schools and three weeks for quarter-based law schools. A summer session is an academic term but not a regular academic term, except as provided in Guideline 7.3(C). Typically, a semester must be fifteen or more weeks in length and a quarter must be ten or more weeks in length. Typically, for credit earned through attendance in a physical classroom, one semester unit for a fifteen-week semester is fifteen hours of classroom instruction for one hour per week for fourteen weeks, including final examination time not greater than ten percent of the total time. Typically, one quarter unit for a ten-week quarter is ten hours of classroom instruction for one hour per week for ten weeks, including final examination time not greater than ten percent of the total time. Courses

may be offered in one or more semester or quarter units or their equivalent.

(2) For students earning credit for academic engagement through participation in an approved synchronous or asynchronous curriculum taught through distance-learning technology or by participation in an experiential or clinical program approved under Guideline 6.6, or a combination thereof, semester or their equivalent quarter units of credit may be earned during an entire calendar year as authorized by Guideline 6.5(A).

(3) One hour of classroom instruction is defined as fifty minutes of instruction.

(E) Full-time Students

In order for a full-time student to receive full credit for any academic term, the student must have been enrolled in, and receive credit for, a course of study requiring not less than ten hours of verified academic engagement each week during that academic term.

(F) Part-time Students

In order for a part-time student to receive full credit for any academic term, the student must have been enrolled in, and received credit for, a course of study requiring not less than six hours of verified academic engagement each week during that academic term.

(G) Combining Study at Accredited and Registered Unaccredited Law Schools

Students who obtain a portion of their legal education at a registered unaccredited law school and a portion at an accredited law school present a special case. Unless such students actually graduate from an accredited law school and premise their eligibility to take the California Bar Examination upon that graduation, they must meet the alternative legal educational requirements of section 6060(e)(2)(E) of the Business and Professions Code in order to be eligible to take that examination. Section 6060(e)(2)(E) requires four separate years of study in a law school (accredited or unaccredited), in each of which the student was enrolled in a course of study requiring at least 270 hours of classroom attendance. For this purpose, a “year” is any period of twelve consecutive months. Law schools allowing students to carry a lighter than usual course load during any twelve-month period should be aware of these implications, should such students ultimately seek eligibility to take the California



Bar Examination under the above four-year rule rather than as graduates of an accredited law school.

(H) Graduates of Accredited Law Schools Who Completed Portion of Legal Studies at Registered Unaccredited Law Schools

Students who complete a portion of their legal studies at a registered unaccredited law school and subsequently graduate from an accredited law school must in all events meet the Guideline 6.5(A) requirements concerning 1,200 hours of study in courses taken at both accredited and registered unaccredited law schools, in the aggregate) in order to be eligible to take the California Bar Examination as a graduate of an accredited law school.

(I) Proportionate Credit

(1) If, in any academic term, a student was not enrolled in, or failed to receive credit for, the minimum number of hours specified in Guidelines 6.5(E) or (F), the student may receive only proportionate credit for study for that academic term. The proportion is the ratio of hours enrolled or credit received to the minimum specified.

(2) If a person was a part-time student for any portion of the period of law study and a full-time student for the remaining portion of law study, the number of weeks of full-time study and three-fourths of the number of weeks of part-time study must total not less than ninety.

(J) Range of Course Load for Full-time and Part-time Students; Exceptions

In any regular academic term, a full-time student should normally be enrolled in courses requiring verified academic engagement of not more than fifteen hours or less than ten hours per week. A part-time student should normally be enrolled in courses requiring not more than ten hours or less than six hours per week. A law school may, for good cause, allow a person to enroll in courses requiring more or less hours than those specified, but in each case must enter in the student's file a memorandum stating the considerations constituting good cause. A full-time student is one who devotes substantially all working hours to the study of law. Full-time students should be encouraged not to work in excess of twenty hours per week.

(K) Required Course Books

For each course, other than special seminars, each student enrolled should be required to obtain one or more specified books. A law school must use current, recognized books or other materials in each of its courses.

(L) Course Outlines or Syllabi

Students must be furnished, prior to the beginning of each course, with a written outline or syllabus of the organization of the course and the order in which material is to be read and prepared. Course outlines and syllabi will be considered in evaluating the instructor's knowledge and organization of the material.

(M) Instructional Formats

No particular format of instruction is required and instructors may use lectures, the case method, the problem method, directed study or other techniques, alone or in any combination.

(N) Class Size

Class size must be reasonable to ensure teaching effectiveness. In determining the reasonableness of the size of any class, the following matters are considered:

- (1) For schools offering academic engagement by attendance in a physical classroom, the physical facilities and whether the room is appropriate for the number of students;
- (2) The subject matter of the course and the methods of instruction; and
- (3) The number and competence of the individual instructors when a course is offered in multiple sections.

Small classes are desirable as they facilitate greater participation by each student and a closer relationship between students and instructors. If a law school divides any course into sections, it must adopt procedures to ensure the quality of instruction across all sections of the same course and consistency in instruction, examinations, and grading.

*Guideline 6.5 amended effective May 17, 2019.*

6.6 Externship, Clinical, Law Review, and Similar Programs

If a law school has a program that permits student participation in studies or activities that are not taught by a faculty member (such as externships or clinical programs) or in a format that does not involve participation in regularly scheduled classes (such as law

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review), the time spent in such studies or activities may be included as satisfying the hours requirements of Guideline 6.5(A) if the following conditions are met:

- (A) The credit allowed must be commensurate with the time and effort expended by, and the educational benefits to, the participating student;
- (B) The studies or activities must be approved in advance;
- (C) A member of the faculty must periodically review each student's participation to ensure that the educational objectives are achieved; and
- (D) The amount of credit may not exceed forty percent of the hourly requirement for any year or more than ten percent of the total hours required for graduation.

The law school must maintain a record for each participating student, including, at a minimum, the educational objectives of the student's activity, the number of hours spent by the student participating in the activity, the amount of academic credit authorized for the activity, the name of the faculty member who conducted or reviewed the activity, the name, address, telephone number, and qualifications of each person not on the faculty who directly supervised the student's participation in the activity, the methods used to evaluate the student's performance, and all other records required under these guidelines.

### 6.7 Content of Curriculum

A law school must design its curriculum offerings, units per course, and requirements for graduation in a manner consistent with Rule 4.160(E) and Guideline 6.1. The curriculum must include the subjects tested in the California Bar Examination, although they do not have to be offered every year, and students must complete and pass a course in Professional Responsibility. All courses customarily given in the first year of a three-year program must be offered each year. Advanced courses of such a nature that one is not a prerequisite to another may, when enrollment is low, be offered on a biennial basis. At least one-half, in unit value, of all required courses must be given each year and no required course may be offered less frequently than every other year.

### 6.8 Balanced and Comprehensive Course of Study

A law school must offer a balanced and comprehensive course of study with materials presented in an organized and logical manner and sequence. The curriculum must offer students the opportunity to take elective courses.

## 6.9 Practical Skills

(A) (1) A law school must provide the opportunity for students in the J.D. degree program to complete a minimum of fifteen (15) units of practice-based skills and competency training.

(2) A law school must provide the opportunity for foreign-educated LL.M. students who are enrolled in the law school to qualify to sit for the California Bar Examination to complete a minimum of five (5) units of practice-based skills and competency training.

(3) Parts of any substantive course that are dedicated to developing skill-based competencies may be used to satisfy this requirement. Schools may record and report partial units in increments of no less than one-tenth (.10) unit.

(B) (1) For the purposes of this section, the term “units” also includes practical skills training achieved outside the classroom while working in school-approved “externship”, “internship”, “clerkship”, and “clinic” settings. In those settings, a “unit” is earned by meeting the hourly requirement that the school uses for granting credit for internships, externships, or other clinical experiences, or in the absence of a school requirement, completing a minimum of 50 hours of qualifying work as defined in subsections C through E.

(2) “Externship” or “Internship” is a school-approved placement during law school in a private, public, or nonprofit law office whether or not the applicant receives academic credit or compensation.

(3) “Clerkship” is a placement in a judge’s chambers during law school whether or not the applicant receives academic credit or compensation.

(4) “Clinic” is a course or program sponsored by the law school that provides students with a substantial lawyering experience supervised by a faculty member.

(C) Competency training must develop the concepts underlying a particular practice-based skill or subject matter, provide opportunities for individual student engagement in addition to traditional classroom discussion, provide for student feedback from a faculty member, and provide opportunities for student self-evaluation. Competency training topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) oral presentation and advocacy;

(2) interviewing and counseling;

- (3) client service, professional civility and professional responsibility;
- (4) negotiation, mediation, arbitration or other alternate dispute resolution methods;
- (5) legal research and writing;
- (6) applied legal writing such as drafting of contracts, pleadings or other legal instruments;
- (7) law practice management and law-related technology;
- (8) cultural competency and the needs of special populations;
- (9) collaboration, project management and time-management;
- (10) accounting, budgeting, bookkeeping and other financial analysis;
- (11) business strategy and market analysis;
- (12) pre-trial preparation and fact investigation, including discovery, e-discovery, motion practice, assessing evidence or utilizing experts;
- (13) trial practice skills; and
- (14) transactional practice skills.

(D) Pro bono work completed as part of a law school program or through non-classroom experience may be counted as practice-based skills competency training provided the work is consistent with the requirements of this subdivision.

(E) To qualify under this section, externships and internships must be supervised by a licensed attorney who has practiced law for at least two years and must provide the following:

- (1) an orientation session;
- (2) individualized supervision;
- (3) timely oral and written feedback;
- (4) diversity of tasks that provide the opportunity for learning skill-based competencies; and
- (5) opportunity for reflection.

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(F) The fifteen-unit practice-based skills and competency training will be phased in over three years and must be available to students enrolling in law school on the following schedule:

(1) students entering the J.D. program in the 2018-2019 academic year must be provided the opportunity to complete five units of practice-based skills and competency training;

(2) students entering the J.D. program in the 2019-2020 academic year must be provided the opportunity to complete ten units of practice-based skills and competency training; and

3) students entering the J.D. program thereafter must be provided the opportunity to complete fifteen units of practice-based skills and competency training;

(4) students entering the LL.M. degree program in the 2018-2019 academic year and thereafter, must be provided the opportunity to complete five units of practice-based skills and competency training.

*Guideline 6.9, Amended effective January 1, 2018.*

### 6.10 Student Interaction

Student interaction with faculty members and with one another is an essential component of a legal education and is critical to the development of the lawyering skills of analysis and communication. A law school must provide means for such interaction and for access to the faculty, whether through scheduled office hours, regular or electronic mail, chat rooms, or telephone contact. A law school must include student interaction with faculty in the plan required by Guideline 6.1.

### 6.11 Required Examinations; Exceptions

There must be a written examination in every course except those requiring substantial oral or written work, such as trial and appellate advocacy, legal document drafting, law office management, counseling, and negotiation. An examination must be a test of student knowledge and eligibility for advancement and it should also be an educational tool, enabling students to acquire further perspective through the process of analysis and exposition. Final exams in elective courses may consist of a final paper in lieu of a written examination.

### 6.12 Restrictions on Use of Past Examinations

A law school may use past California Bar Examination and First-Year Law Students' Examination questions as part of its examination in a course, but may not use such

questions as the sole examination in any course. Subject to compliance with the other guidelines on grading, a law school may reuse its prior examinations.

#### 6.13 Examination Formats; Evaluation of Examination Effectiveness

A law school may determine the format of examinations, e.g., long or short essay questions, short form answers, or objective testing. A law school must evaluate course examinations to determine the extent to which they test student ability and knowledge of fundamental principles and encompass the subject matter of the course. A law school must include its examination evaluation process in the plan required by Guideline 6.1.

#### 6.14 Grading Standards

A law school must adopt written grading standards that ensure accuracy, validity, reliability, and consistency in the evaluation of student performance. Each student must be graded honestly and realistically. There should be a reasonable correlation among the grades of all instructors teaching the same group of students. A wide disparity in the grades among several instructors teaching the same group of students is prima facie evidence of inadequate grading standards. Reasonableness in correlation may include due regard for variation in subject matter difficulty.

### **Division 7. Scholastic Standards**

#### 7.1 Scholastic Standards

A law school must adopt sound written scholastic standards that ensure that students who lack the capability to satisfactorily complete the law school's J.D. degree program are not allowed to continue in that program.

#### 7.2 Academic Standing, Disqualification, Advancement, Retention, and Graduation Policy

A law school must have a written policy clearly defining academic standing, academic disqualification, advancement in good standing and on probation, retention, and the requirements for graduation. The policy must contain the process used to amend the policy. A law school may not make exceptions to the policy based on individual circumstances except as required by law. The policy must be consistent with, and may not modify in any way, Guidelines 7.3 or 7.4.

#### 7.3 Advancement; Retention; Academic Disqualification

(A) Students must be evaluated for purposes of advancement and retention in accordance with Guideline 7.4. Students advanced to their next year of law study on probation must be academically disqualified if they do not meet the law school's requirements for advancement in good standing and retention at the end

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of that year. For those students placed on probation, the law school is required to provide academic support to help such students achieve and maintain good standing. The nature and scope of all such support to be provided will be determined at the discretion of the law school.

*Guideline 7.3 (A) adopted effective January 1, 2013*

(B) This guideline applies only to the advancement of a law school's own students. This guideline does not apply to students from other law schools or to a law school's own former students seeking to return following a break in the ordinary progression of their academic programs. The enrollment of students from one law school into another, and the re-enrollment of a law school's own former students following an interruption in attendance, is governed by guidelines 5.8 and 5.9.

(C) A student will be considered to have been advanced under the provisions of this guideline regardless of the procedural format utilized by the law school, so long as, in substance, there is no interruption from one regular academic term to the next in the student's eligibility to enroll, and the student does, in fact, enroll in that next regular academic term. A summer session is not considered a "regular academic term" unless attendance at that session is required of all students who are at substantially the same point in the academic program as the student being continued.

### 7.4 Evaluation of Students for Advancement and Retention

A law school must evaluate students for advancement and retention no later than the end of each year of law study preceding their final year.

### 7.5 First-Year Law Students' Examination

A student who is required to take the First-Year Law Students' Examination will not receive credit for eligibility for admission to practice law from the Committee for any law study until the student has passed that examination. Credit will be accrued consistent with the requirements contained in Section 6060 of the California Business and Professions Code and the *Admissions Rules*. A student may apply to start his or her law studies over in compliance with the Committee's Starting First-Year Law Studies Over Policy.

### 7.6 Disqualification of Students for Failure to Pass the First-Year Law Students' Examination

A student who is required to take and does not pass the First-Year Law Students' Examination within three administrations after first becoming eligible to take that



examination must be promptly disqualified from a law school's J.D. program. A student who passes the First-Year Law Students' Examination within three administrations after first becoming eligible to take it will receive credit for all legal studies completed to the time the examination is passed. A student who does not pass the examination within the three administrations after first becoming eligible to take it, but who subsequently passes it, is eligible for re-enrollment in the law school's J.D. program, but will receive credit for only one year of legal study.

#### 7.7 No Duplicate Credit for Course Repetition

A law school must not grant duplicate credit for repetition of the same or substantially the same course, whether in the same or a different law school.

#### 7.8 Written Policy on Course Repetition

A law school must adopt a written policy on course repetition. The policy must specify when a course must be repeated. The policy must state the effect of the repetition on a student's grade point average, the amount of credit earned, and the course grade, as well as the effect on disqualification, probation, advancement, and graduation. The policy must identify when a course may be repeated. The policy must state the effect the repetition will have on the student's grade point average, the amount of credit earned, and the course grade.

#### 7.9 Criteria for Evaluating Quality of Examinations and Accuracy and Reliability of Grading

A critical factor in evaluating the soundness of a law school's educational program is the quality of its examinations and the reliability of the grades given. In determining the quality and reliability of grading, the Committee will consider:

- (A) The degree of correlation among the grades of all instructors teaching the same group of students;
- (B) The independent judgment of an inspection team regarding the quality of examinations and the accuracy of grading; and
- (C) Consistency in the application of the grading standards among members of the faculty.

#### 7.10 Records

For records of admission and related reports to the Committee, a law school must separately list and report the names and number of persons admitted in each of the following categories: Regular Students with a Bachelor's Degree; Regular Students without a Bachelor's Degree; Special Students; Students Previously Disqualified for

Academic Reasons; Students with Prior Law Study without Prior Disqualification for Academic Reasons; and Auditors and Visitors, who are not to be counted as admitted students.

### 7.11 Distance-Education Credit

A law school may offer any amount of academic engagement entitled to earn credit under Guideline 6.5(A) and may do so through the use of any form of distance-learning technology approved by this Guideline.

(A) For purposes of this guideline, “distance-education” is approved and defined as any and all instruction that earns credit for academic engagement taught through any of the following technological means: any electronic, technological transmission, whether through the Internet in a synchronous or asynchronous mode, or any electronically-stored or recorded media, whether by audio or video presentation.

(B) For purposes of this guideline, students may earn credit toward the 1,200 hours of verified academic engagement, as defined by Guideline 6.5(A), using distance learning technology through any of the following: (1) participating in a synchronous class session; (2) viewing and listening to recorded classes or lectures; (3) participating in a live or recorded webinar offered by the law school; (4) participating in any synchronous or asynchronous academic assignment in any class monitored by a faculty member; (5) taking an examination, quiz or timed writing assignment; (6) completing an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction; (7) conducting legal research assigned as part of the curriculum in any class; and (8) participating in any portion of an approved clinical or experiential class or activity offered through distance learning technology.

If a law school counts other synchronous or asynchronous activities toward the 1,200-hour academic engagement requirement, such activities should be substantially similar to or exceed the listed examples in terms of the nature and scope of interaction and communication between the students and the curriculum and faculty.

(C) Law schools must verify the minimum required academic engagement for the J.D. degree delivered through distance learning technology. Law schools may comply with this requirement by either:

- (1) Establishing and documenting a curriculum requiring the minimum number of hours of academic engagement required by Guideline 6.5(A);
- or

(2) Documenting completion of the minimum number of hours of actual academic engagement by each student.

The documentation of a compliant curriculum required by subsection (C)(1) must include the intended or expected time for completion of each activity or assignment considered academic engagement, and such time must reasonably approximate the actual time required for completion of the activity or engagement. A school may establish the reliability of the time estimate by logs, time studies, research or by reference to externally documented standards.

The documentation of academic engagement by individual students permitted by subsection (C)(2) must establish the actual time spent by each student on assigned academic engagement activities. Documentation of actual academic engagement may be accomplished by technological or other means, but must include a reliable methodology for recording time actually spent by the student.

*Guideline 7.11 amended effective May 17, 2019; previously amended effective August 28, 2015.*

#### 7.12 Admission as an Auditor or Visitor

An individual may be permitted to enroll as an auditor or visitor in a limited number of courses without complying with the law school's J.D. degree program admission requirements. The law school must have a written policy to ensure that those admitted have the ability and knowledge to benefit from the course and that they will not interfere with the progress of, or be a detriment to, the regularly enrolled J.D. degree program students. Individuals permitted to enroll in courses under this guideline are not counted as law students, but should be identified as auditors or visitors on reports submitted to the Committee.

### **Division 8. Library Requirements**

*Division 8 adopted effective January 1, 2011.*

#### 8.1 Library Resources

A law school's library resources must serve the teaching, research, and other educational objectives of the law school. In preparation for admission to practice law, a law student must have the ability to perform legal research competently using both hard copy and electronic research resources. The faculty of a law school needs access to adequate legal research resources to supplement their preparation and research.

8.2 Library Content

(A) A law school's law library must contain the following law library material:

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>FORMAT REQUIREMENT</b>
<b>1. General National Materials</b>  Corpus Juris Secundum or American Jurisprudence, 2d	Hard copy or online access
<b>2. Dictionaries</b>  A legal dictionary A general dictionary	Hard copy or online access
<b>3. Annotated Reports</b>  American Law Reports – Federal American Law Reports, 4th and 5 <sup>th</sup>	Hard copy or online access
<b>4. American Law Institute Publications</b>  Model Codes, Reports and Drafts Restatements of the Law, Reports and Drafts	Hard copy or online access
<b>5. Forms of Pleading and Practice and Legal Forms</b>  California Judicial Council forms Current set of California forms Current set of Federal forms	Hard copy or online access
<b>6. Uniform Laws Annotated</b>	Hard copy or online access
<b>7. California Materials</b>  California Supreme Court case reports (official or unofficial) California Appellate Courts case reports (official or unofficial) West's Digest California Jurisprudence, 3 <sup>rd</sup> West's or Deering's Annotated Codes,	Hard copy or online access

including indices California Jury Instructions, Civil (CACI) California Jury Instructions, Criminal (CALJIC) Law Commission Reports Attorney General Opinions California Code of Regulations	
<b>8. Federal Materials</b>  United States Supreme Court cases, any set Federal Reporter, 1st through 3rd Federal Supplement Federal Rules Decisions Tax Court cases Board of Tax Appeals decisions Federal Digest Supreme Court Digest Annotated edition of U.S. Code United States Statutes at Large Code of Federal Regulations Loose leaf Tax Service	Hard copy or online access
<b>9. National Reporter System</b>  (1st to date) for all of the following: Atlantic Reporter, New York Official Reports Northeastern Reporter Northwestern Reporter Pacific Reporter Southeastern Reporter Southern Reporter Southwestern Reporter	Hard copy or online access
<b>10. Text and Treatises</b>  Encyclopedia, treatises, or current text for all bar-tested courses taught Witkin, Summary of California Law Witkin, California Procedure Witkin, California Criminal Law Witkin, California Evidence	Hard copy or online access

<b>11.Law Reviews and Journals</b>	Hard copy or online access
<b>12.Other Resources</b>  Current Law Index or Index to Legal Periodicals Local county and city ordinances Local municipal codes Legislative history-United States Code, Congressional and Administrative News (USCCAAN) Local court rules	Hard copy or online access
<b>13.Cite Checking Resources</b>  Shepard's Citation Service or Westlaw KeyCite	Hard copy or online access

(B) Whenever a school elects to maintain a set of books in lieu of online access, the requirement includes the most recent version, although it may not be listed, and reasonable access to:

- (1) All supporting materials published as part of the set, and the latest available pocket parts, supplementary and replacement volumes, and any other materials necessary to keep the set in current condition; and
- (2) All periodicals, in permanently bound form, except for the current year.

*Guideline 8.4 amended effective May 17, 2019; previously amended effective June 20, 2015 and January 31, 2013.*

### 8.3 Instruction in Legal Research

A law school must provide students with instruction in the use of both hard copy publications and electronic-based legal research to learn and perform competent research.

### 8.4 Other Law Libraries

Upon prior approval of the Committee, a law school that is located in reasonable proximity to a public, private or other law library, which contains all the mandatory requirements of Guideline 8.4, may satisfy the library requirements as set forth in

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Division 8 by filing a declaration from the dean that confirms the following:

- A) the governing authorities of any such other law library have agreed to permit the use of the library by the law school's students and faculty at no additional charge and under the same accessibility and conditions required by Guideline 8.3; and
- B) the other library contains and offers equal access to all mandatory library contents as required by Guideline 8.4.

### 8.5 Access to Online Law Library Material

A law school must provide each law student with access to the online law library material it maintains during the student's attendance. Access must be available at times convenient to students. A law school must use a reliable provider of online services and support to ensure that the students' access to the online library material is consistently available.

### 8.6 Library Records

A law school must maintain a record of expenditures for hard copy and electronic library and research materials and other legal research resources provided to students and faculty, and information on restrictions and limitations on access to library or research materials.

## **Division 9. Physical Resources**

### 9.1 Physical and Infrastructure Requirements

A law school must have physical and technological resources and an infrastructure adequate for its programs and operations. A law school should have the exclusive occupancy of an office and of classrooms, which must also be available for a reasonable time before and after class. A law school may share classroom space with another department or institution if the arrangements do not interfere with the scheduling of classes. All physical facilities must be in reasonable proximity to each other so that students have convenient access to classrooms, the library, and administrative offices. A law school must have classrooms that are sufficient for its program and adequate for their intended use.

A law school offering its curriculum by means of distance learning technology must maintain its administrative office and administer its technology platform in California. A law school must maintain and provide access to all required records, files and materials in its administrative office.

*Guideline 9.1 amended effective May 17, 2019.*

## 9.2 Administrative and Faculty Offices

A fixed facility law school must provide adequate office space for all administrative staff and faculty, giving due regard for the need for private offices for senior administrators and full-time faculty. Private offices or a faculty lounge should be provided for part-time faculty. At least one private room, suitable in size for the intended purpose, must be available for counseling students.

*Guideline 9.2 amended effective May 17, 2019.*

## 9.3 Instructional Equipment; Resources and Procedures to Address Technology-Related Problems

A law school must have and maintain instructional equipment and distance learning technology that is adequate to support its educational program. A law school must have and allocate adequate resources and create and maintain adequate procedures to promptly and effectively address technology-related problems in the delivery of its educational program.

*Guideline 9.3 amended effective May 17, 2019.*

# **Division 10. Financial Resources**

## 10.1 Financial Resources

A law school must have adequate present and anticipated financial resources:

- (A) To support its programs and operations, including all services it claims to provide;
- (B) To ensure that all students admitted to the educational program have a reasonable opportunity to complete the program and obtain degrees; and
- (C) To timely pay refunds to which students are entitled.

## 10.2 Expenditure of Assets and Funds To Provide Sound Program of Education

A law school must use its assets and funds, including tuition, fees, and other charges collected from or on behalf of students, to provide a sound program of legal education.

## 10.3 Financial Reports

If a law school submits a financial report to another accrediting agency or a governmental authority, a copy of that report must be contemporaneously provided to the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to require a law school to submit an audited financial statement prepared by an independent certified public accountant.



## **Division 11. Records and Reports**

### **11.1 Recordkeeping**

A law school must maintain complete and accurate records of its programs and operations and that are readily accessible to its administration and the Committee. A law school may keep required records in paper or electronic format, as it deems appropriate, but the law school must adopt and follow written procedures that enable it to promptly produce paper copies of the records when needed by the administration, faculty, students, and the Committee, and that protect required records from theft, destruction, corruption or other types of loss. The procedures must specify how and when written and duplicate records are to be created, maintained, stored, and retrieved if the original or primary records are lost, stolen, destroyed or corrupted.

#### **(A) Applications**

Records must be maintained for all applicants for each academic term, which include:

- (1) Name of the applicant;
- (2) Date application was received;
- (3) Law School Admission Test scores and dates taken;
- (4) Number of undergraduate units completed or degree(s) received, and law school(s) attended;
- (5) Undergraduate grade point average;
- (6) Action on the application; and
- (7) If admitted, whether the applicant registered or attended.

A law school must keep applications for at least one year from the beginning of the academic term for which the person applied.

#### **(B) Record of Admissions**

For each person who was admitted, but did not register or attend, a law school must maintain a file containing:

- (1) The application;
- (2) Official transcripts for all prelaw studies, including undergraduate and graduate degrees;

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- (3) Official transcripts of any law study at another law school;
- (4) Certification of passing an equivalency examination, when required;
- (5) Law School Admission Test Score scores and dates taken;
- (6) Letters of recommendation, if any; and
- (7) Action taken on the application. A law school must keep the files for at least one year from the beginning of the academic term for which the individual was admitted.

### (C) Student Files

For each person admitted who did register or attend, a law school must maintain a permanent file containing:

- (1) All admissions records required by Guideline 11.1(B);
- (2) Memoranda of the determinations and all supporting documentation for any accommodations accorded students with disabilities, unless a separate file has been set up for this purpose;
- (3) Memoranda of the determinations and all supporting documentation for any applications to change or correct entries on student transcripts;
- (4) If applicable, the date or dates on which the student took the First-Year Law Students' Examination and whether the student passed or failed each examination;
- (5) A record of any faculty or administrative action regarding the student's academic performance, any disciplinary action, any leave of absence or other interruption of studies, any disqualification prior to graduation, and any other matter relating to a variance between the student's course of study and the rules of the law school, the *Rules*, and these guidelines; and
- (6) Any other matters required by the *Rules* and these guidelines.

### (D) Transcripts

A law school must keep a permanent transcript for each student who was or is enrolled in any course in the law school, which must contain:

- (1) Information that clearly identifies the student;
- (2) Date of admission;

- (3) Whether the student is or is not a J.D. degree candidate;
- (4) Any credit allowed for law study at another institution, either at the time of admission or thereafter, listing law school, course or courses taken, when taken, unit credit allowed, and grades received;
- (5) All academic credit granted for courses taken at the law school and all courses in which the student registered, clearly indicating, by beginning and ending dates, academic term (semester, quarter, or summer session) and year, the courses and their unit value, credit granted and grade(s) received;
- (6) A notation of any leaves of absence granted or other interruptions in study, whether authorized or not; and
- (7) The date and nature of the final termination of studies, whether withdrawal, disqualification, transfer, graduation, or otherwise, and if graduated, the degree conferred.

A law school must adopt a written policy that provides that transcript entries may be changed only upon a showing of good cause. The policy must set forth the procedure to be followed to apply for and approve a transcript change under that standard.

(E) Class Records.

An official class record must be permanently maintained for each course or section of a course for each academic term (semester, quarter, or summer session) that shows:

- (1) Name of course, designation of section, instructor, term, and year taught;
- (2) Regularly scheduled meeting times or participatory activities;
- (3) Names of all students enrolled at the commencement of the academic term;
- (4) Date of withdrawal of each student who did not complete the course; and
- (5) Final course grades received by each student.

(F) Examinations and Grade Tabulations

A law school must maintain for inspection by the Committee:

- (1) A file of all examinations given in the last five years;
- (2) For one year, students' final examination papers (including briefs, memoranda, research papers, and videotapes of oral presentations).
- (3) If mid-term examinations are used in calculating a student's grade, those examination papers must also be maintained for one year. This retention requirement does not apply if the law school promptly returns graded original examination papers to all students and does not retain copies for its records;
- (4) A permanent record of grades on all examinations, by course;
- (5) A permanent record of course grades in all courses; and
- (6) An annual grade distribution chart, by course and instructor, for all courses.

(G) Administrative Personnel

A permanent file must be maintained for each person who is or has been an administrator of the law school, including but not limited to presidents, chief executive officers, chief financial officers, deans, associate or assistant deans, librarians and registrars. The file must contain a personal history giving undergraduate education, graduate education, and law school education, if any, with years attended and degrees conferred, the date of admission to the State Bar of California or of admission to practice law elsewhere, including any changes in status, a summary of his or her professional career, and any other information relating to the person's qualifications as an administrator.

(H) Faculty Personnel

A file must be maintained for each instructor or person who has served on the instructional staff, including teaching assistants, graders, and tutors, during the last five years. The file must contain:

- (1) A summary of undergraduate education, graduate education, if any, and law school education, with years attended and degrees conferred; the date of admission to the State Bar of California or of admission to practice law elsewhere, including any changes in status;

- (2) A description of any prior teaching experience;
- (3) A record of all courses, by academic terms and years, taught at the law school;
- (4) Evaluations made by the dean, faculty committee, students, or others;
- (5) Official transcripts of legal education; and
- (6) Evidence of current admission status with the appropriate admitting authority, if admitted to practice law in any state or jurisdiction.

(I) Faculty Minutes

A law school must maintain a file of the minutes of all meetings of the faculty and faculty committees for the last five years.

(J) Board Minutes

A law school must maintain a permanent file of the minutes of all meetings of its governing board and that board's committees.

(K) Operating Records

A law school must maintain records sufficient to prepare its Annual Compliance Report, periodic self-studies, and any other report required by the *Rules*.

(L) Catalogs, Bulletins, Brochures, Policies and Handbooks

A law school must maintain a file containing its catalogs, bulletins, brochures, policies and student and faculty handbooks for the current and previous five years.

(M) Committee Correspondence

A law school must maintain a permanent file of all correspondence to and from the Committee, including Annual Compliance Reports and other reports, all certifications, and all petitions and requests for waivers, together with any supporting materials and the action taken by the Committee.

(N) Inspections by Agencies other than the Committee

A law school must maintain a permanent file of all reports, self-studies, questionnaires, and inspection reports for accrediting or licensing agencies; Annual Compliance Reports; and similar documents relating to evaluation of the

law school. A law school must forward to the Committee a copy of any self-study or inspection report within thirty days of its issuance.

(O) Annual Compliance and Other Reports

The reports listed below must be regularly made at the time and in the manner specified by the Committee. Other reports may be required when the Committee deems them necessary to determine compliance with the *Rules* and these guidelines or to obtain information that may be helpful to the Committee in connection with the performance of its regulatory and oversight responsibilities. The Committee may extend for good cause the time for submitting any report.

(1) Annual Compliance Report

A law school must file its Annual Compliance Report in accordance with Rule 4.161. A law school must submit with its Annual Compliance Report copies of its current catalog, bulletin, brochures, advertisements, application forms, and student and faculty handbooks, as well as any other materials requested by the Committee.

2) Annual Academic Program Report

Consistent with Section 6.1 of these guidelines, a law school must update annually its written plan based on the law school's on-going assessment of its effectiveness.

**Division 12. Minimum, Cumulative Bar Examination Pass Rate**

12.1 Criteria for Determining Compliance with Accredited Law School Rule 4.160(M)

In evaluating the compliance of a law school with the accreditation standard set forth in Accredited Law School Rule 4.160(N), a law school must maintain a minimum, cumulative bar examination pass rate (MPR) of at least 40 percent for the most recent five-year reporting period. The rate will be calculated and reported annually to the Committee on or before July 1st of the year following each reporting period.

To calculate and report its MPR accurately, the law school must use the following reporting period and methodology: The "reporting period" covers the five most-recent twelve-month periods (August 1 through July 31) prior to the calendar year in which the MPR is reported to the Committee.

For purposes of MPR calculation, a "qualified taker for the reporting period" includes any student who both graduates from the law school during the reporting period, and takes any administration of the California Bar Exam (CBX) during the reporting period or the first February administration after the reporting period that was also no more than 10

administrations after the taker's graduation. A student who does not meet both requirements is not a qualified taker for the purpose of the MPR report and is not to be included in the calculation of a law school's MPR.

A law school's MPR is to be calculated as a fraction that is the sum of all qualified takers for the reporting period who passed any administration of the CBX during the reporting period or the first February administration after the reporting period that was no more than 10 administrations after the taker's graduation (the numerator) divided by the sum of all qualified takers for the reporting period who, whether they passed or failed, took any administration of the CBX during the reporting period or the first February administration after the reporting period that was also no more than 10 administrations after the taker's graduation (the denominator), with the resulting numeral being expressed as a percentage.

#### 12.2 Action Taken When a Law School is in Noncompliance with Guideline 12.1

If the Committee finds that a law school is not in compliance with this guideline, it will issue a Notice of Noncompliance pursuant to Rule 4.170.

[Starting in 2015, mandatory reports will be due by July 1 of each calendar year. An accredited law school must submit its MPR calculation using the Committee's form. The Committee may issue a Notice of Noncompliance to an accredited law school that is not in compliance with Guideline 12.1 by September 15, 2014. A law school that fails to report compliance with Guideline 12.1 in its 2016 MPR Report will be placed on probation by the Committee pursuant to Rule 4.172; a law school placed on probation that does not meet the terms of its probation by the end of 2017 will be subject to the loss of its accreditation.]

*Guidelines 12.1 & 12.2 adopted effective: January 31, 2013; amended effective January 31, 2015.*

### **Division 13. Awarding of Professional Degrees in Addition to the Juris Doctor Degree**

#### 13.1 Committee of Bar Examiners Acquiescence Required to Award Professional Law Degrees In Addition To The Juris Doctor Degree

A law school must apply to and obtain the acquiescence of the Committee to award any professional law degree in addition to the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree. As provided in rule 4.105(K) of the *Rules*, a "professional law degree" is the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.), Juris Doctor (J.D.), Masters of Law (LL.M.) or other post-graduate degree authorized by the Committee. As provided in rule 4.101(C), the *Rules* do not apply to paralegal programs, undergraduate degree programs, or other legal studies programs that do not lead to a professional degree in law. Degrees such as "Executive Juris Doctor," "Life-time Learning Juris Doctor," or similar degrees using

“Juris Doctor” or “J.D.” as part of their names are a subset of the Juris Doctor degree that do not qualify the recipients to take the California Bar Examination or qualify for admission to practice law in the State of California. Such degrees are considered professional law degrees in addition to the Juris Doctor degree for purposes of these guidelines.

13.2 Application; Requirements; Restrictions; Termination of Authority to Issue Professional Law Degrees

(A) A law school must apply for Committee acquiescence of a professional law degree program on a form approved by the Committee and provide the Committee any other information it requests to assist it in evaluating the proposal for a professional law degree program. The application must be submitted with the fee set forth in the *Schedule of Charges and Deadlines*.

(B) A law school must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee that receiving acquiescence to grant a professional law degree in addition to the Juris Doctor will not detract from the law school’s ability to maintain its Juris Doctor Degree program in compliance with the *Rules* and these guidelines.

(C) A law school must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee that its proposal complies with the curriculum and other substantive program requirements adopted by the Committee for professional law degree programs in addition to the J.D. degree.

(D) The Committee will not consider an application for acquiescence from a provisionally accredited law school or if a law school has a pending Notice of Noncompliance or is on probation.

(E) A law school must agree to maintain any authorized professional law degree program in compliance with any terms, conditions, and restrictions set by the Committee. A law school must agree that the Committee may terminate authority to issue a professional law degree previously authorized following a notice of noncompliance process substantially similar to the Notice of Noncompliance procedure set forth in Chapter 5 of the *Rules*, except that the decision of the Committee is final and Rule 4.177 does not apply.

13.3 Required Disclosures for Professional Law Degree Programs

To ensure that prospective students, applicants, and students are fully informed about the limitations of a professional law degree program other than for the J.D. degree, a law school must include the following statement, without alteration, in its course catalog and on the principal page of its website for such programs:



## *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*

“Except as provided in rule 4.30 of the *Admissions Rules* (Legal education in a foreign state or country), completion of a professional law degree program at this law school other than for the Juris Doctor degree does not qualify a student to take the California Bar Examination or satisfy the requirements for admission to practice law in California. It may not qualify a student to take the bar examination or to satisfy requirements for admission to the practice of law in any other jurisdiction. A student intending to seek admission to practice law should contact the admitting authority in the jurisdictions where the student intends to qualify to sit for the bar examination or to be admitted to practice for information regarding their legal education requirements.”

The type size of this disclosure must be at least as large as the type used in the main text of the material in which it is included.

### 13.4 Reference to Course Catalog and Website

A law school must also refer prospective students to its course catalog and website in written correspondence or electronic communications sent by the law school in response to inquiries about admission to its professional law degree programs other than for the Juris Doctor degree.

### 13.5 Acquiescence Does Not Constitute Quality Approval

Committee acquiescence in a law school's professional law degree programs other than for the Juris Doctor degree is not, and law schools must not represent it to be, approval of the quality of any such program.

## **Division 14. Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination**

### 14.1 Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination

Consistent with sound educational policy and the *Rules*, a law school must operate in accordance with policies and procedures that comply with the Constitutions and all applicable laws of both the United States and the State of California so as to provide both equal opportunity and to prohibit unlawful discrimination.

*Guideline 14.1 amended effective October 20, 2012.*

## **Division 15. Opening and Operating a Branch or Satellite Campus**

### 15.1 Branch and Satellite Campus Defined

(A) A satellite campus of a law school is a location different from that originally approved where students may complete no more than one half of the total number of units required to earn a J.D. Degree, or any other law degree that the law school is authorized by the Committee to offer. The satellite campus

designation does not include locations where periodic courses or training programs are provided by the law school.

(B) A branch campus of a law school is a location different from that originally approved where students may complete more than one half of the total number of units required to earn a J.D. degree or may graduate with that degree, or any other law degree that the law school is authorized by the Committee to offer.

#### 15.2 Application for Provisional Approval of a Branch or Satellite Campus

As a major change pursuant to Rule 4.165(B), a law school must obtain the prior approval of the Committee to open a branch or satellite campus. To apply for and receive Committee approval, a law school must do the following:

(A) No less than 180 days before the proposed first day of classes of a branch or satellite campus, the law school must provide the Committee with notice of its intention to open and operate a new branch or satellite campus. The notice must identify the type, location, name and proposed opening date of the new campus. In support of its intention to open and operate a new branch or satellite campus, the law school must provide the Committee with a comprehensive explanation for its decision to operate a new branch or satellite campus that includes: a) a narrative discussing any research or planning regarding the new campus; b) projected financial impact of the new campus on the law school; and c) proposed resources to be allocated to the new campus. The notice to the Committee must also include a certification by the Dean of the law school that, upon its opening, each proposed campus will be in substantial compliance with all relevant academic and operational requirements as set forth in the *Accredited Law School Rules* and the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*.

(B) No less than 120 days before the proposed first day of classes of the branch or satellite campus, the Committee must approve or deny the law school's proposal. Upon a finding, based upon the materials and information provided by the law school and as certified by the Dean that the proposed branch or satellite campus will be in substantial compliance as of the date of its opening, the Committee will provide its approval pursuant to the provisions of Guideline 15.3.

(C) To confirm its substantial compliance, within 90 days of the first day of classes of the branch or satellite campus, the law school must submit a report, certified by the Dean, that confirms the substantial compliance of each new branch or satellite campus.

### 15.3 Provisional Approval of a Branch Campus

(A) To receive Committee approval, a branch campus must have an administrator who is qualified under Guideline 4.1(B) and must demonstrate that the branch campus will be in substantial compliance with the *Accredited Law School Rules* and the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules* no later than 30 days prior to the opening, which is defined as the first day on which regular classes are scheduled.

(B) Pursuant Rules 4.105(D) and 4.160(H), an approved branch campus is considered to be provisionally approved until such time that the law school is able to demonstrate that the campus is in compliance with all accreditation standards and operational requirements found in the *Accredited Law School Rules* and the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*.

(C) Within two years of operating a provisionally-approved branch campus, the law school must seek confirmation by the Committee that the branch campus is in compliance with all required accreditation standards found in the *Rules* and the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*. In response, the Committee must conduct an inspection to determine whether the branch campus is to be deemed approved, continue to be provisionally approved or denied continued provisional approval.

### 15.4 Branch Campus Annual Compliance Report

The Annual Compliance Report required by Rule 4.161 must include, by separate attachment, all requested information and data relating to any approved or provisionally-approved branch campus for which the law school intends to seek approval.

*Guideline 15.1, 15.2, & 15.3 amended effective October 15, 2016.*