



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM O-408 DECEMBER 2020 COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

DATE: December 4, 2020

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Principal Program Analyst

SUBJECT: Report on 2020-2021 Educational Standards Goals

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Below is a list of proposed goals for Educational Standards for 2020-2021.

1. Maintain law school engagement by conducting meetings with the Committee on State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools (CSBARS) and the Law School Council (LSC), publishing the Law School Deans' eNewsletter, and hosting an annual Law School Assembly and Registrars' Meeting.

On December 2, 2020 the Law School Council and CSBARS will meet. On December 10, the Registrars' Meeting and Law School Assembly will take place. The next Law School Deans' e-Newsletter will be distributed in January 2020.

2. Recommend a proposal to revise the Accredited Law School Rules to: 1) create a modified "jointly accredited" status for law schools that earn accreditation from a regional accreditor and also meet specified State Bar responsibilities and disclosures; 2) ensure rules embody best practices in accreditation; 3) address requests from the Committee.

The Board of Trustees has received the Committee's recommended Accredited Law School Rules containing the elements above and circulated the rules for public comment. The CSBARS has begun a review of potential guidelines to accompany and interpret a new rule set when adopted.

3. Review petitions for registration and accreditation, as well as existing registered and accredited schools' petitions for changes.

Ongoing as received.

4. Regulate law schools by monitoring compliance through inspections, reporting, and other actions as directed by the Committee, addressing noncompliance as needed.

During this Committee year, at least seven schools will be scheduled for periodic inspection.

Three Notices of Noncompliance are under consideration for noncompliance with Rule 4.160(N), the Minimum, Cumulative Five-Year Bar Exam Passage Rate.

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

The State Bar has issued enhanced 2020 Annual Report templates collecting demographic and attrition data from both accredited law schools and registered, unaccredited law schools. The data gathered from the new templates more readily compares with data at schools approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association. Most schools returned their data by the deadline of November 16 and tabulation has begun.

6. Continue to pursue mandatory accreditation for unaccredited law schools in accordance with the Rules and Guidelines approved by the Committee of Bar Examiners and the Board of Trustees. Review the existing rules and guidelines to update them as necessary.

TBD.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF THE STATE BAR

None

AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal: None - core business operations

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee of Bar Examiners approve the report on the 2020 – 2021 Educational Standards goals set forth above.

PROPOSED MOTION

Should the Committee of Bar Examiners agree with the staff recommendations, the following motion should be made:

MOVE, that the report on the 2020 – 2021 Educational Standards goals be approved.