



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM O-404

JUNE 2021

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

DATE: June 18, 2021

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Principal Program Analyst

SUBJECT: Approval of Report on 2020-2021 Educational Standards Goals

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Below the list of 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 annual Law School Assembly and Registrars' Meetings.

The Law School Council meets next on August 18. CSBARS met on June 16 to conclude its initial feedback process related to the implementation of the accredited rules and creation of the interpretive guidelines to accompany the rules. The Law School Assembly and Registrars' Meeting will next take place via Zoom on September 28 and 29, respectively. The most recent quarterly Law School Deans' e-Newsletter was distributed in May 2021 and the next issue will be distributed in August 2021.

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 adopted the Committee's proposed Rules for Accrediting California Law Schools, effective January 1, 2022. CSBARS is providing feedback regarding potential guidelines that may be helpful when implementing the new rule set

and a proposed set of guidelines will be presented to the Board in August 2021. ([Board of Trustees' Directive, January 2019, Item 702, p.5](#))

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

Ongoing as received. Pending applications for accreditation are under consideration for Abraham Lincoln University School of Law and California School of Law.

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

Three law schools were inspected pursuant to Notices of Noncompliance with Rule 4.160(N), the Minimum, Cumulative Five-Year Bar Exam Pass Rate.

Two inspection reports have been accepted by the Committee in 2021. Six schools have inspections in progress: American Heritage University School of Law, Abraham Lincoln University School of Law, San Francisco International University, Trinity Law School, University of La Verne College of Law, and University of West Los Angeles.

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

Data analysis is in progress for this initiative. The data gathered from these 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. (Goals 4g and 4h).

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 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 2020 – 2021 Educational Standards Goals be approved.