



**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM O-409
AUGUST 2022
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

DATE: August 19, 2022

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Principal Program Analyst, Office of Admissions

SUBJECT: Approval of Report on 2021–2022 Educational Standards Goals and Accomplishments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Below is the report on the goals for Educational Standards for 2021–2022.

BACKGROUND

The report on the goals for Educational Standards for 2021 to 2022 is listed below for the approval of the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee).

1. Maintain and enhance law school engagement by conducting meetings with the Committee of State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools (CSBARS) and the Law School Council (LSC), publishing the quarterly Law School Deans' eNewsletter, and hosting annual Law School Assembly and Registrars' Meetings.
 - Annual Law School Assembly: September 29, 2022
 - Annual Registrars' Meeting: September 20, 2022
 - Quarterly Dean's eNewsletter: Next issuing September 2022
 - Law School Council: December 1, 2022; April 20, 2022; August 17, 2022
 - Committee on State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools: August 17, 2022

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

ONGOING. The Committee reviewed petitions throughout the year including three planned closures (San Francisco International University College of Law, California Southern University College of Law, Empire College School of Law teachout); the addition of one branch campus (Empire College of Law); transitions to distance education teaching models (Irvine College of Law; Pacific Coast University College of Law); name changes (Irvine University College of Law; The Colleges of Law; The University of La Verne College of Law and Government Policy); waivers to teach classes online due to the pandemic (Fixed-Facility law schools); addition or modification of non-JD programs (The Colleges of Law; University of La Verne College of Law and Government Policy).

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

ONGOING. The Committee is in the process of reviewing inspection reports for approximately one-fifth of law schools (Inspections: American Heritage University School of Law, American Institute of Law, American International School of Law, Abraham Lincoln University School of Law, American Heritage School of Law, Taft Law School, San Francisco Law School, Trinity Law School, Peoples College of Law).

4. Implement new rules for accredited law schools, effective January 1, 2022.

IMPLEMENTED. The new rules were implemented this year. Law schools have a transition period through December 31, 2023 to come into full compliance.

5. Review petitions for individual waivers related to the pandemic after the State Bar's general waiver ends on December 31, 2021.

DECEMBER 2021: Completed for remainder of 2021-2022 school year; AUGUST 2022: Hear petitions for 2022-2023 school year.

6. Review progress reports and waivers submitted with Annual Compliance Reports.

JANUARY 2022 and MARCH 2022. All progress reports have been reviewed by the Committee.

7. Begin the process of reviewing the Rules for Unaccredited Law Schools to determine whether updates are needed.

APRIL 2022: The review began in April 2022. Unaccredited guideline 1.11 is the first guideline under study.

8. Schedule a presentation with a national or regional institutional accreditor.

TBD. Delayed from August 2022 to focus on regulatory review due to a high volume of petitions.

9. Review Minimum, Cumulative Five-Year Bar Pass Rate statistics from accredited law schools for compliance.

AUGUST 2022. Reviewed on today's agenda as a separate item. Two schools have been monitored on probation, for further decision today.

10. Continue to support the State Bar's strategic initiatives related to law school diversity, retention, and performance on the Bar examination.

Gender categories and attrition tracking were added to the 2021 periodic compliance report templates returned in November 2021. The 2022 periodic reports will add sexual orientation and veteran status of students and faculty.

11. 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.

TBD

12. Presentation about non-JD programs at US law schools.

To be presented in the upcoming year. Law schools have been contacted for feedback about their current non-JD programs.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee of Bar Examiners approve the report on 2021–2022 Educational Standards goals and accomplishments as set forth above.

PROPOSED MOTION

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

MOVE, that the report on the 2021–2022 Educational Standards goals and accomplishments be approved.