

**Annual Academic Assessment Report  
Juris Doctorate Program  
University of Arkansas School of Law  
June 2024**

Report annually to the Provost & Dean of the college/school of the following:

- **Results of analysis of assessment of Student Learning Outcomes**

The School of Law received approval for its accreditation from both the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) and the American Bar Association (ABA) during this academic year. As part of that review process, several new programs benefiting students were implemented. These efforts centered on student wellness, e.g. self-care, mental health, and time management, to help with the growing number of students in crisis. Specifically, a partnership with the Psychological Clinic to provide free counseling and mental health services to law students began in January. The School of Law provides comfortable and confidential space for students to meet with psychology graduate students. Additionally, a student wellness program occurs every Wednesday providing different ways for students to engage in activities that teach the importance of wellness as critical to a work-life balance.

This academic year, the School of Law hired Christopher Jacobs as the shared financial aid advisor for the law school. He works with students advising on both scholarships, financial aid, and bar expenses as both the ABA and AALS recommended. The school adopted the NOSS scholarships systems used elsewhere on campus to facilitate timely and accurate disbursement of scholarships.

A final area of improvement is the hiring of Amber Prince as the Director of Academic Success. She works with any student, not in good standing or seeking help in studying or managing the demands of the curriculum. The School of Law continues to offer the series on professional development and identity to all first-year students and continues to monitor and address students whose performance and/or attendance is problematic through the Students of Concern Committee.

- **Bar Passage**

Consistent with the school's program goals and learning outcomes, we continue to monitor bar exam performance, and to report our graduates' bar passage rates as required by the ABA. The ABA monitors the success of our graduates on a calendar year basis over a two-year cycle (four opportunities to sit for the bar). For our 2023 graduating class of 113 graduates, 126 took the bar for the first time and 104 passed (82.54%). The 126 number includes students who deferred taking the bar in their graduating year. The Law School's bar passage rate for all of 2022 was 91% for all bar examination takers.

- **Employment Outcomes**

Relevant to all program goals and learning outcomes, we continue to monitor employment outcomes and report our graduates' placement outcomes in a manner consistent with our accreditor's approach of taking a "snapshot" at ten months post-graduation. Of the 118 members of the Class of 2023, at ten months out, 111 graduates (94%) were accounted for in one of the following categories: Bar Passage Required, J.D. Advantage, Professional positions, or Pursuing a Graduate Degree Full Time.

- **Any changes to the degree/certificate planned or made on the basis of the assessment and analysis.**

N/A

- **Any changes to the assessment process made or planned.**

The ABA Accreditation Standards now require law students to have taken professionalism and cultural competency courses in their first year and again prior to their graduation. The Curriculum Committee and faculty have created programming for the first-year students which will be provided over the course of the academic year on a variety of topics that comply with the standards. Additionally, faculty have self-identified courses that provide the coverage required by the Standards including clinic courses, some upper-level writing courses, and other seminars. The law school included this plan in its accreditation report to the ABA during the accreditation site visit.

- **Plans for 2024-2025 Academic Year**

The Law School will be celebrating its centennial year with numerous events. Additionally, the faculty will welcome five new faculty members to fill vacancies in the legal clinic and in doctrinal faculty. The Directors of Communication, Assistant Director of Development, Assistant Deans of Admissions, and Administration, positions should be filled ensuring the School of Law will have a full team to facilitate the Dean's vision for the future of the law school.