

Annual Academic Assessment Report
Juris Doctor and Law Certificate Programs
University of Arkansas School of Law
June 2020

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

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

Based on feedback from students in the Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE), we implemented a more comprehensive and coordinated student advising system. This involved recruiting and training faculty volunteers for the advising process, and pairing faculty advisers with staff from the Registrar's Office for each advising appointment. To facilitate more useful advising practices we also continue to work on longer range curriculum planning.

In addition to enhanced advising, we also created the Student Services Suite, which brought together in a single location Admissions, the Registrar's Office, Academic Excellence, Externships, the Career Services Office, and the Bar Success Program. This facilitated "one-stop-shopping" for students seeking assistance in navigating their law school career.

Bar Passage

Relevant to all program goals and learning outcomes, we continue to monitor bar exam performance and report our graduates' passage rates according to the American Bar Association's approach of monitoring calendar year graduates over a two-year cycle (four opportunities to sit for the bar). For our 2017 graduating class, 103 of the 115 graduates (89.57%) who took a bar exam passed within two years of graduation. Our pass rate for all first-time takers (all jurisdictions) was 78.26% for calendar year 2019.

Employment Outcomes

Relevant to all program goals and learning outcomes, we continue to monitor employment outcomes and report our graduates' outcomes according to the American Bar Association's approach of taking a "snapshot" at ten months after graduation. For the 104 members of the Class of 2019, at ten months out, 91 graduates (87.5%) were employed in Bar Passage Required, J.D. Advantage, Professional positions or Pursuing a Graduate Degree Full Time. Our employment rate for the Class of 2018 was 92.9% and 88.8% for the Class of 2017.

- **Any changes to 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 law faculty voted this year to move forward with a freestanding assessment mechanism in the form of a preliminary bar exam. The faculty will be voting this summer on making the exam required per faculty policy. The plan is to administer the exam in August of 2020 to both 2L and 3L students. The preliminary bar exam would provide a wealth of information to the students and faculty about our students' understanding of substantive law, as well as exam-taking strengths and weaknesses. In addition, we continue to expand our tools for intervening with at risk students.

In addition faculty is discussing administering a writing diagnostic for 3L students.

- **Plans for the 2020-21 Academic Year**

Under the direction of the Associate Dean for Student Success, the law school will develop a plan for administering a preliminary bar exam, and for analyzing the data obtained from that exam. The Associate Dean for Student Success will work with a newly established academic advising committee to continue to improve the academic advising process so that students better understand course offerings, requirements for graduation, and the relationship of coursework to career objectives.