

**Annual Academic Assessment Report  
Juris Doctorate Program  
University of Arkansas School of Law  
September 2023**

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

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

As part of the ten-year accreditation review, the School of Law's students participated in the Law School Survey of Student Engagement ([LSSSE](#)). Based on the LSSSE results, the law school engaged in new initiatives to address concerns raised. The administration also worked with staff to address various concerns raised by the American Bar Association (ABA) during its site visit. These efforts have centered on student wellness, e.g. self-care, mental health, and time management, as a means to help with the growing number of students in crisis. This is an area where all law students suggested the law school needed improvement. In addition, the school is working to finalize an agreement with the psychology department to provide onsite services. Despite that concern, students rated engagement with professors, along with placement in externships or clinics to assist in their professional goals as highly positive.

An area where both the students and the ABA recommended improvement is financial aid advising. This academic year, the School of Law is in the process of hiring a shared financial aid advisor for the law school. The school is also adopting the NOSS scholarships systems used elsewhere on campus to facilitate timely and accurate disbursement of scholarships.

Another area in which the school seeks to improve is providing tighter academic advising to second year students and ensuring that students are better prepared during registration. Finally, our students continue to self-report that they are not allocating sufficient time to studying or preparing for classes. To address this issue, in part, the law school has begun offering a 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 American Bar Association. As our accreditor, 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 2022 graduating class of 112 graduates, 94 took the bar for the first time and 77 passed (81.91%). The Law School's bar passage rate for all of 2022 was 73.86% 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 110 members of the Class of 2021, at ten months out, 89 graduates (81%) 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 under new leadership at the beginning of the next academic year as a new dean will be appointed. Additionally, the faculty will welcome four new colleagues to fill vacancies in the legal clinic and in doctrinal faculty. The Directors of Development, Communication, Academic Success, and Bar Success positions should be filled ensuring that the new dean will have a full team to facilitate their vision for the future of the law school.