

5.1 Update on Jointly Accredited Status Application



The State Bar of California

Director's Report

Audrey Ching, Director, Office of Admissions

Cody Hounanian, Program Director, Office of Admissions

Amy Nunez, Program Director, Office of Admissions

Tara Clark, Program Director, Office of Admissions

Committee of Bar Examiners, October 11, 2024



Update on Jointly Accredited Status Application

- Launched application and self-study end of July 2024.
- Digital application pilot success.
 - Staff seeking to adopt elsewhere in law school regulation work.
 - PDF copy of application and self-study attached to agenda.
- Two complete applications, one complete self-study received.
- Scheduling first inspection as part of jointly accredited status application process.



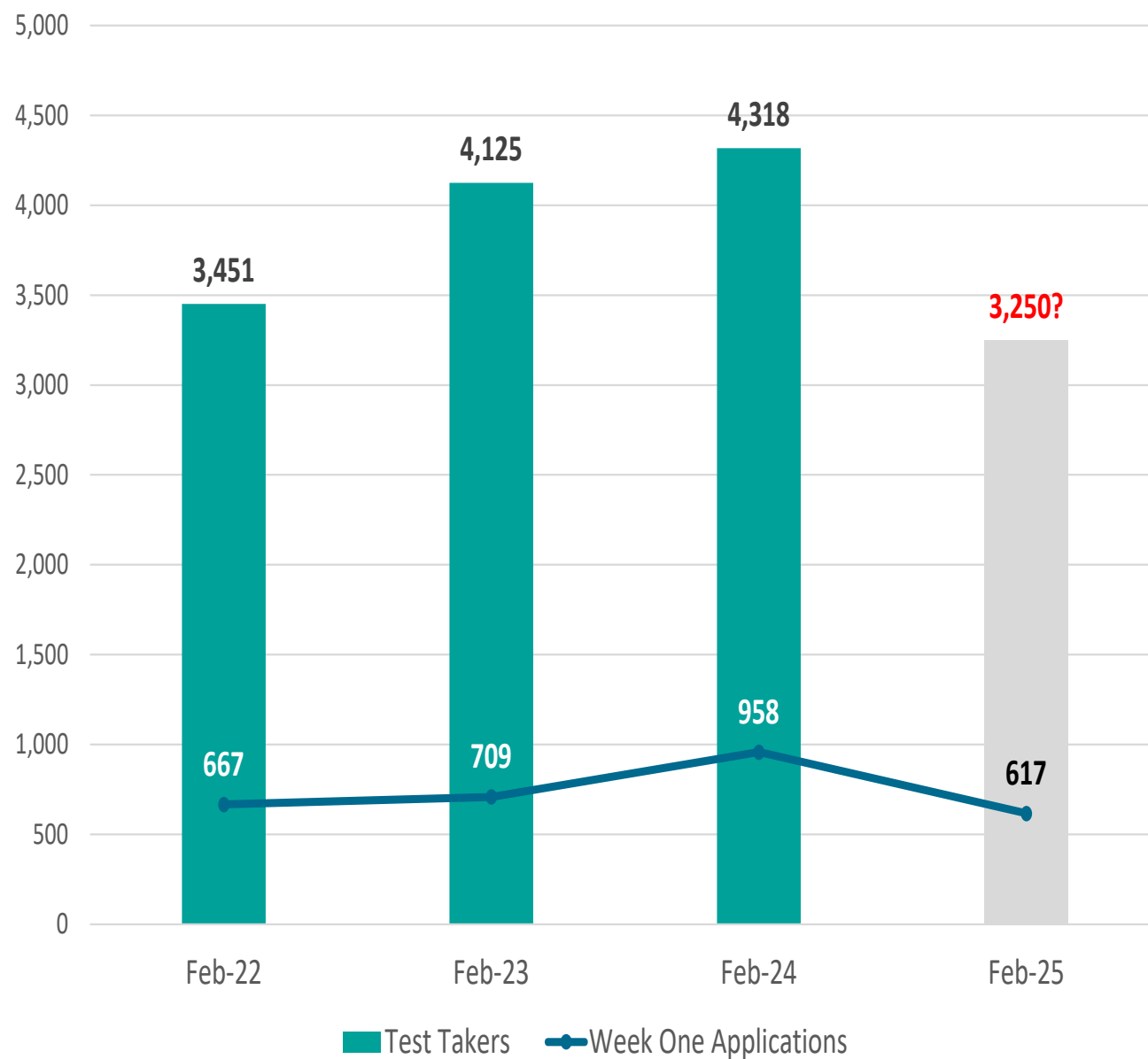


Update on 2024 Law School Annual Reports

- Annual report forms delivered to law schools on September 20.
 - Instructions
 - California Business and Professions Code 6061.7 Form
 - 2024 Annual Report Template
 - Special Addendum Data Spreadsheet
- Due November 15, 2024.
- Updated instructions in response to feedback:
 - Clarity regarding total enrollment number reported to be used for Accreditation Services Fee (replacing CALS Annual Report Fee)



Admissions Numbers: Bar Exam Week One Applications



Admissions Numbers: Programs



Registered In-House Counsel:

1,911 Active



Foreign Legal Consultant:

217 Active



Provisionally Licensed Lawyers Pathway:

210 Active



Registered Legal Aid/Military Spouse Attorney:

55/39 Active



Updates

- CSBARS and Law School Council Appointments.
- Next Committee Meeting: December 6.





Save & Return

[Log in](#)

Already started an Application Form? Use your email and password to return to your saved responses.

JOINTLY ACCREDITED STATUS APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A law school may apply for joint accreditation by the State Bar of California's Committee of Bar Examiners if the law school is fully accredited by the committee, fully approved by an accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education, and both the law school and the institution of which it is a part remain in good standing with the accreditor. The law school must comply with the requirements outlined in [Rule 4.147\(C\)](#).

The Jointly Accredited Status Application process is considered complete, and may only be presented to the committee for approval, when all of the following requirements are met:

Application Form: To initiate the application, a law school must provide basic information demonstrating eligibility for jointly accredited status and submit an application fee deposit. The law school will later be invoiced for the total time and expenses for processing the application.^[1]

Self-Study: A law school must submit a Self-Study to aid the State Bar in determining the law school's current compliance with the Accredited Law School Rules and preparing for an inspection.^[2]

Inspection: The State Bar will conduct an inspection, at the expense of the law school, to determine if the law school is in compliance with all [Accredited Law School Rules](#) and [Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules](#).^[3]

Fees and Expenses: The State Bar will use prepayments on file to cover required fees and expenses until they are exhausted, and payment will be required for any additional fees or expenses. A law school may choose to opt-out of using prepayments and submit payment separately, by responding to the relevant questions in the Application Form and Self-Study.

[1] Rule 4.148(A)(1) and the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines

[2] Rule 4.163

[3] Rules 4.144(A), 4.147(C)(1)(a), 4.148(A)(2)

JOINTLY ACCREDITED STATUS APPLICATION FORM

SECTION 1: SCHOOL INFORMATION

1. Name of law school and acronym used for internal reporting purposes *

2. Law school website URL *

3. Address of administrative headquarters *

4. Campus address (If different)

5. Addresses of additional branch campuses (If applicable)

6. Administrator in charge of accreditation matters

6a. Full name *

6b. Job title *

6c. Email address *

6d. Phone number *

7. Does the law school agree to notify the State Bar if the duties or contact information for the individual above should change no later than five business days after the change? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

SECTION 2: ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

8. Name of accreditor that currently and fully approves the law school's accreditation *

9. Date law school accreditation was last fully reaffirmed *

10. Scope of accreditation *

- ☐ Law school only
- ☐ Multiple schools within an institution
- ☐ Entire institution
- ☐ Other

10b. Attach documentation from the accreditor confirming that the law school is currently considered within the scope of the accreditor's approval using file name "SCHOOL ACRONYM_accreditor".

*(File types accepted: doc, docx, jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, ppt, xls, xlsx, and zip) **

Choose File No file chosen

11. If accreditation originally occurred within the last 10 years, attach documentation as to the original accreditation using file name "SCHOOL ACRONYM _original".

(File types supported: doc, docx, jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, ppt, xls, xlsx, and zip)

Choose File No file chosen

12. Is the law school part of an institution that holds national or regional accreditation? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

12a. Name of institution of which the law school is a part

12b. Name the accreditor that currently and fully approves the institution's accreditation

12c. Date the institution's accreditation was last fully reaffirmed

mm/dd/yyyy



13. Has the law school and/or the institution been asked or required by an accreditor to modify its practices due to receiving any of the following decisions? (Select all that apply) *

- ☐ Defer action

- ☐ Notice of concern
- ☐ Sanction (Warning, probation, order to show cause)
- ☐ Withdraw candidacy or accreditation
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other

13a. If the law school or the institution has been asked or required by an accreditor to modify its practices, please describe the current status of that matter.

▲ 3 / 4 ▼

SECTION 3: ATTESTATION AND CERTIFICATION

14. Does the law school agree to provide the State Bar timely copies of all communications with other accreditors? [4] *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

15. Does the law school agree to pay to the State Bar the required fee for processing this application as a necessary part of completing the application process? [5] *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

16. Does the law school agree to pay all expenses of the inspection, as a necessary part of completing the application process, whether or not the law school receives jointly accredited status? [6] *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

17. Are you authorized to make the agreements above and submit this application on behalf of the law school? *

- ☐ Yes

☐ No

18. The Application for Jointly Accredited Status fee requires a \$750 deposit submitted with the application. Additional fees and expenses will be billed periodically after processing. The State Bar will use prepayments on file to cover these costs until they are exhausted, and payment will be required for any additional fees or expenses. To opt-out of using prepayments and submit payment separately, check the box below.

☐ The law school prefers to opt-out of the procedure above and submit payment separately.

19. I hereby certify that the information contained in this Application form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the application process may take longer if the answers provided above are not sufficient or complete. Further, I understand that the application process will not move forward until the law school has submitted its application fees. (Write your signature below) *

clear

19a. Full name *

19b. Date *

mm/dd/yyyy



19c. Job title *

19d. Email address *

19e. Phone number *

() -

[4] 4.147(B)

[5] Rule 4.148(A)(1) and the [Schedule of Charges and Deadlines](#)

[6] 4.147(C)(1)(a)



Save & Return

[Log in](#)

Already started a Self-Study? Use your email and password to return to your saved responses.

JOINTLY ACCREDITED STATUS SELF-STUDY REQUIREMENTS

A law school applying for Jointly Accredited Status must submit a Self-Study to aid the State Bar of California's Committee of Bar Examiners in assessing the law school's compliance with the [Accredited Law School Rules](#) and [Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules](#).^[1] The Self-Study focuses on those requirements for jointly accredited schools not addressed by the initial Application Form.^[2]

[1] Rule 4.163

[2] Rule 4.147(C)(1), Rule 4.147(B), Rule 4.105(F)

▲ 1 / 2 ▼

JOINTLY ACCREDITED STATUS SELF-STUDY

RULE 4.147(C)(1)(b): Location and compliance with applicable law required by Rule 4.160(A)(1) and Rule 4.160(A)(2) and communication disclosures required by Rules 4.160(A)(3), (4), and (6)

1. Name of law school and acronym used for internal reporting purposes *

Rule 4.160(A)(2): Compliance with Laws

2. During the last ten years, has the law school, and if applicable, the institution the law school is a part of, been found to be in noncompliance or otherwise disciplined by any

federal, state, or local authority or agency, or is an investigation currently ongoing? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

2a. Describe the compliance issue and resolution in detail below *

2b. Attach documentation related to such matters using file name "SCHOOL ACROYNM_noncompliance".

(File types supported: doc, docx, jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, ppt, xls, xlsx, and zip)

Choose File No file chosen

3. During the last ten years, has the law school, and if applicable, the institution the law school is a part of, been found to be in violation of laws or regulations by its accreditor or any other entity? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

3a. Describe the issue and resolution in detail below *

3b. Attach documentation related to such matters using file name "SCHOOL ACROYNM_law".

(File types supported: doc, docx, jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, ppt, xls, xlsx, and zip)

Choose File No file chosen

4. During the last ten years, has the law school, and if applicable, the institution the law school is a part of, had a civil case brought against? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

4a. Describe the case and resolution in detail below *

4b. Attach documentation related to such matters using file name "SCHOOL ACROYNM_case".

(File types supported: doc, docx, jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, ppt, xls, xlsx, and zip)

Choose File No file chosen

Rule 4.160(A)(3): Disclosures

5. Webpage URL where a disclosure statement is currently posted as required by California Business and Professions Code section 6061.7(a) *

6. Webpage URLs where a statement of limitation on bar examination eligibility is published in the following places

6a. Website home page *

6b. Consumer information page *

6c. Application and enrollment agreement *

Rule 4.160(A)(6): Public Communications

7. Attach a copy of the law school's most recent California Business and Professions Code Section 6061.7(a) Disclosure form using file name "SCHOOL ACRONYM_disclosure".

Indicate where each of the requirements below is located on the attachment by writing the corresponding number on the page (for example, "7a" where admissions statistics are located) and by listing the page number below:

*(File types supported: doc, docx, jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, ppt, xls, xlsx, and zip) **

Choose File

No file chosen

Rule 4.160(A)(6): Public Communications *

	Attachment page number
7a. Admissions Statistics	<input type="text"/>
7b. Tuition costs and other costs of attendance information	<input type="text"/>
7c. Application and enrollment agreement	<input type="text"/>

8. Does the law school, and if applicable, the institution the law school is a part of attest that whenever the words "Accredited" or "Provisionally Accredited" appear in law school communications in relation to qualification to take the California Bar Examination or admission to the practice of law in California, they are accompanied by words clearly indicating that such accreditation is by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California, pursuant to Accredited Law School Rule 4.160(6)(B)? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

RULES 4.147(C)(1)(c)-(e): Student success standards required by Rule 4.160(B); diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and practices required by Rule 4.160(C); and practice-based skills and competencies curriculum required by Rule 4.160(D)(2)

Rule 4.160(B): Student Success

9. A law school must be able to demonstrate that it provides a JD curriculum and teaching designed to promote student success, and that it is governed, organized, and administered so as to maintain a sound program of legal education that prepares students for the legal profession and provides a reasonable opportunity to pass the California bar exam.

Describe in detail the evidence the school has available to demonstrate this specifically addressing each requirement enumerated in Rule 4.160(B)(1)-(19).

*The law school should be prepared to discuss this further during its inspection. **

Rule 4.160(B)(2): Administration

10. Dean responsible for the operation of the law school

10a. Full Name *

10b. Phone Number *

() -

10c. Email Address *

11. Administrator on each campus with experience in educational administration who graduated from a law school approved by the Council or accredited by the Committee or is admitted to practice law in the United States

	Campus location	Full name	Email address
1.			
2.			
3.			

4.

12. Registrar on each campus responsible for recordkeeping requirements

	Campus location	Full name	Email address
1.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Rules 4.160(B)(5) and 4.160(B)(10): Outcomes Assessment and Assessment of Student Learning

13. Date law school last assessed its program and course outcomes *

mm/dd/yyyy



14. Describe in detail the methods used to evaluate program and course outcomes.

*The law school should be prepared to discuss this further during its inspection. **

Rule 4.160(B)(6): Admissions

15. Webpage URL of law school's admissions webpage where a statement of JD admission requirements is published *

Rules 4.160(B)-(D), 4.160(C)(1), and 4.160(D)(2): School Policies in Student Catalog, Antidiscrimination Policy, and Practice-Based Skills and Competencies

16. Attach a copy of the law school's student catalog, handbook, or policy manual using file name "SCHOOL ACRONYM_student"

Indicate where each of the following requirements is located on the attachment by writing the corresponding number on the page (for example, "16a" where the statement of program learning outcomes is located) and by listing the page number below:

(File types supported: doc, docx, jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, ppt, xls, xlsx, and zip)

*

Choose File No file chosen

4.160(B)(3): Statement of Program Learning Outcomes *

Attachment page number

16a. Statement of knowledge, skills, and values that each program of the law school provides students.

4.160(B)(7): Transfer Credits *

Attachment page number

16b. Transfer policy with regard to the requirements under Rule 4.160(B)(7).

4.160(B)(8): FYLSX *

Attachment page number

16c. Credit policy regarding the First-Year Law Students' Examination and the requirements under Rule 4.160(B)(8).

4.160(B)(9): Retention and Disqualification *

Attachment page number

16d. Academic disqualification policy which defines the criteria for student disqualification due to a lack of capability to complete the school's JD program.

16e. Section of the academic disqualification policy that indicates how often the law school evaluates each student's capability to advance in its JD program.

4.160(B)(11): Grading *

Attachment page number

16f. Grading policy, including how the law school promotes accuracy and consistency in its grading standards.	
16g. Statement of courses that use (or don't use) pass-fail grading.	

16h. Does the law school prohibit pass-fail grading for bar-tested subjects? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4.160(B)(12)(a)-(e): Quantitative Academic Requirements *

	Attachment page number
16i. JD program description showing 80 semester units or their equivalent?	
16j. Number of months that the JD degree must be completed in, except under extraordinary circumstances.	
16k. Written policy that requires each student to complete at least 1,200 hours of verifiable academic engagement in order to complete the JD program.	

16l. Through which means does the law school allow students to meet their 80 semester units or their equivalent? (Check all that apply) *

- ☐ Student attendance in a classroom-based program
- ☐ Student participation using distance-learning technology
- ☐ Student participation in an experiential or clinical program for up to 12.5 percent of the total time required to earn a JD degree

4.160(B)(17): Academic Support *

	Attachment page number
16m. Policy or statement of academic counseling to students.	

4.160(B)(19): Statement of Student Services *

	Attachment page number
16n. Statement of services, experiences, and activities are available to students.	

4.160(C)(1): Antidiscrimination Policy *

	Attachment page number
16o. Anti-discrimination policies for faculty, staff, and students, including policies regarding sexual harassment and	

sexual assault.

4.160(D)(2): Practice-Based Skills and Competencies *

Attachment page number

16p. Explanation of JD requirement to complete a minimum of six semester units of practice-based skills and competency training course work .

▲ 4 / 5 ▼

Rules 4.160(B)(13)-(16): Faculty

17. Is at least 80 percent of the law school's faculty licensed to practice law in a United States jurisdiction, a judge of a United States Court or court of record in any jurisdiction of the United States, or a graduate of a law school approved by the Council or accredited by the Committee? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Rules 4.160(B)(13)-(16): Faculty

18. Attach a copy of the law school's faculty handbook using file name "SCHOOL ACRONYM_faculty".

Indicate where each of the following requirements is located on the attachment by writing the corresponding number on the page (for example, "18a" where the policy to inform faculty of changes in the law is located)) and by listing the page number below:

(File types supported: doc, docx, jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, ppt, xls, xlsx, and zip)

*

Choose File No file chosen

4.160(B)(14)-(16): Faculty Development, Evaluation of Faculty, and Academic Freedom *

Attachment page number

18a. Policy to inform faculty of changes in the law and ensure significant statutory changes and case law developments are included in course materials.

4.160(B)(15): Faculty Development *

Attachment page number

18b. Policy of instructor evaluation, including frequency.

18c. Academic freedom policy for faculty.

Rule 4.160(C)(2): Creating an Inclusive and Diverse Law School Environment and Experience

19. Describe in detail the policies, procedures, curricula, research, and/or outreach activities that demonstrate the law school's commitment to create an inclusive and diverse law school environment and experience.

*The law school should be prepared to discuss this further during its inspection. **

Rule 4.160(C)(3): Access/Diversity Programs and Partnerships

20. Describe in detail the policies and practices the law school has designed to ensure access, diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural competency outcomes for its students, faculty, senior administrative staff, and its academic community.

*The law school should be prepared to discuss this further during its inspection. **

Rule 4.147(C)(1)(f): Financial responsibility required by Rule 4.160(D)(3)

21. Describe in detail the safeguards that the law school uses to prevent financial fraud and other financial improprieties.

The law school should be prepared to discuss this further during its inspection. *

Rule 4.147(C)(1)(g): Curriculum required by Rule 4.160(D)(4)

22. Attach a copy of the law school's course catalog using file name "SCHOOL ACRONYM_course".

Indicate where each of the following requirements is located on the attachment by writing the corresponding number on the page (for example, "22a" where courses, subjects, and materials that satisfy the legal education requirements to take the California Bar Exam are located) and by listing the page number below:

(File types supported: doc, docx, jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, ppt, xls, xlsx, and zip)

*

Choose File

No file chosen

4.160(D)(4): Curriculum *

	Attachment page number
22a. Courses, subjects, and materials that satisfy the legal education requirements to take the California Bar Exam.	<div></div>
22b. Courses, subjects, and/or materials that contribute to students gaining knowledge of confidentiality, professionalism, ethics, and the other values enumerated in Rule 4.160(D)(4)(a).	<div></div>
22c. Courses, subjects, and/or materials that contribute to students gaining knowledge of process and skills for legal research and writing.	<div></div>
22d. Course in Professional Responsibility.	<div></div>

23. The Self-Study fee requires a \$750 deposit submitted with the Self-Study. Additional fees and expenses will be billed periodically after processing. The State Bar will use prepayments on file to cover these costs until they are exhausted, and payment will be required for any additional fees or expenses. To opt-out of using prepayments and submit payment separately, check the box below.

☐ The law school prefers to opt-out of the credit procedure above and submit payment separately.

24. I hereby certify that the information contained in this Self-Study is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the length of the application process is partly determinate by the comprehensive nature of the information provided above and that staff may require additional information from the law school ahead of the inspection. *

[clear](#)

24a. Full name *

24b. Date *

mm/dd/yyyy



24c. Job title *

24d. Email address *

24e. Phone number *

(____) ____ - ____