



# ABA STANDARDS AND ADMISSIONS REGULATIONS REFORM

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# New ABA Experiential Requirement

- In August 2014, the ABA adopted changes to the Standards, including 303 (a)(3) which will require that students complete six credit hours of experiential course work (2016-17 entering class).
- 303(a)(3) one or more experiential course(s) totaling at least six credit hours. An experiential course must be a simulation course, a law clinic, or a field placement. To satisfy this requirement, a course must be primarily experiential in nature and must:
  - (i) integrate doctrine, theory, skills, and legal ethics, and engage students in performance of one or more of the professional skills identified in Standard 302;
  - (ii) develop the concepts underlying the professional skills being taught;
  - (iii) provide multiple opportunities for performance; and
  - (iv) provide opportunities for self-evaluation.

## **Standard 304. SIMULATION COURSES AND LAW CLINICS**

- **(a) A simulation course provides substantial experience not involving an actual client, that**
  - **(1) is reasonably similar to the experience of a lawyer advising or representing a client or engaging in other lawyering tasks in a set of facts and circumstances devised or adopted by a faculty member, and**
  - **(2) includes the following:**
    - **(i) direct supervision of the student's performance by the faculty member;**
    - **(ii) opportunities for performance, feedback from a faculty member, and self-evaluation; and**
    - **(iii) a classroom instructional component.**
- **(b) A law clinic provides substantial lawyering experience that**
  - **(1) involves one or more actual clients, and**
  - **(2) includes the following:**
    - **(i) advising or representing a client;**
    - **(ii) direct supervision of the student's performance by a faculty member;**
    - **(iii) opportunities for performance, feedback from a faculty member, and self-evaluation; and**
    - **(iv) a classroom instructional component.**

# Standard 305 Field Placements

- **(e) A field placement program shall include:**
  - **(1) a clear statement of its goals and methods, and a demonstrated relationship between those goals and methods and the program in operation;**
  - **(2) adequate instructional resources, including faculty teaching in and supervising the program who devote the requisite time and attention to satisfy program goals and are sufficiently available to students;**
  - **(3) a clearly articulated method of evaluating each student's academic performance involving both a faculty member and the site supervisor;**
  - **(4) a method for selecting, training, evaluating, and communicating with site supervisors;**
  - **(5) for field placements that award three or more credit hours, regular contact between the faculty supervisor or law school administrator and the site supervisor to assure the quality of the student educational experience, including the appropriateness of the supervision and the student work;**
  - **(6) a requirement that each student has successfully completed instruction equivalent to 28 credit hours toward the J.D. degree before participation in the field placement program; and**
  - **(7) opportunities for student reflection on their field placement experience, through a seminar, regularly scheduled tutorials, or other means of guided reflection. Where a student may earn three or more credit hours in a field placement program, the opportunity for student reflection must be provided contemporaneously.**

# TFARR Proposed Admission Requirements

- Pre-Admission: 15 Credit Hours of Practice-Based Professional Competency Training in Law School/ Apprenticeship Option
- Pre-/Post-Admission: Provision of 50 Hours Pro Bono/ Reduced-Fee Legal Services
- Post-Admission: 10 Hours Competency Training MCLE (4 units of applied ethics, 6 units of basic skills)

# 15 credit hours of experiential coursework designed to foster development of practice-based professional competencies

- Qualifying courses must:
  - develop the concepts underlying the practice competencies
  - provide opportunities for performance by each student
  - provide for individualized student feedback from a faculty member
  - provide opportunities for student self-evaluation
- Coheres with “ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools”
- Portions of courses count, but no less than .5 unit; (50 hours = 1 unit)
- Applicants strongly encouraged to meet a portion of the units by taking a law clinic or externship
- Applicants to provide a certificate from the law school or syllabi