

Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis

2010-2011 PRAC Annual Report on Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Accreditation

Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis (IU-I), while a part of the IUPUI campus and thus included in the campus requirements for accreditation under the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission (NCA HLC), is also subject to accreditation by the American Bar Association (ABA). The ABA conducts a full sabbatical site evaluation every seven (7) years. Additionally, every law school is required to complete a comprehensive Annual Questionnaire to ensure continued compliance with accrediting Standards. IU-I's last site visit by the ABA was in October 2009. Notification of full reaccreditation was received on 11 May 2011. (For additional information about the ABA accreditation process, please visit http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/misc/legal_education/2010_a_ba_accrreditation_brochure.authcheckdam.pdf.)

Student Learning Outcomes

At this time, the ABA Standards do not include student learning outcomes (SLOs) as assessment has been input-based rather than outcome-based, but this is changing. SLOs have been contemplated for inclusion for several years and are expected to become part of the Standards once final drafting and adaptation has occurred.

While the ABA Standards do not require SLOs, the NCA HLC is placing an increasing emphasis on them. To that end, IU-I, along with each credential granting program at IUPUI, defined explicit SLOs in 2011. IU-I offers three professional degrees: the J.D., LL.M., and S.J.D. degrees; SLOs were developed for each:

Students who graduate with a J.D. degree will:

1. Identify and apply fundamental principles of Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, Torts and Constitutional Law.
2. Communicate effectively with clients, decision-makers, and a range of other stakeholders in the legal system.
3. Apply strategies for identifying, analyzing, researching and solving legal problems.
4. Analyze a self-selected topic of interest in the law and write a substantial research paper on said topic.
5. Recognize and resolve ethical issues in light of the history, traditions and responsibilities of the American legal profession and its members.
6. Demonstrate mastery of at least one (1) professional skill generally regarded as necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession.

Students who graduate with an LL.M. degree will:

1. Identify and apply fundamental principles of their selected specialty track of study.
2. Apply strategies for identifying, analyzing, researching and solving legal problems.
3. Analyze a topic in the law related to their selected specialty track of study and write a substantial research paper of publishable quality on said topic (if required by the track of study).

Students who graduation with an S.J.D. degree will:

1. Compose and defend a dissertation of publishable quality that constitutes an original and substantial scholarly contribution of the areas of law in which it is written.

As things progress on the ABA SLO front, IU-I administration expects that the aforementioned SLOs will likely change to meet ABA reaccreditation standards.

Student Learning Outcome Measurement

At present, the SLOs for the J.D. degree are measured in two cumulative ways: Indiana bar passage rates and employment statistics.

Indiana bar passage rates (most recent data available)*

Date	IU-I Candidates	IU-I # Passing	IU-I Pass Rate
July 2010	240	191	80%
February 2011	76	52	68%

** These figures subject to change following the review of failing applicants' appeals.*

While the February pass rate appears low, these results are historically lower than the July scores. IU-I's bar passage rates continue to meet or exceed ABA accreditation standards for bar passage rates.

It is important to note that the bar exam results are a single part of the licensing process adopted by the Indiana Supreme Court, which also requires an applicant to pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) and graduate from law school.

Employment statistics

Our SLOs can also be measured by our employment statistics. Employment status (within 9 months of graduation) for the 284 of the 298 graduates from the class of 2010 (December 2009, May 2010 and August 2010 degree certifications) who reported their status are as follows:

- 92% employed
- 1% enrolled in a full-time degree program
- 7% unemployed

Improvement of Processes Supporting Student Learning

In January 2010, IU-I added the new position of associate director for student affairs to its ranks. The staff person in this position is responsible for providing academic advising to our J.D. students, providing academic success workshops to all students, and providing workshops designed to help students pass the bar exam. Prior to the addition of this position, the law school did not have a designated administrative staff person to provide these types of services to our students.