Standard 507. STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS

A law school shall demonstrate reasonable steps to minimize student loan defaults, including provision of debt counseling at the inception of a student’s loan obligations and again before graduation.

Interpretation 507-1

The student loan default rates of a law school’s graduates, including any results of financial or compliance audits and reviews, are relevant in assessing the extent to which a law school complies with this Standard.

Interpretation 507-2

For a law school not affiliated with a university, the school’s student loan cohort default rate is sufficient if it is not greater than 10% for any of the three most recently published annual cohort default rates. Failure to comply with Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, or having a student loan cohort default rate greater than the rate permitted by Title IV is cause for review of a law school’s compliance with the Standards. A school shall demonstrate that it has resolved all areas of deficiency identified in financial or compliance audits, program reviews, or other information provided by the United States Department of Education.

Interpretation 507-3

A law school has complied with this Standard if the university of which the law school is a part takes the steps described in this Standard.

Standard 508. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

A law school shall provide all its students, regardless of enrollment or scheduling option, with basic student services, including maintenance of accurate student records, academic advising and counseling, financial aid and debt counseling, and career counseling to assist students in making sound career choices and obtaining employment. If a law school does not provide these student services directly, it shall demonstrate that its students have reasonable access to such services from the university of which it is a part or from other sources.

Standard 509. REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

(a) All information that a law school reports, publicizes, or distributes shall be complete, accurate and not misleading to a reasonable law school student or applicant. A law school shall use due diligence in obtaining and verifying such information. Violations of these obligations may result in sanctions under Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools.

(b) A law school shall publicly disclose on its website, in the form and manner and for the time frame designated by the Council, the following information:

(1) admissions data;
(2) tuition and fees, living costs, and financial aid;
(3) conditional scholarships;
(4) enrollment data, including academic, transfer, and other attrition;
(5) numbers of full-time and part-time faculty, professional librarians, and administrators;
(6) class sizes for first-year and upper-class courses; number of seminar, clinical and co-curricular offerings;
(7) employment outcomes; and
(8) bar passage data.

(c) A law school shall publicly disclose on its website, in a readable and comprehensive manner, the following information on a current basis:

(1) refund policies;
(2) curricular offerings, academic calendar, and academic requirements; and
(3) policies regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution of higher education. The law school’s transfer of credit policies must include, at a minimum:

   (i) A statement of the criteria established by the law school regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution; and
   (ii) A list of institutions, if any, with which the law school has established an articulation agreement.

(d) A law school shall distribute the data required under Standard 509(b)(3) to all applicants being offered conditional scholarships at the time the scholarship offer is extended.

(e) If a law school makes a public disclosure of its status as a law school approved by the Council, it shall do so accurately and shall include the name and contact information of the Council.

Interpretation 509-1
Current curricular offerings, for the purposes of Standard 509(c), are only those courses offered in the current and past two academic years.

Interpretation 509-2
A law school may publicize or distribute information in addition to that required by this Standard, including, without limitation, the employment outcomes of its graduates, so long as such information complies with the requirements of subsection (a).

Interpretation 509-3
A conditional scholarship is any financial aid award, the retention of which is dependent upon the student maintaining a minimum grade point average or class standing, other than that ordinarily required to remain in good academic standing.

Interpretation 509-4
Articulation Agreement means a formal written agreement between a law school and another accredited university or institution providing for the transfer of defined academic credits between the parties to the agreement.