College of Law Academic Support Programs

The College of Law offers a comprehensive Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program. The Program provides resources to develop and enhance critical skills needed for success during law school and on the bar examination. The Program's resources for students include workshops, seminars, practice exams, counseling, and an interactive library. For detailed information, please see the following documents attached to this email message:

1) Academic Success & Bar Prep Program brochure
2) Memo to Dean LeRoy Pernell from Program Director Edward Parson

How does the institution ensure support services and programs are adequate and appropriate to the needs of the faculty and students?

One of the assessment tools is an evaluation form that ranks presenters on subject matter knowledge, preparation, and ability to convey information. In addition, Program staff members meet with students individually and in small groups. In those settings, the staff gathers information on program effectiveness via conversations with students regarding their academic and bar preparation needs and how the Program is meeting those needs. The Program also tracks students' progress to gauge whether or not they have improved their writing and analytical skills. Assessment is used in various ways to improve the program. For example, as a result of program evaluation, the Director plans to offer additional workshops focused on writing skills.

How does the institution ensure that students and faculty have knowledge of and access to academic support programs?

- Academic Success and Bar Prep web page, currently under construction
- Electronic Information Center through TWEN (The West Education Network)
- Academic Success & Bar Prep Program brochure
- The Record
- Posted notices and announcements

Frequency of usage of academic support services

As of July 2008:
- Workshops, seminars, practice exams and counseling – student contact = 2,134
- Interactive Library use by students – 418 checkouts
- Interactive Library checkout by faculty – 9 faculty members
College of Law Faculty Enrichment Programs

Faculty development and enrichment are within the purview of the Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, a newly created position at the College of Law. The Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development is charged with promoting excellence in scholarship and teaching, facilitating and coordinating scholarly activities, and publicizing the scholarly activities of the faculty. The Associate Dean's role in developing faculty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Reviewing with the Dean the individual annual scholarship agenda for each tenure-track faculty member
- Reviewing and recommending to the Dean funding requests for summer research grants
- Developing and overseeing working groups and workshops within the College of Law faculty designed to encourage and promote works-in-progress. Such groups may include: a monthly works-in-progress discussion group for faculty currently involved with works in progress, a faculty workshop series for the entire faculty to hear more detailed presentations of works previously discussed in the monthly groups, a scholarship exchange program designed for FAMU faculty to hear presentations from law faculty at other law schools while at the same time encouraging presentation of FAMU law faculty work to other law schools
- Coordinating the gathering and sharing of information and announcements concerning faculty scholarship accomplishments
- Coordinating annual workshops for faculty on teaching methodology and grading
- Working with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Dean to develop and implement a training manual and assessment tool for Adjunct faculty

How does the institution ensure that faculty members have knowledge of and access to the enrichment and development programs?

The faculty development programs are new, being offered for the first time in 2008-2009. The new Associate Dean, a nationally known scholar and administrator, was hired with enthusiastic faculty support. Faculty members are looking forward to working with him.

The Associate Dean will hold individual sessions with each faculty member during July and August 2008. Later in the year, the Associate Dean will supplement the individual sessions by conducting a group faculty retreat. Using email, faculty meetings, and other methods of communication, the Offices of Academic Affairs and Faculty Research and Development will keep faculty members informed about faculty development resources and activities throughout the year.

Frequency of Usage

Since the programs are new, there is no data on frequency of usage. However, as the list of initiatives indicates, the College of Law is committed to a continuous, ongoing program of faculty development and enrichment, with robust faculty participation.
THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM
The Academic Success Program is an integral part of the College of Law's commitment to provide all students the opportunity to succeed at FAMU College of Law.

The Academic Success Program is a collaborative effort involving law school administration, faculty and students with the goal of assisting students in developing and enhancing the critical skills necessary for academic success in law school. The Program's structured focus is on recognizing the importance of writing as a tool for thinking and its practical application will make students aware of the intimate relationship between legal reasoning and legal writing. This program will offer a curriculum for day and evening students.

MISSION STATEMENT
To provide a law program with high academic standards that produces excellent legal professionals who demonstrate professionalism, provide public service, enhance justice and promote scholarship; to provide a program that offers both full-time and part-time learning opportunities to students and consistent with the enabling legislation, to increase representation of minorities within the legal profession.
Mission Statement

The Office of Academic Success and Bar Preparation is dedicated to serving as a Resource Center during the law student's entire career. Its mission is to enhance the necessary skills and tools, through disciplined study and professional development, to ensure academic and professional success.

A&A Standard 301
• Critical thinking
• Analytical skills
• Legal writing
• Time management
• Outlining
• Exam taking tips
• Professionalism
• Bar Preparation
• Lawyering Skills

About our Director

Director Parson comes to us from the University of Wisconsin School of Law, where he was a faculty member teaching Legal Writing, Advanced Legal Writing and Research, and Bar Prep workshops for foreign attorneys and Asian LLM students intending to practice law in the United States. He is a former Assistant Attorney General, Solicitor General, and Administration Law Judge. His scholarship concentration is in the areas of constitutional critical reasoning, voting race neutrality and the emerging issues regarding jury reform and practices.

Most recently, Director Parson was published in the Wayne State University Law School, "The Journal of Law in Society," Vol. 8, Summer 2007, pages 75-104. The article, "The Persistence of Racial Bias in Voting: Voter ID, The New Battleground for Pretextual Race Neutrality" was cited in an amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court on the Indiana Voter ID case recently heard by the Court. As a noted scholar on the issue of jury reform, Director Parson will speak and be a panelist at the 17th Annual Northern Illinois Law Review Symposium, "The Modern American Jury," to be held in early April 2008 at the Northern Illinois University School of Law. As part of his participation on race-based preemptory strikes, his article, "Black Striking: The Cultural Strike Zone and the Modern Manifestation on the Jury System and the Effect of Race Based Preemptory Challenges" will be published in the NIU Law Review Journal Summer 2008 Symposium edition. Director Parson is also completing a legal text book on "Full Citizenship."
Program Orientation for Incoming 1L Students

This program, for all incoming students, provides a broad overview of topics critical to new law students, which includes the basic skills necessary to succeed in law school.

Alumni Mentoring Program

In this pilot program, first year students may choose to be matched with a FAMU College of Law alumni, who will provide support, advice, and guidance as the student navigates through law school.

Tracking for Success Student Program

This program is designed to track each student's progress within the designated program to measure ways to continue to develop the student's analytical and writing skills. More importantly, the tracking method will be used to evaluate how the program can meet the necessary needs of each student.

Academic Success Library

The Academic Success library offers students the opportunity to check out practice questions, sample essays, commercial outlines and other materials that will be beneficial to their academic and bar preparation success.

Program Methodology

Critical thinking is designed to achieve an understanding of the relationship of language to logic, which should lead to the ability to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas, to reason inductively and deductively, and to reach factual or judgmental conclusions based on sound inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief. Critical thinking is a paramount requirement for evaluative pedagogical analysis. The objective is to inculcate in students the habit of rigorous writing as well as the practice of assessing and revising their own ideas and approaches to new information. Students should apply critical thinking and reasoning skills to the application of writing analytically. Critical thinking allows students to advocate their ideas with logical force connecting human discourse, both oral and written.

-Director Pearson

Electronic Information Center

The electronic information center provides students access to information about the Academic Success & Bar Prep Program through TWEN and The Record. A student can retrieve information about workshops, events, practice exams, and overall information about the program.

In order to access TWEN, students should:

- login to their account at www.lawschool.westlaw.com
- add the Academic Success & Bar Prep course
- access information from the program and interact with participants and the Director of the program
Teaching Assistants
The teaching assistants will help 1Ls in case reading, note taking, and exam preparation.

Analytical Skills Workshops
These workshops will be offered weekly. The focus areas will be study skills, legal analysis and exam preparation strategies. The workshops are participatory, engaging students in their own learning process.

Topic Workshops
Topic Workshops will be conducted in areas such as: case reading and briefing, course outlining, taking exams, time management and several doctrinal topics.

Summer Program
The Academic Success Summer Program is designed to introduce students who have shown academic promise but require additional preparation before their first year at FAMU College of Law. The program will emphasize an entirely new learning experience. The program's curriculum will include: legal writing, legal reasoning and critical thinking techniques, by and through a doctrinal subject. The instructional delivery will be done by staff and 3L teaching assistants/teaching fellows. Students also will attend sessions on time management, study skills and legal vocabulary. The goal of the program is to familiarize students with the stringent demands of law school so that they can prepare for their first year.

Instructional Services and Writing Clinics
This program will allow one on one or small groups in the areas of writing, sentence structure, grammar and blending the law with the facts. The individual conferences will be tailored to the student's learning style and is a confidential place to address questions of organization, structure and increased readability.

Individualized Instructional Services (IIS)
The Individualized Instructional Services (IIS) provides additional instructions for law students tailored to their learning style.

Tutorial and Instructional Delivery Student-to-Student Program
This program will allow tutors to provide one on one tutoring, and or small group workshops, on a variety of subjects. Tutoring will be available for day and evening students. This one on one program will be strictly supervised and monitored for effectiveness by the Director of Academic Success and Bar Prep. Prior to any tutorial sessions, each tutor must attend several mandatory subject-matter training sessions conducted by the Director.
BAR Preparation and fundamental lawyering skills

In conjunction with the Bar Preparation Program, a fundamental lawyering skills program will also be added. This section will offer a collaborative, multifaceted curriculum that engages students in critical thinking about work in the law. It will allow students an opportunity to broaden and deepen their understanding of legal concepts on their journey to preparing for the bar examination. Emphasis will be placed on interactive small group learning. The study of lawyering skills is especially valuable in legal education and bar preparation. Law, and or, studying for a bar examination cannot be understood fully without a sense of the processes by which it is constructed and interpreted.

The Evaluation BAR Examination (EBE)

An evaluation bar examination will be given in early April of each year. It is designed to improve the FAMU College of Law bar exam pass rate. This is a two day exam covering Florida essays and all MBE subjects.

BAR Review Interactive Workshops

These workshops will allow students full participation on all essays and MBE questions.

Writing for the BAR

This workshop will focus on essay writing for any bar examination.

WORKSHOP CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class preparation, note-taking, time management, speed reading and comprehension</th>
<th>Learning Styles: one size does not fit all</th>
<th>Outlining/Preparing for finals</th>
<th>Tips for essay exams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARCH (See TWEN page and the Record for specific dates and times)</td>
<td>Bar prep Essay &amp; MBE Tips for multiple choice exams Core Courses Contracts Civil Procedure Professionailsm Making the most of finals week (Review)</td>
<td>Essay writing for core courses Tips for review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAMU COLLEGE OF LAW • 201 BEGGS AVENUE • ORLANDO, FL 32801 • 407.254.FAMU
TO: Dean Pernell
FROM: Director Parson
RE: THE SUMMER BAR ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR JULY 2008 BAR EXAM TAKERS

PURPOSE

This program is designed to allow FAMU students taking the July Bar Exam to work one on one with volunteer lawyers on bar examination essay writing techniques. The Program’s purpose is to allow FAMU students preparing for the bar to improve their essay writing and bar examination writing skills. Students taking the July bar examination and participating in the program will gain a gradual head start in their overall preparation — not just by increasing the total amount of time spent studying and writing essay questions, but also by making their preparation less stressful and more manageable. The Program’s time and schedule will not conflict with any commercial bar schedule.

LAW SCHOOL SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

The Director of Academic Success and Bar Prep will be available to all FAMU Bar takers who have questions or need guidance on any bar exam related matter.

STATISTICAL INDICATORS

Statistics from bar exams show that law school GPA’s is a reliable indicator of bar examination performance. This does not mean that any particular student with middle-of-the-road to poor grades is necessarily going to fail the bar exam, but it does mean that, as a statistical matter, those students in the bottom 30% of the class stand a greater risk of failing the exam the first time they take it. FAMU College of Law by administration statistics should actively encourage this target group to participate in this program. Those at risk students must understand the importance of the program and how participation increases their chances of passing the bar.
STRUCTURE/DESIGN

The Program will be structured in the following manner: students will be paired one on one with local lawyers from the Florida Women Law Association. The sessions will be administered by the academic success program with real bar examination questions being critiqued by the volunteer lawyer with written and oral feedback. A mandatory training workshop will be required for all volunteer attorneys prior to working with any student one on one to ensure the proper essay writing rubric. The workshop will be conducted by the director of academic success and bar prep with emphasis placed on proper written comments and feedback. Teaching assistants will also be involved in administering and proctoring all examinations. Each student will be required to write two bar examination essays per week. The program will begin on May 19th and end one week prior to the bar exam.

VOLUNTEER LAWYER'S DUTIES

Each volunteer lawyer will give comments on each student's ability to write a proper essay. Each volunteer lawyer will attend a weekly session held on Saturdays, where essay writing exams will be administered. After the students write an essay, the volunteer lawyers will review the essay and give each student individual feedback, pointing out the areas where they need improvement and reinforcing their strong areas. Critical, as well as, positive feedback will be emphasized. Over the course of ten weeks, each student's progress will be documented and tracked.

ESSAY WRITING RUBRIC

Structure
Knowing the Law
Transition
Grammar
Issue Spotting
Legal Analysis
Timing
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Program is to help all participants improve their essay writing, thereby increasing their effectiveness in passing the bar. Moreover, increasing their reading comprehension skills and issue spotting techniques.

TRACKING AND ASSESSMENT

The Program will track the progress of each participant to determine whether they have improved or not in their writing. Tracking will be an important asset of the Program and will gauge its effectiveness. Each category under the essay writing rubric will be weighted equally and every student's writing skills will be assessed and given a score in each category, thereby, tabulated over the course of the Program.

RESULTS

The Program will be administered in a way not to conflict with students enrolled in a commercial bar course from May through the end of July. The evaluation of all bar exams will be conducted on Saturday or Sunday. The operative results will be the passing of the essay portion of the bar.
The following questions are designed to find out what you think about some of the services provided. The findings will be treated confidentially and used to improve the quality of service that we provide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I am aware of the College's Strategic Plan targets relating to Student Finance.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The funding literature for students is clear and easy to understand.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Student Centre team provides an excellent service to students.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>I have the required skills to meet the support needs of students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I have access to current procedures and polices relating to student finance.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>I am familiar with the Student Centre's Operational Plan and content.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>All team members make a valuable contribution to the Student Centre team.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The skills base of the Student Services teams reflects the variety of roles they undertake.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>I feel that my contribution to the Student Services Team is valued.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>There are sufficient staff available to cover the requirements of the Service.</td>
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<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Student Centre layout is welcoming and user friendly for student and staff usage.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>All Student Centre team members respond to requests for information and assistance in a positive and courteous manner.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>I am clear about my role within the Student Centre team.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>A quality culture with customer focus exists within the whole team.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you very much for completing this questionnaire. Your comments are much appreciated.