



THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

REMOVING STIGMA FROM MANDATORY ACADEMIC SUPPORT COUNSELING AND COURSES



INTRODUCTIONS



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EXERCISE #1





HISTORY OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT



THE EVOLUTION OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- 1960s
 - 1st admission programs for minorities (non-minority students asserted minorities admitted on less demanding standards)
 - Harvard University Law School launches summer law program (HBCUs)
 - ABA spearheads development of CLEO
 - Inception of affirmative action programs
- 1970s
 - *University of California v. Bakke*, Supreme Court (race admission factor)
- 1980s
 - Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) develops *Access 2000* (emergence of academic support conferences)
 - LSAC Committee on Minority Affairs promoted and helped developed ASP programs across the country

THE EVOLUTION OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- 1990s
 - LSAC hosted a five-day *Academic Assistance Training Workshop* at the University of Colorado School of Law in Boulder, CO
 - CLEO loses all federal funding for summer institutes and student stipends
 - AALS creates a section on academic support
 - *Hopwood v. Texas* (first successful legal challenge to affirmative action)
 - Congress passes Higher Education Amendment Act (HEAA), included funding for CLEO
 - CLEO rebranded Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program
- 2000s-Present
 - *Grutter v. Bollinger* (diversity is a legal rationale for affirmative action)
 - *Fisher v. Texas* (race-conscious admissions lawful under the equal protection clause)
 - Legal profession experiencing seismic declines in bar passage rates across the U.S.
 - Law schools placing heightened focus on ASP programming

ACADEMIC SUPPORT TODAY

- Likely educated during height of *No Child Left Behind era*
- Undergraduate experience likely consisted of lectures without engagement
- May equate academic preparedness with rote memorization
- May lack wide-ranging analytical skills and/or problem solving experience
- May have heightened engagement and learning with technology
- Suggested programming for today's ASP student should address all or some of the following:
 - legal application practice
 - structure of exam-writing
 - multiple-choice

INDICATORS OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?

Academic

- LSAT
- UGPA/College Major

Non-academic

- Persistence
- Self-efficacy/Mindset



PROPOSED PRACTICES FOR REMOVING STIGMA



REMOVING STIGMA

- Educate and inform
- Understand and be a part of the culture
- Be aware of your attitudes and behavior
- Positive messaging
- Include everyone
- OctoBAR/pedagogy workshops
- Committee work
- Own and correct missteps
- Town hall meetings/student outreach
- Alumni bar mentoring

REBRANDING ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Foster a sense of community.
- Develop a supportive environment for students.
- Provide faculty with planning support and resources to foster academic and bar exam success.
- Support **every** students' academic achievement from matriculation through graduation and beyond.



INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

IDEAL PERIODS FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT



IDEAL PERIODS FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT

■ **Before law school**

- Pipeline programs
- Pre-orientation
- Orientation

■ **During law school**

- Academic skills and bar advising
- Academic skills workshops/foundations course(s)
- Bar skills classes 2L and 3L year

■ **After law school**

- Supplemental bar prep workshops
- Bar advising (first time and repeat takers)
- Alumni bar mentoring

EMPIRICAL STUDY - DISCUSSION

What are we missing?

How do we measure?

THANK YOU!

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