

**Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on**  
*Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy Model Standards Development*

**Abstracts due: August 23, 2019**

[Online Submission Form](#)

**Introduction**

The following is a Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on **Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy Model Standards Development** to be held at the AALS Annual Meeting January 2020 in Washington, DC.

Discussion groups allow a small group of faculty to engage in a sustained conversation about a topic of interest. This discussion group's participants are expected to write and share a short abstract (3 pages, double-spaced) to begin their participation in the discussion. The rest of the session will feature a lively and engaging discussion among the small group of participants. The participants in this discussion group will be the people identified in the original proposal submitted to the Annual Meeting Program Committee, plus additional individuals selected from this call for participation. There will be limited audience seating for those not selected in advance to be discussion participants.

**Description**

This AALS Discussion Group will review the existing Model Standards for online law school programs and develop updated standards and best practices. This Discussion Group requests the submission of Discussion White Papers based on evolving and improving aspects of the Model Standards for online programs that are available under the "Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy Model Standards Development" information.

From the period 2011 through 2015, the Working Group for Distance Learning in Legal Education led by Rebecca Purdom and William Byrnes, consisting of participants from 85 law schools, collaborated to develop a set of recommended practices and model standards for online legal education. Five years later in this 2020 AALS panel, we will examine, discuss and update the 2015 Model Standards, and discuss how these standards might be deployed, and who might be responsible for applying the standards as in an advisory manner or as an accreditor. As time allows, we will also discuss updating the 2015 Recommended Practices and examine how schools may propel their programs toward these loftier goals.

**Materials for Discussion**

*Model Standards for Distance Learning for Legal Education*. Published as an appendix to the Working Group's larger work these standards were endorsed by representatives of the 85 law schools who participated the drafting of the work.

*Distance Learning in Legal Education: Design, Delivery and Recommended Practices.* Published in 2015, this work culminating five years of work by the Working Group for Distance Learning in Legal Education, and puts forth best practices for legal education.

### **Goals and Discussion**

Participants are invited to review the Model Standards and also the Recommended Practices documents. In our discussion workshop we will collectively:

1. Suggest substantive updates for the Model standards
2. Discuss, and if so moved, propose the appropriate implementation of the Model Standards (by an accreditation body, by a voluntary consortium, or some other mechanism)
3. If time allows, suggest substantive updates for the Recommended Practices, or alternatively agree a process for such discussion during 2020.
4. Discuss, and if so moved, propose a 2020 edition of the Recommended Practices and its checklist for adoption by interested and participating institutions.

Participants are invited to submit beforehand via the AALS call for White Papers informed suggestions and comments for the above discussion group.

### **Call for Abstracts**

The Annual Meeting Program Committee invites faculty and administrators who would like to join this Discussion Group to submit a three-page abstract that addresses the model standards and best practices documents **by August 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

Space in this Discussion Group is limited; the Committee, along with the faculty who proposed this discussion, will select the remaining discussion participants from the abstracts submitted. At the AALS Annual Meeting in January, selected participants will make a one-two minute presentation during the Discussion Group. The remaining time will be devoted to a moderated, roundtable group discussion. *Participants are encouraged to submit white papers that may be incorporated via collaborative summarization for the 2020 edition of the “Model Standards for Distance Learning for Legal Education” and for the 2020 edition of the “Distance Learning in Legal Education: Design, Delivery and Recommended Practices” at the Meeting.*

Each submission for this Discussion Group should include:

- The title of the submitted presentation/paper;
- The name, school and email of the applying participant;
- A three-page, double-spaced abstract that addresses the model standards and best practices documents; and

- The curriculum vitae of the applying participant.

In reviewing the submitted abstracts, the discussion group organizer and selection committee will consider the following:

- The fit and overall quality of the abstract for the Discussion Group;
- The diversity that the applying participant may bring in terms of a variety of factors including viewpoint diversity, institutional affiliation and status (tenure-track, non-tenure track, tenured); and if applicable
- The applying participant's willingness to publish his or her paper along with other Discussion Group papers.

Abstracts are due by **August 23, 2019** and should be submitted using the [online submission form](#).