

LSAC Launches Pilot of Post-1L Formative Assessment Initiative

The Law School Admission Council is pleased to announce its new Post-1L Formative Assessment Initiative. The initiative explores creation of a new national assessment tool designed to help individual law students and their law schools benchmark first-year student performance and identify interventions that may improve bar passage.



Call for Participation in Phase I:

LSAC invites law schools that would like to participate in the spring 2020 pilot research phase to submit an expression of interest no later than January 15, 2020. Interested schools may also send a representative to an informational session which will take place on Sunday, January 5, from 8:30-10:15 a.m. at the AALS 2020 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. LSAC anticipates selecting 10-15 schools to participate in the pilot and will be notifying selected schools in early February. Additional schools may be invited to participate in an expanded pilot in spring 2021.

Benefits of Participation:

- Provide students who have finished their first year of law school with a three-hour “performance test” that will be similar to the bar exam performance test used in most U.S. jurisdictions
- Provide carefully structured aggregate feedback on student performance to designated law school representatives
- Provide input on the design of a data analytics platform to help anticipate students who are at risk of failing the bar in order to intervene and improve their outcomes

Requirements of Participation:

- Identify lead representative for the law school to work with LSAC on implementing the pilot
- Solicit and strongly encourage or require a substantial number of students to sit for the pilot exam
- Agree to administer (including proctoring, basic IT support, and management of accommodations as required) pilot exam on one of two possible administration dates in mid-May to early June 2020
- Share data with LSAC on participants' performance in law school classes for validity research

¹ Expressions of interest should address the following matters: (1) why the school wishes to participate; (2) who would serve as the school's lead representative and others who might be involved in the project; (3) how the school would assure that a substantial number of students sit for the pilot exam; (4) how the school would handle confidentiality; (5) how and when the school would propose to administer the pilot exam to participating students; (6) how the school would propose to deliver feedback and suggested interventions; and (7) whether and how the school might wish to work with LSAC on a data analytics platform. Submissions should be made by email to LSAC consultants joan.howarth@unlv.edu and judith_wegner@unc.edu no later than 5 p.m. on January 15, 2020.

² In addition to a panel discussion, a number of small group sessions will also be held as space permits throughout the annual meeting. Participation in a small group session can be arranged by contacting Joan Howarth or Judith Wegner (email addresses listed above).

³ The 1L Pilot will cover torts or contracts subject matter in the context of a closed-universe legal writing problem. LSAC will provide individual student participants with carefully structured feedback based on two readers' evaluations using rubrics designed for this assessment under the guidance of LSAC experts.