

To: Standards Review Committee

From: Steve Bahls, Chair of the Student Learning Outcomes Committee

Date: April 17, 2010

RE: Summary of Changes in the Proposed Student Learning Outcomes Standards

Since the January 2010 Committee meeting in New Orleans, the Student Learning Outcomes Subcommittee has made several important changes in the proposed student learning outcomes standards. These changes were based on comments on the earlier proposed standards, which are posted to the Committee website, as well as further committee deliberation:

1. Proposed Standard 302 now makes it clear that the level of competency is the level of competency of an entry-level practitioner.
2. The most recent proposal states in Standard 302 (b) (3) that law schools should identify professional skills outcomes. Only a few professional skills outcomes are specifically required, including legal analysis and reasoning, critical thinking, legal research and writing, problem solving and the ability to recognize ethical and professional dilemmas.
3. Proposed Standard 303 (a) (4) and Interpretation 302-2 better clarify what is expected from a required simulation course, live clinic or field placement.
4. Proposed Standard 304 has been significantly modified to simply require law schools to use formative and summative assessment methods during the course of a student's education. The prior proposal that would have required schools to assess each student's attainment of the learning outcomes was thought to be unduly burdensome.
5. The committee withdraws a prior recommendation that standards eliminate the prohibition on paid field placements. The committee makes no recommendation on whether this standard should be changed, as another subcommittee is considering this issue.

We look forward to our discussion of these and other issues relating to student learning outcomes in San Diego.