

ON COURSE RUBRIC



► PURPOSE

Trinity Law School's On Course is an academic support program designed to ensure that each Trinity student receives the best value from his or her education by mastering the skills needed for success, becoming fully equipped to take the California Bar Exam, and joining a community that supports excellence.

►► PRE 1L

ORIENTATION // 1 Week Prior to First Semester

Orientation prepares the hearts and minds of new students to succeed throughout their law school career. The main emphasis is on academic preparation, with sessions on case briefing, outlining, exam writing, study skills, time management, and the On Course program.

►►► 1L | 1-30 UNITS

FIRST ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT // Weeks 8-10 of First Semester

The primary objective of this meeting is for students to have a clear and specific plan to prepare for and succeed on final exams. The first assessment will 1) assess each student's ability to acquire legal knowledge and analysis at a pace that will lead to success on the Bar Exam, 2) identify issues that may impede a student's progress, and 3) set goals that will advance student learning competency. Students will receive information about registering for bar review courses, which will allow them to access law school course outlines and videos.

POST FIRST SEMESTER ADVISEMENT // 3-6 Weeks after Final Exams

The goal of this advisement is to help students assess how they can improve on their first semester performance. Students should be encouraged to address factors under their control rather than attributing poor results to external causes. The advisor will review the Self-Assessment and discuss perceived strengths and challenges to help students focus on law school success. The advisor will also review the Academic Plan and offer guidance on elective courses, internships, clinics, and other academic opportunities. Note that students will not be permitted to register for courses without an approved Academic Plan in place. Moreover, students may not deviate from the plan without prior permission from the Academic Support Department.

SUMMER MBE DIAGNOSTIC & REVIEW // 2 weeks Prior to Fall Semester

Each summer, students invest in their success by participating in the diagnostic and review for all MBE (Multistate Bar Examination) tested courses they completed the previous academic year. The MBE Diagnostic and Review covers Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts. The diagnostic exams are graded at each session, providing students with an objective analysis as to their preparedness for the MBE portion of the California Bar Examination.

Currently offered through Fleming's Fundamentals of Law.

ON COURSE RUBRIC



▶▶▶▶ 2L | 31-60 UNITS

30 UNIT ADVISEMENT

The focus of the 30-unit advisement is bar exam readiness. At this point, students are eligible to participate in On Course workshops and diagnostics. Students are provided a calendar of upcoming On Course events and are expected to attend each workshop and complete each diagnostic to the best of their ability. Students should have knowledge of the subject areas tested on the California Bar Exam and should have had exposure to each of the three testing methods of the exam (MBE's, essay exams, and performance tests). By now, students should know how well they are performing in law school and should understand the correlation between law school grades and bar passage. Students should have a plan for taking and passing the MPRE. Finally, students should understand options for formal bar review courses and agree to commit to a bar review course before their 60-unit advisement.

2L SKILLS DIAGNOSTIC // Spring Semester

During this four-hour diagnostic exam, students will answer multiple-choice questions, essays, and a closed universe memorandum question. Each student receives an individual student report that shows the student's performance in the core skills essential for law school success. The results provide students with a road map for success that serves as a tool to improve individual performance. Students are able to compare their performance with that of their fellow students and with other law students across the nation. **Currently offered through Kaplan.**

MBE WORKSHOP // Fall Semester

The MBE portion of the California Bar Exam makes up 50% of the total bar exam score. MBE Workshops deliver subject area testing, instruction, and analysis so students can master the MBE testing format. In addition, students can objectively gauge their level of competency, which provides them an early assessment as to how well they will perform on the California Bar Exam. **Currently offered through BarBri.**

PERFORMANCE TEST WORKSHOP // Spring Semester

The Performance Test section of the California Bar Exam consists of one 90-minute performance test. In addition to measuring an applicant's ability to analyze legal issues, performance test questions require applicants to assess the consistency and reliability of facts, analyze the legal rules and principles applicable to a problem and formulate legal theories from facts that may be only partly known and are being developed, and recognize and resolve ethical issues arising in practical situations. Performance test answers are graded on the applicant's responsiveness to instructions and on the content, thoroughness, organization and persuasiveness of written tasks. **Currently Offered through Fleming's Fundamentals of Law.**

BAR ESSAY WRITING WORKSHOP // Fall Semester

Essay writing skills are essential to bar exam success. The essay portion of the California Bar Exam consists of five one-hour essay exams that, including the PT section, comprise 50% of the total bar exam score. The essay exams test the ability to apply the law to a given set of facts and to reason in a logical, lawyer-like manner to a sound conclusion. During this workshop, students learn how to construct bar exam essays to demonstrate their knowledge and application of legal principles. **Currently offered through BarBri.**

ON COURSE RUBRIC



▶▶▶▶▶ 3L | 61-90 UNITS

60-UNIT ADVISEMENT

Once students reach the 60-unit milestone, they will finalize their remaining academic schedules and commit to strategic steps as the California Bar Exam approaches. Students will be introduced to the Bar Skills Practice Program, which is available during their last semester of law school. The advisor will review each student's transcript and On Course portfolio to evaluate whether the student's performance coincides with benchmarks required to pass the bar exam. By this meeting, students should have selected a bar review and should have a plan in place to complete payment no later than the beginning of their final semester. The advisor will remind students of bar exam registration deadlines and requirements, including the Moral Character Application and the MPRE. Finally, the advisor will discuss the scope of the California Bar Exam with students to ensure that they are familiar with the subject areas and testing methods.

TWO-DAY SIMULATED BAR EXAM // Spring Semester

The best way for students to understand what to expect on the California Bar Exam is to participate in a multi-day simulated bar exam. The simulated exam includes five essay questions, one performance test, and 200 MBE questions. Students receive detailed feedback as to how well they are applying their classroom instruction in each subject area to the bar exam format. **Currently offered through Kaplan.**

FINAL SEMESTER ADVISEMENT

At the end of this meeting, students should be fully on track to meet the graduation requirements of the Juris Doctor degree at Trinity Law School and to prepare to take the California Bar Exam. The advisor will do a final review of each student's On Course portfolio and assess the student's benchmarks for bar exam success, including the Simulated Bar Exam, In Class MBE Tests, Summer Bar Diagnostics, as well as any other On Course assessments. By this time, students should be averaging at least 60% on these assessments in order to be on track to pass the bar exam. If students are not performing at this level, the advisor will discuss strategies to focus on bar exam preparation.

BAR SKILLS PRACTICE PROGRAM

This is an optional 8-week program designed primarily for alumni who have waited to take or who are retaking the Bar Exam. It is not intended to replace a formal bar review program. The purpose of the Bar Skills Practice Program is to provide a schedule for students to review each bar-tested subject and gain proficiency in bar testing methods. Students work through a set of daily MBE questions, write practice essay questions each week, and organize their outlines in the two months leading up to their comprehensive bar review course. They also begin working on memorization of legal rules and elements during this time. Students can choose **MBE questions offered through PMBR or Adaptibar.**

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Trinity Law School believes our obligation to students extends beyond the Juris Doctor degree. We recognize that passing the California Bar Exam is the final hurdle that must be completed before one can become a practicing lawyer. In reliance upon God, and with the diligence of students, faculty, and staff, graduates of the Juris Doctor program at Trinity Law School will achieve the following outcomes:

PRODUCE LAW STUDENTS WHO ARE EQUIPPED & COMMITTED TO PURSUING BAR SUCCESS THROUGH HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

AS EVIDENCED BY:

1. Trinity students being persuaded that the best way to prepare for the California Bar Exam is to succeed in the classroom.
2. Trinity students being equipped before their first semester with basic legal skills.
3. Trinity students who are educated as to the largest indicators for success on the California Bar Exam.
4. Trinity students who are educated and take advantage of the academic/bar support resources at Trinity Law School.
5. Trinity students who address weaknesses that may negatively affect their ability to succeed in law school and on the California Bar Exam.
6. Trinity students who have managed their time in a way that allows them succeed.

PRODUCE LAW STUDENTS WHO PLAN EFFECTIVELY FOR CALIFORNIA BAR EXAM SUCCESS.

AS EVIDENCED BY:

1. Trinity students comprehending the scope of the California Bar Exam in content and testing style.
2. Trinity students arranging their schedules to allow a sufficient amount of study time in each of the 13 tested content areas and 3 methods.
3. Trinity students equipped to use study time effectively so they master content and method.
4. Trinity students who learn strategies for effective decision making regarding common inhibitors to California Bar Exam success (i.e. financial, family, work, life).

EQUIP OUR LAW STUDENTS TO BE CALIFORNIA BAR EXAM READY.

AS EVIDENCED BY:

1. Trinity students who have a proficient knowledge of the law.
2. Trinity students who have a proficiency in the California Bar Exam testing methods.
3. Trinity students who adequately prepare for the California Bar Exam (time investment/effective study sessions).
4. Trinity students who adequately manage distractions as they prepare for the California Bar Exam.
5. Trinity students who adequately manage time and stress during the California Bar Exam.