

American Bar Association
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
Standards Review Committee

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Strike-outs and underlines show changes from the current standards

CHAPTER 7

FACILITIES

Standard 701. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) A law school shall have physical facilities and equipment that enable it to fulfill the requirements of the Standards and carry out ~~are adequate both for its current program of legal education. and for growth anticipated in the immediate future.~~

(b) The physical facilities shall include:

(1) class and seminar rooms in sufficient number, functionality, and size to permit reasonable scheduling of all classes and seminars;

(2) sufficient space for staff providing support services, including student support services, to the program of legal education;

(3) an individual office for each full-time faculty member suitable for faculty research, class preparation, and faculty-student conferences and office space for part-time faculty members suitable for faculty-student conferences;

(4) facilities and equipment that meet all applicable safety and fire codes; and

(5) for law schools that offer "live client clinics" or similar real life practice experiences, sufficient and suitable space appropriate for conducting its clinical program in a manner that assures competent and ethical representation of clients and meaningful instruction and supervision of students, including confidential client interviewing space, space for working on and discussing client cases, and security for client files.

(c) If equal access for persons with disabilities is not readily achievable, the law school shall provide reasonable accommodation to such persons.

(d) To obtain or continue to merit full approval, a law school's facilities complying with these standards shall be completed and occupied by the law school; plans or construction in progress are insufficient.

(e) A law school does not comply with the Standards in this chapter if its physical facilities or technological capacities have a negative and material effect on the school's ability to fulfill the requirements of the Standards, carry out its educational program, or provide reasonable access or accommodation to persons with disabilities.

Interpretation 701-1

Inadequate physical facilities are those that have a negative and material effect on the education students receive or fail to provide reasonable access for persons with disabilities. If equal access for persons with disabilities is not readily achievable, the law school shall provide reasonable accommodation to such persons.

Interpretation 701-2

Adequate physical facilities shall include:

- (1) suitable class and seminar rooms in sufficient number and size to permit reasonable scheduling of all classes and seminars;*
- (2) suitable space for conducting its professional skills courses and programs, including clinical, pretrial, trial, and appellate programs;*
- (3) an office for each full-time faculty member adequate for faculty study and for faculty student conferences, and sufficient office space for part time faculty members adequate for faculty student conferences;*
- (4) space for co-curricular, as opposed to extra-curricular, activities as defined by the law school;*
- (5) suitable space for all staff; and*
- (6) suitable space for equipment and records in proximity to the individuals and offices served.*

Interpretation 701-3

To obtain full approval, a law school's facilities shall be completed and occupied by the law school; plans or construction in progress are insufficient.

Interpretation 701-1 4

A law school must demonstrate that it is and will continue to be housed in facilities that enable the law school to fulfill the requirements of the Standards and are adequate to carry out its program of legal education. If all or part of the facilities are leased or financed, factors relevant to whether the law school is or will continue to be housed in facilities that are adequate include overall lease or financing terms and duration, lease renewal terms and conditions, and termination or foreclosure provisions. ~~and the security of the school's interest.~~

Interpretation 701-2 5

A law school's physical facilities should be under the exclusive control and reserved for the exclusive use of the law school. If the facilities are not under the exclusive control of the law school or are not reserved for its exclusive use, the arrangements must shall permit proper scheduling of all law classes and other law school activities.

Standard 702. LAW LIBRARY

The physical facilities for the law library shall be sufficient in size, location, and design in relation to the law school's programs and enrollment to accommodate the law school's students and faculty and the law library's services, collections, staff, operations, and equipment.

Interpretation 702-1

A law library shall have sufficient seating to meet the needs of the law school's students and faculty.

Standard 703. RESEARCH AND STUDY SPACE

To enable it to fulfill the requirements of the Standards and carry out its educational program a law school shall provide:

(1) A law school shall provide, on-site, sufficient quiet study and research seating on site for its students and faculty; and

(2) A law school should provide space in sufficient amount, functionality, and size that is suitable for group study and other forms of collaborative work.

Standard 704. TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITIES

A law school shall have the technological capacities and that support that enable it to fulfill the requirements of the Standards and carry out its educational program. ~~are adequate for both its current program of legal education and for program changes anticipated in the immediate future.~~

Interpretation 704-1

Inadequate technological capacities are those that have a negative and material effect on the education students receive.

Interpretation 704-1 2

In determining compliance with this Standard, factors to be considered include:

Adequate technological capacity shall include:

- (1) ~~sufficient and up-to-date~~ the hardware and software resources and infrastructure available to support the teaching, scholarship, research, service and administrative needs of the school;*
- (2) ~~sufficient~~ staff support and space for staff operations;*
- (3) ~~sufficient~~ financial resources to maintain and, as appropriate, adopt and maintain new technology. ~~as appropriate.~~*