

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

Chapter 2

Draft – January 2011 Meeting

THE FACULTY

Strike-outs and underlines show changes from the current Standards.

Standard 106. Definitions

(#) “Faculty member” is an individual who teaches one or more courses or parts of courses in the curriculum of a law school. It includes “full-time faculty members” as well as part-time instructors.

(#) “Full-time faculty member” means an individual whose primary professional employment is with the law school and who devotes substantially all working time during the academic year to the responsibilities described in Standard 404, and whose outside professional activities, if any, do not unduly interfere with one’s responsibility as a faculty member.

Standard 401. QUALIFICATIONS

A law school shall have a faculty whose qualifications and experience are appropriate to the stated mission of the law school and to maintaining a program of legal education consistent with the requirements of Standards 301, ~~and 302~~ and 303. The faculty shall possess a high degree of competence, as demonstrated by its education, experience in teaching or practice, teaching effectiveness, and, when appropriate, scholarly research and writing.

Standard 402. SIZE OF ~~FULL-TIME~~ FACULTY

(a) A law school shall have a sufficient number of ~~full-time~~ faculty to fulfill the requirements of the Standards, ~~and meet the goals of~~ advance its educational program. ~~The number of full-time faculty necessary depends on:~~ The school should maintain a faculty sufficient to provide stability and ongoing quality improvement for the instructional programs offered and to fulfill the obligations of Standards 403 and 404.

~~(1) the size of the student body and the opportunity for students to meet~~

~~individually with and consult faculty members;~~

~~(2) the nature and scope of the educational program; and~~

~~(3) the opportunities for the faculty adequately to fulfill teaching obligations, conduct scholarly research, and participate effectively in the governance of the law school and in service to the legal profession and the public.~~

~~(b) A full-time faculty member is one whose primary professional employment is with the law school and who devotes substantially all working time during the academic year to the responsibilities described in Standard 404(a), and whose outside professional activities, if any, are limited to those that relate to major academic interests or enrich the faculty member's capacity as a scholar and teacher, are of service to the legal profession and the public generally, and do not unduly interfere with one's responsibility as a faculty member.~~

Interpretation 402-1

The number of full-time faculty necessary depends on the size of the student body and the opportunity for students to meet individually with and consult faculty members; the mission of the school; the nature and scope of the educational program; and the ability of the faculty adequately to fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with Standard 404.

Interpretation 402-1

In determining whether a law school complies with the Standards, the ratio of the number of full-time equivalent students to the number of full-time equivalent faculty members is considered.

(1) In computing the student/faculty ratio, full-time equivalent teachers are those who are employed as full-time teachers on tenure track or its equivalent who shall be counted as one each plus those who constitute "additional teaching resources" as defined below. No limit is imposed on the total number of teachers that a school may employ as additional teaching resources, but these additional teaching resources shall be counted at a fraction of less than 1 and may constitute in the aggregate up to 20 percent of the full-time faculty for purposes of calculating the student/faculty ratio.

(A) Additional teaching resources and the proportional weight assigned to each category include:

(i) teachers on tenure track or its equivalent who have administrative duties beyond those normally performed by full-time faculty members: 0.5;

(ii) clinicians and legal writing instructors not on tenure track or its equivalent who teach a full load: 0.7; and

(iii) adjuncts, emeriti faculty who teach, non-tenure track administrators

who teach, librarians who teach, and teachers from other units of the university: 0.2.

(B) These norms have been selected to provide a workable framework to recognize the effective contributions of additional teaching resources. To the extent a law school has types or categories of teachers not specifically described above, they shall be counted as appropriate in accordance with the weights specified above. It is recognized that the designated proportional weights may not in all cases reflect the contributions to the law school of particular teachers. In exceptional cases, a school may seek to demonstrate to site evaluation teams and the Accreditation Committee that these proportional weights should be changed to weigh contributions of individual teachers

(2) For the purpose of computing the student/faculty ratio, a student is considered full-time or part-time as determined by the school, provided that no student who is enrolled in fewer than ten credit hours in a term shall be considered a full-time student, and no student enrolled in more than 13 credit hours shall be considered a part-time student. A part-time student is counted as a two-thirds equivalent student.

(3) If there are graduate or non-degree students whose presence might result in a dilution of J.D. program resources, the circumstances of the individual school are considered to determine the adequacy of the teaching resources available for the J.D. program.

Interpretation 402-2

Student/faculty ratios are considered in determining a law school's compliance with the Standards.

(1) A ratio of 20:1 or less presumptively indicates that a law school complies with the Standards. However, the educational effects shall be examined to determine whether the size and duties of the full-time faculty meet the Standards.

(2) A ratio of 30:1 or more presumptively indicates that a law school does not comply with the Standards.

(3) At a ratio of between 20:1 and 30:1 and to rebut the presumption created by a ratio of 30:1 or greater, the examination will take into account the effects of all teaching resources on the school's educational program, including such matters as quality of teaching, class size, availability of small group classes and seminars, student/faculty contact, examinations and grading, scholarly contributions, public service, discharge of governance responsibilities, and the ability of the law school to carry out its announced mission.

Interpretation 402-3

A full-time faculty member who is teaching an additional full-time load at another law school may not be considered as a full-time faculty member at either institution.

Interpretation 402-4

Regularly engaging in law practice or having an ongoing relationship with a law firm or other business creates a presumption that a faculty member is not a full-time faculty member under this Standard. This presumption may be rebutted if the law school is able to demonstrate that the individual has a full-time commitment to teaching, research, and public service, is available to students, and is able to participate in the governance of the institution to the same extent expected of full-time faculty.

Standard 403. INSTRUCTIONAL ROLE OF FACULTY

(a) The full-time faculty shall teach ~~the major portion of the law school's curriculum, including~~ substantially all of the first one-third of each student's coursework and more than half of the upper-class student contact hours.

(b) A law school shall ensure effective teaching by ~~all persons providing instruction to students~~ by providing appropriate orientation, guidance, mentoring, faculty development and periodic evaluation of its full-time and part-time faculty members.

(c) ~~A law school should include experienced practicing lawyers and judges as teaching resources to enrich the educational program. Appropriate use of practicing lawyers and judges as faculty requires that a law school shall provide them with orientation, guidance, monitoring, and evaluation.~~

Interpretation 403-1

The full-time faculty's teaching responsibility will usually be determined by the proportion of student credit hours taught by full-time faculty in each of the law school's programs or divisions (such as full-time, part-time evening study, and part-time weekend study). For purposes of Standard 403(a), a faculty member is considered full-time if that person's primary professional employment is with the law school.

Interpretation 403-2¹

Efforts to ensure teaching effectiveness may include: a faculty committee on effective teaching, class visitations, critiques of videotaped teaching, institutional review of student evaluation of teaching, colloquia on effective teaching, and recognition of creative scholarship in law school teaching methodology. A law school shall provide all new faculty members with orientation, guidance, mentoring, and periodic evaluation.

Standard 404. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FULL-TIME FACULTY

(a) A law school shall provide written ~~establish~~ policies with respect to a full-time faculty member's responsibilities in teaching, scholarship, service to the law school community, and professional activities outside the law school. The policies need not seek uniformity among faculty members, but should address: advancing its educational program. The policies shall address these core responsibilities:

(1) Faculty Teaching responsibilities, including carrying a fair share of the law school's course offerings, preparing for classes, being available for student consultation, participating in academic advising, and creating an atmosphere in which students and faculty may voice opinions and exchange ideas and assessment of student learning;

(2) Research and scholarship, and integrity in the conduct of scholarship, including appropriate use of student research assistants, acknowledgment of the contributions of others, and responsibility of faculty members to keep abreast of developments in their specialties;

(3) Course and curricular development, including the preparation of students for emerging areas of practice and other professional innovations;

~~(3)~~ (4) Obligations Service to the law school and university community, including participation in the governance of the law school and other institutional responsibilities described in Standard 205(b);

~~(4)~~ (5) Obligations Service to the profession, including working with the practicing bar and judiciary to improve the profession; and

~~(5)~~ (6) Obligations Service to the public, including participation in pro bono activities; and

(7) Any other contribution deemed important by the law school for the achievement of its mission.

(b) Except for effectiveness in teaching, the policies may permit faculty members to assume varying responsibilities.

(c) ~~(b)~~ A law school shall evaluate periodically the extent to which each faculty member discharges her or his responsibilities under policies adopted pursuant to Standard 404(a).