Project PASS: Shifting from a post-graduation bar exam preparation culture to bar readiness throughout matriculation.

PRESENTED BY

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In late 2017, the College of Law launched the **Performance, Assessment and Strategic Support (PASS)** initiative.

*Project PASS* represents our continued efforts to enhance student learning, while strengthening both the **core of the curriculum** and the overall **Program of Legal Education**.

With a **comprehensive approach**, Project PASS has various phases, beginning as early as new student orientation and continuing through the post graduation bar exam preparation study period.
Project PASS Goals

- Enhance students' overall academic performance and experience, while optimizing their chances of **success on the bar exam**.
- Increase the use of **formative assessments**, not only in first-year courses, but **throughout** the curriculum.
- Create an infrastructure to ensure and measure each stage of the **Continuous Cycle of Student Learning** is followed at the College of Law.

**Source: Better Lesson Plans**
Goals & Objectives

- Increase the **first-time bar pass rate** for the College of Law
- Establish a **bar exam readiness culture**, starting the first day of law school
- Identify and provide additional assistance to **at-risk** students, early in matriculation
- Increase the use of **formative and summative assessments** and provide meaningful **feedback**
- Provide ongoing comprehensive **academic support** to students

Initiatives & Programming

- Summer Post-Admit Program
- Extended New Student Orientation
- Educational Partnership & Teaching Resources
- Academic Advising & Academic Enhancement Plans
- Small Sections for Designated First-year Course
- Increased Use of Diagnostics and Formative Assessments throughout Program of Legal Education
Goals & Objectives

Summer Comprehensive Academic Legal Enhancement (SCALE)

• **Reduce attrition rate** for cohort of students with objectively quantifiable credentials of concern by the ABA
• Familiarize and better prepare students to **succeed** in law school
• Expose students, **pre-matriculation**, to the critical, analytical and study skills necessary to be a successful law student
• Administer **diagnostics** to assess skills
• **Increase focus** on critical skills that are linked to poor performance on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), in law school, and on the bar exam

Programming

• Aimed at bottom quartile of entering class
• **FREE** of charge for students
• 2-week program July 9-20, 2018
• Daily formative assessments
• Classes taught by faculty
• Critical reading, problem solving, reasoning, and law school study skills are taught
• Housing, meals, and book scholarship provided to participants
• Offer additional support services based on diagnostic results
Extended New Student Orientation

Goals & Objectives

Foundations for Law School Success: Bootcamp

- Identify *at-risk* students, *early* in matriculation
- Expose students to *critical skills* necessary to be successful law students
- Provide student services and academic workshops to aid in students’ *transition* to law school
- Provide *early* exposure to the rigors of law school

Programming

- *Mandatory* for all new students
- Launched in Fall 2017
- Available August 1-13, 2018
- 10-day orientation
- Writing diagnostic and assessments administered
- Taught by faculty
- Grammar and writing skills, legal study skills, and critical and analytical skills taught
Educational Partnership & Resources

Goals & Objectives

• Provide up-to-date bar preparation materials designed to be integrated during law school, including bar exam style questions
• Access to diagnostic tools to aid in identifying upper-level students at-risk of failing the bar exam
• Access to formative assessment tools for both faculty and students
• Receive real-time data and analytics of student performance
• Equip faculty with bar exam style questions that can be incorporated directly into their courses and/or assigned to students for additional practice and review

Programming

• Partnered with BARBRI, a leading bar review provider
• 150 students completed Upper-level diagnostic in Spring 2018
• Faculty had access to question banks and other formative assessment tools and resources
• All students had access to practice questions, lectures and other review materials
• Collected data unique to COL students and shared with the faculty
Enhanced Academic Advising

Goals & Objectives

• Provide one-on-one course selection assistance, and group advising sessions
• Target students experiencing academic difficulty
• Serve as a bridge to tie both academic and non-academic programming and services
• Identify students in need of strategic support that may not have been previously identified by other measures

Programming

• Position created in Fall 2017
• Available to all students, special emphasis was placed on at-risk students (2.0-2.4)
• Every student on academic probation was required to meet with the advisor
• Students received customized Academic Enhancement Plan
• Student also assigned a faculty advisor at orientation
Goals & Objectives

- Enhance *student learning* by increasing the *interaction* between professor and student
- Increase the number and *quality* of formative assessments and feedback provided to first-year students
- Provides faculty a better opportunity to regularly *observe and assess* the progress of their students, both individually and collectively- which serves to *inform and enhance* their teaching

Programming

- First-year Torts sections had approximately 30 students, while other first-year courses had almost double that number
- Adding additional small section
- Aided students in identifying areas of concern, prior to the end of semester and/or final exam
- Multiple assessments, particularly quizzes and assignments were administered in the Torts courses
- Professors utilized additional teaching tools, including bar exam style questions
Additional Bar Preparation Support

Goals & Objectives

• Provide *supplemental bar preparation* study materials to students and graduates
  – Early Start Bar Review Material and Diagnostics
  – Released Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) Questions
  – Additional Practice Questions
  – Substantive Law Outlines
  – Review Lectures
  – Simulated Bar Exams
  – Progress Tracking
  – Live 2-day Review Lecture

Programming

• Partnered with Kaplan and AdaptiBar
• *Campaign #OneAndDone* was launched during the 2018 Spring semester for prospective May 2018 graduates
• Alums and *repeat* bar exam takers were invited to participate in *Campaign #RaiseTheBar*, prior to the start of the bar study period
• Both first-timers and repeaters were provided over 5,000 practice questions, including over 1,700 released bar questions, in addition to the other resources
Students Signed “I Pledge to PASS”
QUESTIONS

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“At FAMU, Great Things Are Happening Every Day.”

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