



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar

Guide to Compilation – All Schools’ Data ABA Standard 509 Information Report Spreadsheets

The ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar makes available in Excel spreadsheet format the information reported by all ABA approved law schools accepting new J.D. Students from their annual Standard 509 Information Reports. The reports begin in 2011 and have changed over the years. 509 compilation reports from 2011 to 2016 include bar admission data. Bar admission outcomes were moved to a separate report in 2017. A guide to the bar admission outcomes reports is provided on the bar admission outcomes 509 page. The ABA began collecting the conditional scholarship and transfer-in information in 2014, so it is not available for 2011-2013. Reports for 2011 and 2012 include data on Informational and Library Resources that stopped being collected after 2012.

ABA approved schools accepting new J.D. students submit an Annual Questionnaire each year in October that includes all of the information that is reported in the Standard 509 Information Reports. Schools are required to post their Standard 509 Information Reports on their websites each year by December 15. Individual schools’ reports are also available on the ABA website at <http://www.abarequireddisclosures.org/>.

The Excel spreadsheets present law schools’ Standard 509 information in several categories. The following paragraphs briefly explain the information that is reported in each of the categories. In using the spreadsheets, it may be helpful to refer to an individual school Standard 509 Information Report from the same corresponding year. (Note that the order of categories of compilation spreadsheets changed significantly between 2016 and 2017, and the current headings are found below. Changes in how the information was provided over time are highlighted.)

1. The Basics and Academic Calendar.

2016 – Present: Schools report application and financial aid deadlines, application fees, semester or quarter status, whether public or private, start dates and whether there are multiple, and credit hours required for the J.D. (after 2017).

Prior to 2016: This information was in one category called “The Basics.”

2. First-Year Class.

2020 – Present: The First-Year Class includes the numbers of applications, offers and enrollees and information on and the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentile UGPA’s and LSAT and GRE (GRE scores started in 2020—in prior years only LSAT scores are included) scores of full-time, part-time, and all matriculants. Starting in 2024, JD Next scores are also included. The number of matriculants who did not take a standardized test and who did not have a UGPA reported in an LSAC-generated UGPA report, are also reported.

Prior to 2020: This section was called “GPA and LSAT Scores” although it also included the applications, offers, and enrollees data.

3. Curriculum.

2016 – Present: The different columns report the size of first-year sections, classroom courses beyond the first-year curriculum, numbers of upper division classes of different sizes, and the numbers of clinical positions, field placements, seats available in simulation courses, seminar seats, and co-curricular offerings.

Prior to 2016: the final column reports the number of credit hours required for graduation.

4. Faculty and Administrators.

2016 – Present: The spreadsheet reports the numbers of full-time faculty and part-time faculty who teach. The numbers are broken down by gender and race and ethnicity.

Prior to 2016: the numbers are separately reported for the fall and spring semesters.

5. JD Enrollment and Ethnicity.

The spreadsheet reports on the gender, race, ethnicity, and citizenship status of the student body, broken down by full-time and part-time. It also reports on the gender, race, ethnicity, and citizenship status of the students receiving JD degrees in the previous academic year. Gender categories expanded beyond “Men” and “Women” to include at first “Other” in 2017 and later “Another Gender Identity” in 2022. Starting in 2024, US Nonresidents was no longer considered a separate category.

6. Grants and Scholarships.

This spreadsheet reports the number and percentage of students receiving scholarships. The information is broken down by full-time and part-time students, and by amount (less than one-half tuition, one-half tuition or more but less than full tuition, full tuition, and more than full tuition). It also reports the 75th, 50th, and 25th percentile scholarship amounts, again broken down by full-time and part-time students.

7. Tuition and Fees, Living Expenses, and Conditional Scholarships.

2017 – Present: The living expenses figures are the academic year total student living expense budget, excluding tuition and fee charges, for single, full-time students living on-campus, off campus, and at home. These are the figures used by the school in analyzing law student budgets for student loan purposes. The spreadsheet also reports on whether a school offers conditional scholarships; and if so, for the past 3 years, the number of such scholarships awarded; and of these scholarships, the number reduced or eliminated after the first year. A conditional scholarship is any financial aid award, the retention of which is dependent upon the student maintaining a minimum grade point average or class standing, other than that ordinarily required to remain in good academic standing.

Prior to 2017: Tuition Guaranty Program refers to a law school policy that guarantees all entering students the same tuition rate throughout their enrollment. The only information about conditional scholarships was whether a school offered these kinds of scholarships.

8. JD Attrition.

2018 – Present: This spreadsheet reports on 1L as well as 2L, 3L, and 4L academic attrition, transfer attrition, and other attrition. Attrition breakdown by race, ethnicity, and gender is maintained and attrition is further broken into “academic attrition” and “other attrition.”

2017-2018: Attrition is broken down by race, ethnicity, and gender.

Prior to 2017: 1L as well as 2L, 3L, and 4L academic attrition, transfer attrition, and other attrition were not separately broken out.

9. Transfers.

Schools report transfers in and out.

2014 – Present: The ABA began requiring schools to report certain information regarding students transferring in from other law schools. Schools enrolling 12 or more transfers-in must report the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentile 1L GPAs of the transfers-in, while schools with 6 to 11 transfers-in must report the 50th percentile 1L GPA. Schools with 12 or more transfers-in also report the names of the schools from which they transferred, and the number of students transferring in from each school. These lists are not included in the spreadsheets but are appended to schools’ individual Standard 509 Information Reports. The reporting requirements regarding transfer attrition changed in 2014, and this change may explain the larger numbers of transfers reported in 2014 compared to previous years.

Additional Categories of Reports Before 2017

Bar Admissions Reports. Before 2016, this spreadsheet reports schools’ first-time bar admission rates for the previous three calendar years. For schools reporting bar exam results from multiple jurisdictions, there are separate rows for each reported jurisdiction. Where a school reports bar pass results from more than one jurisdiction, the composite results are displayed only one time, in the first row for the particular year.