

William S. Richardson School of Law

Context: The School is positioned for a major re-shaping in the coming 2-3, and so it is a good time to discuss a strategic plan to guide future hiring. The recent low bar passing rate is a concern, as are the low enrollments in the LLM and SJD programs.

Summary Recommendations

- Stop-out admission to the LLM and SJD programs.
- Move the Professor/Grad Chair and Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution from the Matsunaga Institute for Peace (Social Sciences) to the Law School.
- Monitor preparation for the bar, and passage rates.
- Develop a strategic hiring plan.

Details

- The School of Law offers the ABA-accredited Juris Doctor, the Master of Laws (LLM), and the Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD). The JD was last reviewed in 2018.
- There are 328 students enrolled in the JD, 8 in the LLM (down from 13 in 2014), and 5 in the SJD. Tenure-track FTE (Academic Affairs only) is 24.67, down from 27.42 in 2014.
- The LLM program was approved in 2006 and granted established status in 2011. It is unlikely that enrollment in this program will increase. The SJD program, approved in 2016, is provisional through 2021. Per minutes from the Board of Regents meeting in 2016 (when the program was approved):

The [SJD] degree is expected to be self-supporting so the regents were assured that if the program does not meet the goal of 20 students by the end of the provisional period [the Law School] will not be applying for permanent program status. – BOR Minutes, June 2, 2016, page 7

Recommend admission stop-outs for the LLM and SJD programs.

- In 2019, the ABA revised its standards to require that 75 percent of a law school's graduates who sit for the bar pass it within two years. The UHM pass rate dropped to 66% in 2019, but rebounded in 2020 to a pass rate of 85%. Recommend that the new dean continue to monitor preparedness for the bar exam.

DRAFT