



Keep the Train on the Tracks: Identifying Bar Risks to Prevent Derailment

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Step 1: Identify “At-Risk” Students

- Past history is your best guide. Common risk factors include:
 - GPA – First Year
 - GPA – Final
 - English as a second language
 - Low grades in legal writing
 - Failure to follow through (failure to attend orientation, mandatory programs, etc.)
 - Transfers and how they assimilate into your culture
 - Bar studies and completion percentage

Step 2: Call Attention To The Issue of Bar Passage Rates

- Use a loud voice. Explain link between bar passage and employment statistics.
- Begin with colleagues focusing on academic support. They are most likely to buy in quickly.
- Focus next on your Dean, focusing on the tangible effect bar passage rates have on employment rates and why “let them get JD Preferred jobs” is not an answer.
- Attend faculty meetings, and clearly articulate the message to the faculty.

Step 2: Call Attention To The Issue of Bar Passage Rates (continued)

- Work with the bar review companies – they are invested in higher passage rates.
- Think in terms of actions leading to outcomes.
- Utilize student leaders to help with messaging.
- Get over the ‘Not my Problem’ attitude.

Step 3: Design a Program Tailored to Your School

- Pre-graduation counseling – “Passing the bar exam is important.”
- Mandatory bar focused curriculum.
- Optional or required programming for bar passage.
- Post-graduation counseling for “at risk” students.
- Continually review admissions and academic probation policies.
- Involve student leaders in developing solutions.

Step 3: Design a Program Tailored to Your School (continued)

- Develop bar passage talking points for Career Professionals, Academic Professionals, Professors, and Alumni Mentors to use.
- Make bar passage a required aspect of all third-year student counseling efforts.
- Discuss bar passage during initial 1L counseling.
- Focus on importance of bar passage on your at risk students during their entire career.
- Involve your state’s Board of Bar Examiners to do programming on bar passage.