LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete a program at BSL will be able to demonstrate:

Legal and Law-Related Knowledge - Knowledge of specific areas or aspects of substantive law, legal theory, or legal procedure

Analysis and Decision-Making – Understand and develop solutions to legal problems.

Policy Evaluation - Draw connections between specific legal issues and policy contexts or values

Professional Identity - Responsibilities of lawyers to their profession and society

Writing - Written professional communication for a variety of professional purposes

Oral Communication - Using oral communication for a variety of professional purposes

Information Gathering and Processing – Obtaining and assessing information about facts, law, procedure, and people

Interpersonal Perspectives – Emotionally intelligent engagement, team building, collaboration, cooperation, and leadership

Client and Practice Management – Skills required to ethically and effectively manage ethical, professional and business aspects of the legal profession

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

The LL.M. curriculum requires students to complete four required courses – Introduction to Gaming Law, Fundamentals of Casino Operations and Management, Comparative Gaming Law, and either an independent research project or externship – and four elective courses. Each of these courses tie in directly to the law school’s articulated learning outcomes, and completion of coursework is one indicator of accomplishment of that learning outcome. While not all LL.M. students plan to practice
in Nevada, for those who do, the law school measures learning outcomes through performance on the Nevada bar examination. Finally, LL.M. students are also included as participants in the national Law School Student Survey Engagement (LSSSE).

Performance on the Nevada Bar Examination

Performance on the Nevada Bar Examination assesses legal knowledge, analysis and decision making, and legal writing outcomes.

Sixty-six percent of first-time takers from the Boyd Law School passed the July 2016 bar exam compared to the 51% pass rate for all first-time takers.

LSSSE Results

Students also complete a Law School Survey of Student Engagement each year. In 2016, Boyd students ranked the law school significantly higher than that of the comparison group in the following categories:

1. Student advising
2. Law school environment
3. Career counseling
4. Pro bono work and public service
5. Providing the support needed to succeed academically
6. Serious conversations with those different from you (religious beliefs, political opinions, etc.

The students (93%) reported perceived gains in thinking critically and analytically. Ninety percent of graduating students rated their overall experiences as excellent or good, and 95% said they would definitely or probably attend Boyd again.

What Was Learned And How Is The Program Responding?

Professional Standards

In addition to UNLV assessment requirements and Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) accreditation requirements, the law school is subject to accreditation as a professional school by the American Bar Association (ABA). In August 2014, the ABA adopted new standards related to learning outcomes and assessment. Those standards are: 301(b), 302, 314 and 315 (the “New Standards”). The New Standards became legally effective at the end of the ABA Annual meeting on August 12, 2014. The ABA mandated that the New Standards be applied to students entering law school in the 2016-2017 academic year. In light of the mandatory implementation of the New Standards in 2016-2017, the dean created an Ad Hoc Assessment Committee to facilitate faculty discussion around learning outcomes and assessment in 2015-2016. Those discussions resulted in the adoption of new law school learning outcomes by the faculty.

New Learning Outcomes
In 2015-2016, the law school engaged the faculty as a whole in a review of the law school’s learning outcomes and the drafting of revised learning outcomes for the law school. The new learning outcomes were approved by the faculty in Spring 2016 and implemented in Fall 2017.

**Course-Level Assessment**

Collection of data on specific learning outcomes at the course-level has been a focus of the law school’s assessment activities for the past few years. Work in this area included a two-year (2012-2013 and 2013-2014) self-study of the lawyering competencies taught in law school courses during that time period and a review of the intersection between law practice in Nevada and the law school’s upper-level curriculum. In Spring 2017 the law school is piloting course-level, technology-assisted, data-collection, which will be refined over the summer and implemented beginning Fall 2017.

**Bar Examination**

The Nevada bar examination cut score is among the highest in the nation. As bar exam pass rates decline across the country, maintaining an abnormally high cut score means that fewer graduates will pass the bar examination in Nevada. Nevada assigns the lowest percentage weight (33%) to the Multistate Bar Examination of all state jurisdictions. The essay portion of the Nevada bar exam is far greater in scope, depth, and length than most other state jurisdictions.

To better enable more qualified graduates to pass the Nevada state bar examination, a statewide commission has been formed to address bar examination reform. Dean Daniel Hamilton is a member of the commission.

The Boyd School of Law provides a series of Bar Examination Workshops free of charge for all graduating students and alumni. These sessions are part of an integrated program to best prepare graduates for the bar exam. Additionally, faculty and staff mentor students studying for the exam to keep them on track for success.