

2010 Bar Passage Results

DU Law July Bar Exam Performance Passes Milestones

Results are out for the July 2010 Colorado Bar Exam, and DU fared well, with a pass rate for first time takers of 88%. Congratulations to our newest DU attorneys. We are extremely proud of you.

While this July's pass rate of 88% is slightly lower than the comparable figure in July 2009 (when our pass rate was 91%), it is welcome news for three reasons.

First, this is the first time in modern memory that DU's pass rate for July first time takers exceeded the state-wide average. Our 88% pass rate was 3% higher than the state-wide average of 85%. (Last year's state-wide average before appeals was 89%.) In our strategic implementation plan for bar passage, our goal for the July 2010 bar was to be at or above the state-wide average. I am pleased to be able to report that we have exceeded this important goal.

Second, we continue to outperform expectations for each successive entering class, suggesting that the data-driven bar passage initiatives we adopted in 2008 are working. Based on pre-admission indicators, the class that took the July 2010 exam (which entered law school in 2007) was predicted to pass the bar at a rate of 83%. The fact that our July 2010 pass rate is 88% likely results from our post-admission bar passage initiatives, such as our increased GPA requirement, our heightened curricular requirements for students whose grades suggest a risk of bar failure, and our new Bar Success Program, a free bar preparation course for DU graduates designed to supplement commercial courses.

Third, and perhaps most encouraging, is that we have not even started to see the effect of one of our most important bar passage initiatives: our new admissions policy. This policy, which we first applied to the class entering in 2008, is designed to ensure that all of the students we accept have a strong likelihood of passing the bar. To illustrate, recall that the class entering in 2007 was predicted to pass the bar at a rate of 83% based on its pre-admission indicators. In comparison, based on pre-admission indicators:

- The class that entered in 2008 (which will first take the bar next July) is predicted to pass the bar at a rate of 89%
- The class that entered in 2009 (which will first take the bar in July 2012) is predicted to pass the bar at a rate of 91%
- And the class that entered in 2010 (which will first take the bar in July 2013) is expected to pass the bar at a rate of 92%

Thus, our current improving trend gives us confidence that our bar passage initiatives are bearing fruit. Once we begin to see the effects of our admissions initiative, in conjunction with our ongoing post-admissions initiatives, we are confident that our students will routinely pass the bar at rates that will make us all proud.

Regards,

Dean and Professor of Law Martin J. Katz

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