

SECTION OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Section Releases Fall 2017 Standard 509 Information Reports

Information about admissions and other matters reported by American Bar Association-approved law schools to the ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar and required to be made public under [Standard 509](#) of the [Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools](#) is now publicly available.

The material is collected by the section, which requires law schools each year to disclose data and information covering matters of interest to potential law students and others with an interest in legal education, including admissions and enrollments, tuition and living costs, financial aid, curricular information, faculty demographics, employment outcomes, bar passage and other areas. The data can be easily searched and sorted, allowing for school-by-school comparisons and analysis and should be useful to prospective law students, pre-law advisors, media outlets and others who study and write about legal education.

The spreadsheets, explanatory information and the ABA's database of Standard 509 reports are available at www.abarequireddisclosures.org. Some of this information has been collected and summarized in the News and Announcement listings on the [section's website](#) and in its [Legal Education Statistics](#) section. The section's 509 available reports go back only to 2011 although other historical statistics are available through the statistics link. There are several changes to the reports this year, and those changes are summarized [here](#).

Employment outcomes and, for the first time this year, bar passage outcomes, are reported in separate questionnaires. The section expects bar passage data to be available in March 2018. Employment outcomes, reporting employment for the class of 2017 as of 10 months following graduation, should be available in April.

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2017 Standard 509 Information Report Data Overview (posted 12/14/2017)

ABA-approved law schools are required to post their Standard 509 Information Reports on their websites as part of their ABA Required Disclosures, annually by December 15. The 2017 reports should now be available on each school’s website. The ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar [website](#) provides access to that information for all law schools, including [downloadable spreadsheets of aggregate data that the law schools report](#). The Section is also providing spreadsheets on a school-by-school basis that report [applicant data and LSAT and UGPA information for each school’s 1L matriculants](#), and [changes in the 1L classes on a school-by-school basis](#). These data come from the annual questionnaires that ABA-approved law schools file with the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar’s Managing Director’s Office.

As the chart below summarizes, 203 law schools* that are approved by the ABA to confer the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree reported total enrollment of 110,156 for the Fall 2017 term. This is a decrease of 795 students (-0.7 percent) from 2016. An additional 16,482 students were enrolled in other than J.D. degree programs (LL.M., masters and certificate programs). This is an increase of 2,805 (20.5 percent) from 2016. This brings the total law school enrollment for Fall 2017 to 126,638, an increase of 1,462 (0.6 percent).

Law schools reported that 37,398 students began studies in the Fall 2017 1L class (plus the preceding winter/spring/summer terms for schools with multiple starts). This is an increase of 291 students (0.7 percent) from the 2016 reporting cycle. Seventy-seven schools reported smaller 1L classes for this admissions cycle and 126 schools reported an increase or no change in their new 1L classes compared to 2016.

Fall 2017 Law School Enrollment Data, with Comparison to Fall 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
J.D. enrollment	110,156	110,951
Non-J.D. enrollment	16,482	13,677
Total J.D. and Non-J.D. enrollment	126,638	124,628

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
1L Enrollment	37,398	37,107
Schools with level or increased 1L matriculants compared with prior year	126	110
Schools with decreased 1L enrollment compared with prior year	77	94

* Charlotte School of Law, which has ceased operations and did not enroll a 1L class, is not included in these reports.