



## Framework for the Accreditation of Law Courses

1	Introduction.....	2
2	Essential Summary.....	2
3	Scope.....	2
4	Authority .....	3
5	Purpose.....	3
6	Definitions.....	3
7	Role and appointment of Assessor .....	5
8	What information does a law school supply for the purpose of accreditation? .....	7
9	Seeking accreditation for a New Law Course.....	9
10	Length of law course accreditation.....	10
11	The Accreditation cycle.....	10
12	Accreditation Advisory Panel.....	11
13	Response by Law Schools.....	11
14	The Role of the Board.....	12
15	Interim monitoring and reviewing of law courses.....	12
16	Publication of accredited law courses.....	13
17	Schedules .....	14

## 1 Introduction

1. The Accreditation Standards for Australian Law Courses (Accreditation Standards) were adopted by the Law Admissions Consultative Committee on 24 February 2017. The Accreditation Standards are used by Admitting Authorities for accrediting, monitoring, reviewing, and reaccrediting law courses for admission purposes.
2. The purpose of this framework is to implement the Accreditation Standards to accredit and reaccredit law courses pursuant to Rules 7 and 8 of the Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015 (UAR). Where appropriate, the framework supplements the Accreditation Standards to reflect more clearly current education practice.

## 2 Essential Summary

- This framework is designed to provide a careful and comprehensive evaluation of a law course and its compliance with the Accreditation Standards and the UAR.
- The Board may accredit or reaccredit law courses on any conditions it may specify, including the duration of the accreditation.
- The Board may withdraw the accreditation of any law course or impose or vary any condition attached to the accreditation.
- Established Law Courses will normally be accredited for five years and New Law Courses are initially accredited for two or three years.
- Procedures for frequent monitoring of law courses and for approving significant course changes in between the Accreditation Cycle are included in section 15 of this framework.
- The Accreditation Standards are attached at [schedule 1](#) to this framework document.
- The template questionnaire that Law Schools must complete in preparation for the accreditation assessment is attached at [schedule 2](#) to this framework.
- Law schools must complete the Priestley 11 Current and Historical Data Table annually, as a condition of accreditation. The names of current Priestley subjects offered and the historical names of Priestley subjects that have been offered for the preceding five years must be entered into the Data Table, which is attached at [schedule 3](#) to this framework.
- Law schools are to recommend to the Board appropriately qualified senior academic staff members to be included in the Board's pool of Assessors, who may be called upon to perform an accreditation assessment of a NSW law course and recommend to the Board that the law course be accredited, or not.

## 3 Scope

3. This framework applies to the Board, law schools, assessors, officers, committees, sub-committees, and advisory panels of the Board.
4. All matters relating to the accreditation of a law course including inquiries, assessment

reports, recommendations, and decision letters are confidential.

## 4 Authority

5. The Legal Profession Admission Board has made this framework under the following authorities:
  - Section 29 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law* (NSW)
  - Rules 5, 7 and 8 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015*
  - The Accreditation Standards for Australian Law Courses (Accreditation Standards).
6. This framework must be read subject to and exercised in accordance with the legislation, policies, and relevant resolutions of the Board.

## 5 Purpose

7. The purpose of this framework is to provide a process for the Board to apply the Accreditation Standards to New South Wales law courses and accredit or reaccredit a course in accordance with Rule 7 of the UAR. The Board may also withdraw accreditation of any law course, impose conditions, or vary any condition attached to the accreditation.
8. This framework also provides the procedure for the Board to monitor and periodically review law courses and for approving significant course changes in accordance with Rule 8 of the UAR.

## 6 Definitions

**Accreditation cycle:** the periodic assessment and evaluation of a law course for the purpose of reaccrediting a law course.

**Accreditation process:** the process established by the Board to assess and evaluate a law course and its compliance with the Accreditation Standards, as supplemented by this framework.

**Accreditation year:** the year a law course is due to be assessed for accreditation.

**Advisory Panel:** persons appointed by the Board to resolve any questions or conflicts that may arise during the accreditation process.

**Assessor:** the person who undertakes the accreditation process and makes

recommendations to the Board concerning accreditation of a law course.

**Asynchronous:** refers to communications or delivery modes occurring on-demand.

**Blended teaching and learning:** a mode of delivery that combines face-to-face instruction with activities made available online (in synchronous and/or asynchronous modes), and where face-to-face is the dominant mode of delivery.

**Board:** the New South Wales Legal Profession Admission Board.

**Committee:** a committee established under the *NSW Admission Board Rules 2015*

**Designated Officer:** an Officer of the Board who is responsible for progressing matters in relation to accreditation.

**Established law course:** a law course that has been accredited for five or more years.

**Executive Officer:** the person appointed as Executive Officer to the Board under the NSW Admission Board Rules.

**Face-to-face:** two or more persons meeting for a class physically.

**Law course:** any prescribed program of study that leads to the conferral of a Bachelor of Laws, Juris Doctor, or Diploma in Law accredited by the Board.

**Law school:** an institution seeking accreditation for an Australian Law Course provided by that institution.

**Law subject:** a subject that is primarily focused on the teaching of Priestley 11 content and/or other legal principles and concepts (whether Australian or foreign, modern or historical).

**Legal Qualifications Committee:** the Committee established under *NSW Admission Board Rules 2015* to superintend the qualification of candidates for admission and to advise the Board in relation to the accreditation of academic and practical training courses.

**New law course:** a law course that has been accredited for less than five years.

**Office of the Board:** the office which provides services and performs duties and functions that the Board requires.

**Officer of the Board:** a person employed at the Office of the Board.

**On-line:** a course or subject delivered in a fully on-line environment to students participating remotely in synchronous and/or asynchronous teaching and learning activities.

**Priestley 11:** the 11 academic areas of knowledge set out in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the

*Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015.*

**Sub-Committee:** a Sub-Committee established under the *NSW Admission Board Rules 2015*.

**Synchronous:** refers to communications or delivery modes happening in real-time.

**UAR:** *Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015*

## 7 Role and appointment of Assessor

9. The assessment is to be based on the template questionnaire, provided at Schedule 2 to this framework, and is to be completed by each law school. A law course must demonstrate satisfactory compliance with all requirements.

### Role of Assessor

10. Each law course is to be assessed by at least one Assessor. A law school that offers more than one law course, for example an LLB and JD, may be assessed simultaneously.
11. An Assessor is to manage the accreditation process and liaise with the law school, respond to questions and issue requests for further information, if necessary. An Assessor may undertake an on-site evaluation, and may also arrange electronic meetings with relevant personnel at the law school.
12. The Assessor is to prepare a written report on facts and observations that will enable the Board to determine compliance with the Accreditation Standards and other issues relating to the accreditation of the law course. An assessor should adhere to the specified format for the Assessor's Report, provided at Schedule 4 to this framework.
13. The written report is a comprehensive evaluation of the law course and will include analysis of at least the following matters:
  - compliance with each of the Accreditation Standards;
  - the law school's completed template questionnaire at schedule 1;
  - the outcome of the on-site evaluation of the law course, if undertaken;
  - the completed or updated Priestley 11 Current and Historical Data Table;
  - any concerns to be evaluated by the Board in making its decision; and,
  - recommendations as to whether or not a law course should be accredited.

### Qualifications and Appointment of Assessors

14. An Assessor:

- must be competent and knowledgeable concerning legal education and the legal system and must have no interest in the relevant law school.
  - should ideally have had responsibility for course administration and/or course quality assurance.
  - will hold an academic staff position at the level of senior lecturer at a minimum, and, ideally, at a more senior level.
  - may be a retired academic who would otherwise meet the criteria, provided that they can demonstrate they retain current knowledge of legal education practice and educational practice, more generally.
15. At the start of each calendar year, each law school is to recommend to the Board academic staff who meet the criteria for appointment as an Assessor. When making their recommendations, law schools should also provide an outline of the specific relevant experience of each nominee, as well as the nominee's CV.
16. In recommending academics for the role of Assessor, the law school should ensure that the nominated person will be available to do so in the relevant calendar year in accordance with the schedule of events set out in section 5 below, and that the nominated person would be willing to undertake assessments, if required by the Board, for a period of three years.
17. If there are insufficient available nominees, law schools may be required to meet the cost of engaging external assessors on a consultancy fee basis.
18. The Board will determine the cohort of Assessors (normally between four to five) who will be available for assessments over a period of three years. When allocating assessments to the Assessor, the Board will satisfy itself that no conflicts of interest are likely to arise.
19. The Board may determine that an Assessor is paid an honorarium for each assessment.

### **Senior Assessor**

20. The Board may appoint a senior Assessor from the cohort of Assessors. The senior Assessor should have experience in the accreditation process. A senior Assessor will be available to guide other Assessors in the process, and to receive feedback from Assessors about any difficulties in the process or challenges arising with respect to changing educational practices.
21. If requested by the Board, a senior Assessor will provide feedback annually (or as requested) on Assessors' findings and observations concerning accreditation and the accreditation process.

## **Cost**

22. Each law school may be required to bear the costs of the accreditation process in accordance with rule 7(8) of the UAR, including the payment of an honorarium, if applicable.
23. The Assessor will carry out the Assessment process on behalf of the Board. Reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by the Assessor, for example site visits, will be reimbursed.
24. In some cases it may be necessary for the Board to appoint an Assessor who is to be paid fees. Any fees charged by the Assessor will be reimbursed to the Board by the law school.

## **8 What information does a law school supply for the purpose of accreditation?**

25. A law school is to supply a range of information to the Board and the Assessor for the purpose of providing facts concerning the law school, the law courses offered and its general operation to support the ongoing delivery of law courses.
26. The year that the law course is due to be accredited or reaccredited, the law school is to complete the template questionnaire, a Priestley 11 Current and Historical Data Table and, if necessary, host an onsite evaluation meeting with the Assessor. The burden is on each law school to establish that it meets all requirements.
27. Information provided by law schools must be complete, accurate, and not misleading.
28. Information must be submitted in the form, manner, and timeframe specified by the Board.

## **Template Questionnaire**

29. Law schools must complete a template questionnaire which is at schedule 2 to this framework.
30. The law school will be notified by the Office of the Board that its course(s) are due to be assessed for accreditation. The law school is to complete the template in preparation for the accreditation assessment within three months of notification. Please review information under the heading 'The Accreditation Year' for details as to when the template questionnaire is to be submitted.

### **Priestley 11 Current and Historical Data Table**

31. As a condition of accreditation, each law course is to provide a Priestley 11 Current and Historical Data Table showing the names of current Priestley subjects that it offers its students as part of the current law qualification/s and also the historical name of each Priestley subject that has been offered for the preceding five years. This table must be completed annually as part of the Accreditation Process.
32. The table must show the alignment between the subject name in the law course and the Academic Areas of Knowledge provided in schedule 1 to the Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015, otherwise known as Priestley subjects, which cover the same topics.
33. The Priestley 11 Current and Historical Data Table that must be completed by each law school is attached to this framework at schedule 3.

### **Onsite evaluation**

34. An Assessor will notify the law school if the Board or the Assessor deems it necessary to host an onsite evaluation meeting.
35. The Law school must respond to any matters raised at the meeting for the purpose of reviewing the material provided by the law school in the template and supply any other information that the Board or the Assessor may require. At the onsite meeting, the Assessor will undertake a further in-depth assessment of matters that may include, but are not limited to:
  - the law library,
  - the quality and medium of instruction in Priestley subjects – matters such as whether classes are partly or wholly online,
  - lectures, tutorials, seminars, or other class activity (Assessors may attend for the purpose of evaluating the quality of instruction),
  - the nature and quality of assessment
  - the student body – the Assessor is to decide whether a meeting with students should be held.
36. An Assessor should not seek, nor be provided with, copies of exam answer papers or other forms of assessment submissions written by students.

### **The Accreditation Year**

37. The year that a law course is due for accreditation will involve a series of actions and events that must be adhered to by the law school and the Office of the Board. A proposed overview of the Accreditation Year is set out as follows:

Month	Action / Event
<b>January</b>	The Office of the Board is to remind the Law school that its course/s are due to be assessed for accreditation.
	The Office of the Board is to advise the Law school of the names of the Assessor/s conducting the assessment as soon as practicable after the names are available.
<b>February - May</b>	The law school is to complete the template questionnaire (schedule 2) and complete or update the Priestley 11 Current and Historical Data Table (schedule 3). The completed template questionnaire and the updated table are to be provided to the Assessors and the Office of the Board within three months of notification in preparation for the onsite evaluation.
<b>May</b>	The Assessor/s are to arrange an onsite evaluation meeting, if necessary, and provide any other details, responses or information relevant to the Accreditation Process.
<b>June - July</b>	The Assessor/s are to draft a report that provides a comprehensive examination of the law course, any recommendations for the law school and recommendations for the Board to either approve or withdraw the law school for accreditation.
<b>August</b>	The law school is to be provided with a copy of the Assessor/s' report.
<b>September</b>	The law school may provide a response to that report within 30 days.
<b>December</b>	The Board is to notify the law school of its accreditation status, and if accredited, any relevant conditions that may apply and the duration of that accreditation.

---

## 9 Seeking accreditation for a New Law Course

38. A law school that is seeking to establish a New Law Course must apply for accreditation by January, and at least 18 months, preferably 24 months, preceding the commencement of the intended start date. The process set down in the section 'The Accreditation Year' will apply to accreditation of New Law Courses. The Board cannot guarantee that a New Law Course will be approved within 18 months.

39. Law schools will be required to complete the necessary documents, which at a

minimum include:

- Template questionnaire (schedule 2);
- Priestley 11 Current and Historical Data Table (schedule 3);
- Submission providing comprehensive details of the new qualification; and,
- Any other information or documentation that the Board requires.

40. New courses will be evaluated by an Assessor and, if approved, will initially be accredited for two years from the date it is approved by the Board, followed by a second accreditation assessment two years thereafter. If the law course complies with all accreditation requirements at the two year accreditation assessment, then it will be assessed every five years as part of the ongoing Accreditation Cycle as an Established Law Course. The Board may determine that a new course is accredited for less than two years.

41. However, where the Board has already approved a double degree at a particular law school, future applications from that law school for a new double degree can be made by letter to the Board (ie without a full accreditation application), provided that the law component is unchanged.

## **10 Length of law course accreditation**

42. The Board may accredit a law course for any duration that it sees fit in accordance with Rule 7(3) of the UAR.

### **Established Law Courses**

43. An Established Law Course that satisfies all accreditation requirements will normally be accredited for five years from the date it is approved by the Board.

### **New Law Courses**

44. A New Law Course will initially be accredited for the period determined by the Board at paragraph 40.

## **11 The Accreditation cycle**

45. An Established Law Course will be assessed for accreditation every five years and a New Law Courses will be assessed every two or three years. A provisional accreditation cycle is maintained on the Board's website and sets down when the periodic assessment and evaluation of a law course, for the purpose of reaccrediting a law

course, is due to take place.

46. The provisional accreditation cycle indicates the year that law courses are scheduled to be assessed for accreditation, and the awards that will be evaluated. The provisional accreditation cycle is a draft only to assist law schools to make any necessary advance planning in relation to the Accreditation Process. The cycle may be amended at any time. The Office of the Board will notify any affected law schools of any amendments to the cycle.

47. The provisional accreditation cycle is available at:

<https://lpab.nsw.gov.au/admission-lawyer/accredited-law-courses-plt-providers.html>

## 12 Accreditation Advisory Panel

48. An Accreditation Advisory Panel may be appointed by the Board to assist the Office of the Board by providing advice on matters that are raised by either the Assessor or the law school in relation to the Accreditation Process.

49. Any concerns raised during the Accreditation Process by either the Assessor or the law school are to be brought to the attention of the Designated Officer at the Office of the Board for the purpose of seeking advice, direction and resolution.

50. The Designated Officer may, for some accreditation cases, be an Assessor. In such cases, the Designated Officer will either deal with the matter internally or may seek advice from a member of the Accreditation Advisory Panel, or the Legal Qualifications Committee and provide advice to the law school accordingly.

51. There must be no conflict of interest between the member of the Advisory Panel or Legal Qualifications Committee and the Law school that is subject to the Accreditation Process.

52. Membership of the Advisory Panel will typically comprise the Presiding Member of the Board, a Board Member who was nominated by one of the professional bodies, and a Board Member who is a dean of a law school. The Board may appoint alternative members to the Advisory Panel for each accreditation assessment depending on a member's availability.

## 13 Response by Law Schools

53. The Assessor's report is to be provided to the Dean of the law school by the Office of the Board to provide an opportunity for the law school to make factual corrections and

comments.

54. The law school is to be given at least 30 days to prepare its response to the report, unless the law school consents to a shorter time period.

## **14 The Role of the Board**

55. The Board is to receive the written report and will accredit or reaccredit a law course if the report demonstrates that the law course/s are in compliance with each of the Accreditation Standards and any other issues relating to the accreditation of the law course/s, including the completion or updating of the Priestley 11 data table.

56. The Board may also withdraw accreditation approval or impose or vary any condition attached to the accreditation.

## **15 Interim monitoring and reviewing of law courses**

57. The Board is to monitor and may periodically review any aspect of an accredited law course on an interim basis between the periodic accreditation assessment in accordance with Rule 8 of the UAR.

58. A law school must notify the Board of any of the following changes to an accredited law course, and must obtain the Board's approval prior to the implementation of the change:

- a change which significantly affects the structure of the course having regard to Standard 4.1;
- a change which affects the duration of the course having regard to Standard 4.2;
- any significant change to the overall mode of teaching, delivery, and/or assessment affecting the course overall, having regard to the Accreditation Standards; and,
- any other change to the course which could significantly affect the law school's ability to comply with the Accreditation Standards.

59. The Board will assess the notification from the law school and may approve the change only if it will not detract from the law course's ability to remain in compliance with the Accreditation Standards.

60. The Board meets six times each year, and given the possibility that the Board may require further information from a law school after initially considering a notification, it is recommended that notifications be lodged with the Office of the LPAB at least six months before the proposed implementation of the changes, where practicable. Deadlines for submissions to be considered at each Board meeting are published on

the LPAB website in the events and deadlines calendar for 'Admission as a lawyer'.

61. A law school must notify the Board annually of any changes made to a Priestley 11 subject which affects the content, delivery, and/or assessment of the subject having regard to Accreditation Standards 4.3-4.6. Upon review of the annual notification, the Board may require a law school to take remedial action, if it is of the view that the change made will affect the law school's compliance with the Accreditation Standards.

## **16 Publication of accredited law courses**

62. The Board will publish a complete list of all accredited law courses on its website in accordance with Rule 7(5) of the UAR.

## **17 Schedules**

### **Schedule 1**

Accreditation Standards for Australian Law Courses can be accessed at the following link:

[https://www.lawcouncil.asn.au/files/web-pdf/LACC%20docs/238832380\\_18\\_LACC%20-%20Standards%20for%20Accrediting%20Law%20Courses.pdf](https://www.lawcouncil.asn.au/files/web-pdf/LACC%20docs/238832380_18_LACC%20-%20Standards%20for%20Accrediting%20Law%20Courses.pdf)

### **Schedule 2**

#### Accreditation Template Questionnaire

The current version of the template is available at:

<https://lpab.nsw.gov.au/publications-resources/policy-and-tabled-documents.html>

**Schedule 3**

**Priestley 11 Current and Historical Data Table**

Priestley 11 subject (Area of Knowledge in Schedule 1 of LPUAR )	2017		2016		
	Course subject(s) which cover Priestley 11 subject	Subject Code	Course which Priestley 11 subject	subject(s) cover	Subject Code
Criminal Law and Procedure					
Torts					
Contracts					
Property					
Equity					
Company Law					
Administrative Law					

---

Federal and State Constitutional Law				
Civil Procedure				
Evidence				
Ethics and Professional Responsibility				

#### **Schedule 4**

### Assessor's Report Template

The current version of the template is available at:

<https://lpab.nsw.gov.au/publications-resources/policy-and-tabled-documents.html>

#### **Schedule 5**

### Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW) 2015

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2014-16a>

#### **Schedule 6**

### Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2015-0240>

#### **Schedule 7**

### Academic Areas of Knowledge (Schedule 1 to the Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules)

These are available at:

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2015-0240#sch.1>

### Document information

<b>Title:</b>	A Framework for the Accreditation of Law Courses
<b>Approver:</b>	Legal Profession Admission Board
<b>Date of Effect:</b>	19 December 2025
<b>File Reference:</b>	20/179277/DJ

### Document history

<b>Version</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Reason for Amendment</b>
1	10/10/2017	Pilot implementation
2	31/07/2018	Post pilot implementation
3	09/04/2019	Cost information in Part 4 updated
4	19/12/2025	Amendments to: clarify requirements for the nomination of assessors by law schools; clarify the nature of material changes to law courses that require the prior approval of the Board; provide that in certain circumstances requests for approval of a new double degree can be made by letter to the Board; require accreditation submissions from law schools to provide information about policies for the granting of credit for prior study and to specify whether or not it is possible to complete the law course in less than three calendar years; introduce a definition of 'law subject' and make various other minor amendments.