

TITLE 4. ADMISSIONS AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Division 1. Admission to Practice Law

Adopted by the Committee of Bar Examiners

and

Approved by the Board of Governors

of

The State Bar of California

Effective September 1, 2008

Chapter 3. Required Education

Rule 4.25 General education

Before beginning the study of law, a general applicant must have completed at least two years of college work or demonstrated equivalent intellectual achievement, which must be certified by the law school the applicant is attending upon request by the Committee.

(A) "Two years of college work" means a minimum of sixty semester or ninety quarter units of college credit

(1) equivalent to at least half that required for a bachelor's degree from a college or university that has degree-granting authority from the state in which it is located; and

(2) completed with a grade average adequate for graduation.

(B) "Demonstrated equivalent intellectual achievement" means achieving acceptable scores on Committee-specified examinations prior to beginning the study of law.

Rule 4.25 adopted effective September 1, 2008.

Rule 4.26 Legal education

General applicants for the California Bar Examination must

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(A) be graduates of law schools approved by the American Bar Association or accredited by the Committee; or

(B) demonstrate that in accordance with these rules they have

(1) studied law diligently and in good faith for at least four years in a law school registered with the Committee; in a law office; in a judge's chambers; or by some combination of these methods; or

(2) met the requirements of these rules for legal education in a foreign state or country; and

(C) have passed or established exemption from the First-Year Law Students' Examination.

Rule 4.26 adopted effective September 1, 2008.

Rule 4.27 Study in a fixed-facility unaccredited law school

To receive credit for one year of study in a fixed-facility unaccredited law school registered with the Committee, a student must receive passing grades in courses requiring classroom attendance by its students for a minimum of 270 hours a year.

Rule 4.27 adopted effective September 1, 2008.

Rule 4.28 Study by correspondence or distance learning

(A) To receive credit for one year of study by correspondence or distance learning in an unaccredited law school registered with the Committee, a student must receive passing grades in courses requiring at least 864 hours of preparation and study over no fewer than forty-eight and no more than fifty-two consecutive weeks, evidenced by a transcript that indicates the date each course began and ended.

(B) To receive credit for one-half year of study by correspondence or distance learning in an unaccredited law school registered with the Committee, a student must receive passing grades in courses requiring at least 432 hours of preparation and study over no fewer than twenty-four and no more than twenty-six consecutive weeks, evidenced by a transcript that indicates the date each course began and ended.

Rule 4.28 adopted effective September 1, 2008.

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Rule 4.29 Study in a law office or judge's chambers

(A) A person who intends to comply with the legal education requirements of these rules by study in a law office or judge's chambers must

(1) submit the required form with the fee set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines within thirty days of beginning study; and

(2) have studied law in a law office or judge's chambers during regular business hours for at least eighteen hours each week for a minimum of forty-eight weeks to receive credit for one year of study or for at least eighteen hours a week for a minimum of twenty-four weeks to receive credit for one-half year of study.

(B) The attorney or judge with whom the applicant is studying must

(1) be admitted to the active practice of law in California and be in good standing for a minimum of five years;

(2) provide the Committee within thirty days of the applicant's beginning study an outline of a proposed course of instruction that he or she will personally supervise;

(3) personally supervise the applicant at least five hours a week;

(4) examine the applicant at least once a month on study completed the previous month;

(5) report to the Committee every six months the number of hours the applicant studied each week during business hours in the law office or chambers; the number of hours devoted to supervision; and specific information on the books and other materials studied, such as chapter names, page numbers, and the like; and

(6) not personally supervise more than two applicants simultaneously.

Rule 4.29 adopted effective September 1, 2008.

Rule 4.30 Legal education in a foreign state or country

Persons who have studied law in a law school in a foreign state or country may qualify as general applicants provided that they

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