

Student Complaints Concerning the Program of Legal Education

1. Widener University School of Law wishes to hear student concerns about significant problems that directly implicate the school's program of legal education and its compliance with the ABA's Accreditation Standards. The ABA Standards for the Approval of Law Schools can be accessed on the American Bar Association's webpage, located at this link: http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/standards.html.
2. Any student who alleges that a significant problem directly implicates the School of Law's program of legal education and compliance with the ABA's Accreditation Standards should file a written complaint with the Dean of Students (the Vice Dean if the complaint involves the Office of Student Affairs). The writing may consist of email, U.S. mail or fax. The written complaint must identify the problem in sufficient detail to permit the Dean's designee to investigate the matter, including the specific Accreditation Standard(s) at issue, and must be signed by the student. The signed written statement must also include the student's contact information, including name, home and email addresses, and phone number.
3. Within three weeks of receipt of a signed written complaint, the Dean of Students or Vice Dean shall either meet with the complaining student or respond to the substance of the complaint in writing. The student shall be advised of any action the Law School is taking to address the matter or any further investigation into the matter.
4. Within ten days of being advised of any action the Law School is taking to address the matter, the student may appeal that decision to the Vice Dean of the Law School. Appeals from decisions by the Vice Dean may be made to the Dean of the Law school within 10 days of a decision by the Vice Dean. The decision of the Dean is final.
5. The Law School shall maintain a complete written record of each complaint and how it was investigated and resolved. Written records shall be maintained in a confidential manner in the Office of Student Affairs.
6. Widener University School of Law has a Discrimination and Harassment Code, and some complaints may fall within its jurisdiction. Other issues may fall within the jurisdiction of the Code of Conduct. Jurisdiction over any student complaint is not exclusive to any single Law School Policy.