Definition (17) and Standard 106

Under the proposed change, the definition of “separate location” is changed from one at which “the law school offers more than sixteen credit hours” to one at which “a student may earn more than sixteen credit hours.”

In the 2013-14 Standards, a “satellite campus” was defined in Standard 106(15) as one “at which a student could take the equivalent of 16 or more semester credit hours.” Standard 105 required schools to provide a certain level of support for satellite campuses including library resources, academic advising, full-time faculty, etc.

During the comprehensive review of the Standards, the term “satellite campus” was eliminated and replaced with the term “separate location.” In the 2014-15 Standards, a “separate location” is defined as one at which the law school “offers more than sixteen credit hours” of the program of legal education.

Following the comprehensive review, law schools that offered courses at separate locations voiced concern about the revision. If the school offered a number of courses at the location that totaled more than sixteen credits, new Standard 106 required that they provide the level of support required for a separate location even if a student was not permitted to earn more than sixteen credit hours at that location. The proposed change returns the situation to that found before the comprehensive revision, and requires that the school provide the level of support required for a separate location only if a student may earn more than sixteen credit hours.

Interpretation 106-1, which repeated the definition of “separate location” found in the Definitions section, is deleted. Interpretation 106-2 is renumbered to be Interpretation 106-1.

DEFINITIONS

(17) “Separate location” means a physical location within the United States; (1) at which the law school offers J.D. degree courses, (2) where a student may earn more than sixteen credit hours of the school’s program of legal education, and (3) that is not in reasonable proximity to the law school’s main location.

Standard 106. SEPARATE LOCATIONS AND BRANCH CAMPUSES

(a) A law school that offers a separate location shall provide:

(1) Full-time faculty adequate to support the curriculum offered at the separate location and who are reasonably accessible to students at the separate location;

(2) Library resources and staff that are adequate to support the curriculum offered at the separate location and that are reasonably accessible to the student body at the separate location;
(3) Academic advising, career services and other student support services that are adequate to support the student body at the separate location and that are reasonably equivalent to such services offered to similarly situated students at the law school’s main location;

(4) Access to co-curricular activities and other educational benefits adequate to support the student body at the separate location; and

(5) Physical facilities and technological capacities that are adequate to support the curriculum and the student body at the separate location.

(b) In addition to the requirements of section (a), a branch campus must:

(1) Establish a reliable plan that demonstrates that the branch campus is reasonably likely to be in substantial compliance with each of the Standards within three years of the effective date of acquiescence as required by Rule 22;

(2) Comply with instructional requirements and responsibilities as required by Standard 403(a) and Standard 404(a); and

(3) Offer reasonably comparable opportunities for access to the law school’s program of legal education, courses taught by full-time faculty, student services, co-curricular programs, and other educational benefits as required by Standard 311.

(c) A law school is not eligible to establish a separate location until at least four years after the law school is granted initial full approval.

*Interpretation 106-1*

“Separate location” and “branch campus” as used in this Standard are defined terms that apply only to locations at which a law school offers more than sixteen credits of the program of legal education.

*Interpretation 106-1-106-2*

A law school with more than one location may have one dean for all locations.