



## LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD

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### LEB Memorandum Order

No. 21, Series of 2019

### SUBJECT: OPTIONAL 4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CURRICULAR SUBJECT OFFERINGS IN THE BASIC LAW COURSE

In accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7662, entitled the "Legal Education Reform Act of 1993," and pursuant to Resolution No. 2019-404 adopted by the Legal Education Board En Banc during its 103<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on January 9, 2019, the following guidelines for optional 4<sup>th</sup> Year curricular subject offerings are hereby adopted:

1. *Rationale.* Republic Act No. 7662, entitled the "Legal Education Reform Act of 1993", expressly authorizes the Legal Education Board (LEB) to prescribe the basic curricula for the course of study aligned to the requirements for admission to the bar. In relation to this, the avowed objective of the 4<sup>th</sup> Year review subjects in the Model Curricula for the basic law course is to prepare law graduates to successfully hurdle the bar examination.

However, the passing rate in the annual bar examinations has by and large remained the same over the past twenty (20) years at approximately 20% to 25%. Thus, to better prepare law graduates for the bar examinations, it is necessary to enhance the subject offerings in the 4<sup>th</sup> year curricular level of the basic law course, taking into consideration the actual conditions and parameters by which the test is administered.

2. *Optional Alternative 4<sup>th</sup> Year Law Curricula* – All law schools shall be given the option to adopt the alternative 4<sup>th</sup> year subject offerings as shown below, in lieu of the 4<sup>th</sup> year subject offerings under the Model Law Curricula:

#### a. Juris Doctor (Non-Thesis Track)

<i>1<sup>st</sup> Semester</i>		<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</i>	
Political & International Law Review	6	Commercial Law Review	6
Labor Law Review	3	Remedial Law Review	7
Civil Law Review	6	Taxation Law Review	3
Criminal Law Review	4	Legal and Judicial Ethics and Practical Exercises	2
Practice Court I	2	Practice Court II	2
<i>TOTAL</i>	21	<i>TOTAL</i>	20

b. Juris Doctor (Thesis Track)

<i>1<sup>st</sup> Semester</i>		<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</i>	
Political & International Law Review	6	Commercial Law Review	6
Labor Law Review	3	Remedial Law Review	7
Civil Law Review	6	Taxation Law Review	3
Criminal Law Review	4	Legal and Judicial Ethics and Practical Exercises	2
Practice Court I	2	Practice Court II	2
J.D. Thesis	4		
<i>TOTAL</i>	25	<i>TOTAL</i>	20

3. *Method of Instruction* – Law schools adopting the abovementioned 4<sup>th</sup> year subject offerings shall likewise employ lectures as primary method of instruction. It shall be supplemented by frequent regular examinations or tests, which are to be promptly corrected and returned to the students who shall be given appropriate guidance on how to improve their test-taking skills. Recitations and oral exercises shall be minimized or reduced, since it is not the mode by which the bar examinations is administered.
4. *Schedule of bar review subjects* – At the option of the law school availing of the enhancement pursuant to this Resolution, classes may be scheduled (in lieu of all subjects regularly meeting on a weekly schedule) in the following manner:
  - a. The classes of a review subject or a combination of review subjects, but not all the review subject offerings within a given semester, may be offered and completed first ahead of the others during the semester;
  - b. The class meetings of the review subjects may be scheduled up to a maximum of up to 6 hours per day, subject to at least 30 minutes break every 3 hours of straight lectures or class activity.
5. *Notification to the Board* – Law schools intending to adopt the enhancements provided by this Resolution shall notify in writing the LEB at least 30 days before the start of the academic year when the enhancements under this Resolution will be implemented.
6. *Effectivity* – The option provided in this Resolution shall be available beginning in the Academic Year 2019-2020.

Issued this May 30, 2019 in Quezon City, Philippines.

  
**EMERSON B. AQUENDE**  
 Chairman