

Student Complaints about the College’s Program of Legal Education⁷⁴

As a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (“ABA”), the University of Iowa College of Law will respond to complaints from students about a “significant problem that directly implicates the College’s program of legal education and its compliance with” the ABA’s Standards for the Approval of Law Schools (“Standards”).⁷⁵ Student complaints may provide useful information to the College and will receive a prompt and thorough response.

The following procedures outline the process of submitting and receiving a response to a student complaint:

1. Students wishing to file a complaint about the College’s program of legal education and its compliance with ABA Standards must do so in writing to the Dean. A complaint is “written” when submitted via e-mail, fax, or paper. The complaint must identify the “significant problem that directly implicates the school’s compliance with the Standards.” ABA Standard 510. The complaint should state which ABA Standards are involved. The complaint must also contain the student’s contact information, including name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address.
2. The Dean must respond in writing to such a complaint within 20 business days of submission. The response will include findings and any actions taken or proposed to resolve the complaint. There is no appeal from the Dean’s decision.
3. The College will maintain a record of all complaints filed pursuant to these procedures for 11 years from the date of the complaint’s final resolution. All records of complaints will be confidentially maintained by the Dean.
4. This complaint process is not intended to serve as an additional mechanism to appeal a decision about student discipline or academic disputes. Rather, the process shall apply only to complaints clearly falling within the scope described in Paragraph 1 above.
5. This policy will appear in the Student Handbook with a footnote identifying the Dean by name.

⁷⁴Adopted by the faculty on April 30, 2020; amended October 19, 2023.

⁷⁵https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/standards/