

BENCHMARKING POLICY

Purpose The purpose of this policy is to describe the College's philosophy and approach to benchmarking.

Applicability The policy applies to all Governors, Academic Board members, part-time, full-time and casual College employees and any other stakeholders in The College of Law Limited's (College) delivery of Higher Education award Programs. It also applies, where appropriate, to the College's benchmarking partners.

Introduction Benchmarking is the measurement, comparison and analysis of academic activities (and other elements) for the purposes of achieving continuous improvement. Benchmarking is a key process within the College's academic quality regime.

The College engages in benchmarking for two main purposes:

- Regulatory compliance; and
- To continually improve our courses and their delivery.

Both of these purposes aid the College's endeavours by facilitating an ongoing license to operate, and making our course experiences compare favourably with all similar courses thus making the College a favoured option in the market place.

Resourcing All benchmarking projects must consider resourcing needs and be signed off by the relevant budget owners before any substantive work is done. The required measures should, as far as practicable, be achieved at the minimum cost and disruption to normal activities.

TEQSA Threshold Standards Benchmarking is a specific requirement of the Tertiary Education Quality & Standards Agency (TEQSA) Threshold Standards and is referred to at:

Provider Registration Standards

5.6 The HEP compares its performance on teaching, student learning outcomes, graduate outcomes and research with other

Name of Policy	Benchmarking	Document Type	Policy
Category	Academic Policy & Quality	Information Classification	OPEN
Policy Owner	Adrian Deans	Last Updated (version)	1 April 2014

HEPs and uses regular, valid and reliable feedback from internal and external stakeholders to improve its higher education operations.

Provider Course Accreditation Standards

- 1.2 There are robust internal processes for design and approval of [each] course of study which...take account of external standards and requirements, eg, published discipline standards, professional accreditation, input from relevant external stakeholders and comparable standards at other HEPs.
- 3.1 Admission criteria for the course of study...take into account external benchmarks.
- 5.5 The academic standards intended to be achieved by students and the standards actually achieved by students in the course of study are benchmarked against similar accredited courses of study offered by other HEPs.

Accordingly, pursuant to the Threshold Standards we are required to benchmark:

- Teaching
- Student learning outcomes
- Graduate outcomes
- Research
- Course design
- Course approval
- Admission criteria
- Achievement of academic standards

None of these is separately defined, but there is substantial contextual material within the Threshold Standards which guides the way in which the benchmarking ought to be focused.

**The APLEC
Benchmarks**

In concert with other members of the Australasian Professional Legal Education Council (APLEC), the College has developed a series of benchmarks which address the TEQSA requirements and also other requirements deemed relevant or useful (National Competencies and

Name of Policy	Benchmarking	Document Type	Policy
Category	Academic Policy & Quality	Information Classification	OPEN
Policy Owner	Adrian Deans	Last Updated (version)	1 April 2014

Operational Metrics).

The APLEC Benchmarks are self-assessed annually and action items from the assessment are translated into the College's Academic Plan for the following year.

The College is always interested in other benchmarking relationships, in particular other providers of Masters degrees and international providers.

Use of the APLEC Benchmarks

When Academic Plans are reviewed, the achievement (or not) of action items derived from the benchmarking process is the best means of demonstrating improvement to regulators and other stakeholders. Such improvement is self-evidently targeted and systemic and is therefore indicative of a culture of continuous improvement.

Note:

If there is a related Procedure that your Policy relates to please insert the name of the procedure within the document as a ["hyperlink"](#).

Name of Policy	Benchmarking	Document Type	Policy
Category	Academic Policy & Quality	Information Classification	OPEN
Policy Owner	Adrian Deans	Last Updated (version)	1 April 2014