



**Policy Title**  
**Bar Certification Policy**

**Policy Number**  
**1-032**

<b>Responsible Unit:</b> Office of Academic Affairs	<b>Effective Date:</b> November 15, 2017
<b>Responsible Official:</b> Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs	<b>Last Reviewed Date:</b> June 21, 2021
<b>Policy Classification:</b> Academic Affairs	<b>Last Revised Date:</b> June 21, 2021
	<b>Origination Date:</b> November 15, 2017

**I. Policy Purpose**

This policy specifies the earliest time after graduation when Southern University Law Center (SULC) will certify graduates for the bar examination.

**II. Policy Scope**

This policy applies to students seeking to have SULC certify their status, as graduates of SULC, to the bar admission organizations. The policy only addresses the timing of the certification in relationship to the completion of the student’s coursework.

**III. Policy Compliance**

Students seeking a certification for a bar examination in violation of this policy will not receive a certification for that administration of the bar examination.

**IV. Policy Definitions**

Bar certification, in this policy, is defined as the process used by bar admission organizations across the country to certify that an applicant for the bar examination is a graduate of an ABA-approved institution and/or otherwise has the character and fitness to practice law. The certification process may be procedurally different from jurisdiction to jurisdiction; however, all jurisdictions require some action, on the part of SULC, to complete the certification process.

## **V. Policy Development and Implementation Procedure**

SULC cannot certify a student as a graduate until it has completed the processing of all grades for the academic term in which a student completes their matriculation at SULC. As such, May graduates can generally be certified in time to take the July bar examination and fall graduates can generally be certified in time to take the February bar examination. However, due to the date the summer session ends it is not possible to certify summer graduates for the July bar examination. This policy indicates the earliest a certification for a bar exam can be completed after a student has completed their matriculation.

## **VI. Policy and Applicable Procedures**

1. The earliest SULC will certify a fall graduate for a bar examination is the February immediately following the completion of their academic studies.
2. The earliest SULC will certify a May graduate for a bar examination is the July immediately following the completion of their academic studies.
3. The earliest SULC will certify a summer graduate for a bar examination is the February immediately following the completion of their academic studies.

## **VII. Policy History and Review**

The policy was established, by the faculty, on November 15, 2017. The policy was reviewed and updated to the current format on June 21, 2021. The policy is subject to a five-year policy review cycle and shall be reviewed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and any changes will be submitted to the faculty for consideration.

## **VIII. Publication of Policy**

This policy is published on the Southern University Law Center website at <https://www.sulc.edu/page/sulc-policies>.

## **IX. Policy Approval**

This policy was approved by the faculty on June 21, 2021.



**John K. Pierre**  
Chancellor, Southern University Law Center

June 21, 2021

**Date**