

Section 7(1)(h) enumerates the function of the Bar Council of India as ‘to promote legal education and to lay down standards of such education in consultation with the Universities in India imparting such education and the State Bar Councils’

The Bar Council of India in its meeting held on September 14, 2008 through resolution no. 110/2008, approved the Rules on Standards of Legal Education and Recognition of Degrees (‘BCI Education Rules, 2008’)

Salient features of the applicable rules are the following:

Condition precedent

- * Prior affiliation by the University

Library & ICT facilities

- * Adequate library facilities: AIR manual, Central Acts, Local Acts, Criminal Law Journal, AIR, SCC, Company Cases
- * Subscription to online database
- * At least 10 Internet access points with desktop facilities
- * Reading room
- * Qualified library staff
- * Drinking water and rest room facilities shall be available in library premises
- * Library shall have adequate reading space for at least 25% of enrolled students

University Autonomy & Courses

- * Universities are free to design their academic programs
- * However, courses stipulated under BCI Education Rules, 2008 are mandatory

Classroom

- * The maximum intake in each section the class is 60 students
- * For an intake of 60 students in each section, a classroom size of (30 X 50 = 1500) sft is necessary
- * Special classrooms and tutorial classroom shall have space of at least 20 sft per student

Faculty Qualification

- * Full-time members of the faculty shall possess at least Master of Laws (LLM) degree or as prescribed by the UGC
- * Members of the faculty teaching clinical program may be drawn from retired judicial officers or from the Bar
- * Visiting faculty from the profession, judiciary or academia shall have a minimum experience of 10 years
- * There shall be sufficient number of full-time members of the faculty who shall be, if necessary, supported by part-time and visiting faculty
- * Members of the faculty shall be paid according to UCC pay scales
- * Faculty workstation shall be at least 100 sft per workstation

Infrastructure

- * Clear title to land and buildings
- * Land shall be adequate to house academic buildings, library, indoor and outdoor sports facilities and, if applicable, halls of residence for male and female students separately
- * Academic building shall provide separate classrooms for each section sufficient to accommodate sixty students and other rooms for the purposes of tutorial work, moot court, students' common room and library
- * Separate restrooms for male/female - 10 units per 100 students
- * Minimum capital fund of Rupees 10 lakhs
- * Dedicated academic building
- * Adequate facilities for indoor and outdoor games

Legal Aid

- * Each institution shall establish and run a legal aid clinic under the supervision of a senior faculty member

Laboratory

- * Institutions running integrated law programs shall have adequate library facilities for science, engineering and technology courses if courses are offered in the stream

Head of the Institution

- * Principal/Head/Dean shall have minimum qualifications as prescribed by the UGC

[The aforementioned salient features are for the purposes of information only and shall not be relied upon as legal advice. Please refer to BCI Education Rules, 2008 for detailed information]